

African research identifies strong candidate for single-dose malaria cure

A compound discovered by a UCT drug discovery programme has been selected by MMV for its potent activity against multiple points in the malaria parasite's lifecycle

A recently-discovered compound – named MMV390048 – from the aminopyridine class not only has the potential to become part of a single-dose cure for all strains of malaria, but might also be able to block transmission of the parasite from person to person, according to a research collaboration involving the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), based in Switzerland, and the Drug Discovery and Development Centre (H3-D) at UCT, directed by founder Professor Kelly Chibale.

This was announced at UCT on 28 August.

On the basis of initial results it was selected by MMV for further development – making it the first compound researched on African soil to enter preclinical development in partnership with MMV.

An African solution to save lives

Naledi Pandor, the Minister of Science & Technology, said: “This is a significant victory in the battle to alleviate the burden of disease in the subcontinent. Clearly the war on this disease is not yet won, but I am excited by the role that our excellent scientists have played in this milestone in finding a potential cure for malaria, and possibly preventing its transmission.

“Congratulations to Professor Kelly Chibale and all involved. This is evidence of the world-class science being done in South Africa and the continent, and of the power of continental and international scientific collaboration in the multidisciplinary approaches that are essential to addressing the societal challenges of our time.”

Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price said: “H3-D was founded at UCT in 2010 for this very purpose: to develop African expertise towards solving the health problems that beset the developing world. We trust this clinical candidate is the first of many contributions Professor Chibale and his team will be making to the advancement of international medicine.”

H3-D identified a molecule, code named MMV390048, which was selected by MMV's Expert Scientific Advisory Committee in July 2012 for further development. The promising new compound shows potent activity against multiple points in the malaria parasite's lifecycle. This means it not



Big news: Prof Kelly Chibale (centre), here with Dr Tim Wells of MMV and Minister Naledi Pandor, speaks about the compound MMV390048 that he and international collaborators hope will lead to the development of a single-dose treatment for malaria.

only has the potential to become part of a single-dose cure for malaria, but might also be able to block transmission of the parasite from person to person.

The aminopyridine series was initially identified by Griffith University scientists in Australia as part of MMV's extensive malaria screening campaign of around 6 million compounds. A team of scientists from H3-D, led by Chibale, further scrutinised and explored the antimalarial potential of the series. With parasitological, pharmacological and contract chemistry support from the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Switzerland), the Centre for Drug Candidate Optimisation at Monash University (Australia) and Syngene (India) respectively, the H3-D team selected the most promising compounds from the series to be optimised and retested.

In just 18 months the team had identified and developed a candidate suitable for preclinical development.

Equipping the next generation of African scientists

“We are very excited that this promising compound, researched by African scientists, has been selected by MMV for further development,” said Chibale. “This is truly a proud day for African science and African scientists. Our team is hopeful that the compound will emerge from rigorous testing as an extremely effective medicine for malaria – a disease that accounts for 24% of total child deaths in sub-Saharan Africa. What is more, H3-D and MMV achieved MMV390048 as a clinical candidate in record time. In the process we have developed a unique model for successful technology platforms, and generic modern pharmaceutical industry expertise and skills, to discover drugs in potentially any disease area in Africa.”

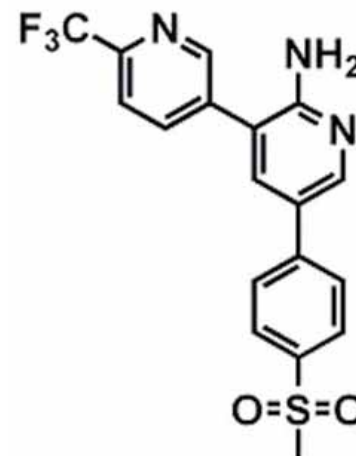
Dr Tim Wells, MMV's Chief Scientific Officer, added: “This is a great achievement and an excellent

example of the quality of research that can be fostered in Africa. We look forward to seeing more exciting compounds emerge from Kelly's team and are proud to be collaborating with H3-D; not only is it conducting excellent science today, it is also providing world-class training for the next generation of African scientists.”

The clinical candidate is in line to enter clinical trials in late 2013.

What is so unique and exciting about MMV390048

- It is very potent: it displayed a complete cure of animals infected with malaria parasites in a single dose given orally, and thus has the potential to cure millions of people.
- It is active against a wide panel of resistant strains of the malaria parasite.
- Developing the drug has made possible the training of more than 10 local scientists and cemented a



Malaria-fighting the MMV390048 molecule.

strong relationship with an international partner.

For more news on the malaria-fighting compound and other research that addresses the disease burden in Africa, go to pages 4 and 5. ■



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News in pictures • News in pictures • News in pictures • News in pictures • News in pictures

1 Over a dozen leading scholars in the field of Holocaust studies explored Holocaust historiography and their personal place within the field during a three-day conference hosted by UCT's Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies & Research, in association with the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation. Under the theme *Holocaust Scholarship: Personal Trajectories and Professional Interpretations*, scholars inserted their own biographies into their work in the wake of decades of research and reflection.

2 UCT announced that Dr Marilet Sienaert has been named executive director of the Research Office. The decision to move Sienaert from director to executive director was prompted by the increased complexity of the job, completely new portfolio components and a shift in emphasis from project management to strategic leadership, said Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price.

3 UCT's Careers Service recently launched a new training programme to brush up the skills of those people who work with school leavers. Conceived and facilitated by career advisors Lois Bloch, Athi Matinise and Ingrid van der Merwe, the one-day workshop comprised discussions, activities and case studies to help participants understand the pressures and challenges faced by matriculants.

4 UCT's Professor John Bolton (in blue, middle) recently led a South African team – including colleagues in the Department of Botany – to Japan, as part of a project that links scientists from the two countries for a study on the evolution of marine algae. Titled *Biodiversity and Evolution of Algae in the Indo-Pacific: A Japan/South Africa comparison*, the project involves research on both microscopic algae (phytoplankton) and large algae (sea-

weeds), and comprises collecting trips, workshops and conferences in the two countries.

5 Four up-and-coming UCT scholars received some affirmation when they were presented with the university's Claude Leon Foundation Merit Awards for Young Lecturers. The awards were presented by Dr Danie Visser (far left) and Advocate Geoff Budlender (far right) of the foundation, to (from second left) Dr Ake Fagereng, Dr Adam West, Dr Tirivanhu Chinyoka and Dr William Horsnel.

6 UCT's Careers Service was once again voted the Best Careers Service and Best Career Fair by more than 80 leading employers in South Africa, through a survey conducted by the South African Graduate Recruitment Association (SAGRA). Based on a survey of employers, UCT came out tops in both categories, winning nearly half of the votes for the former and one-third of the votes for the latter.

7 Obaid Dowray of the Hospital Welfare and Muslim Education Movement (HWMEM) handed a bursary cheque for R151 000 to Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price, the organisation's annual award to the university. The money will benefit 24 undergraduate students. The organisation is one of the university's longest-standing patrons, contributing to UCT since the early 1960s.

8 Wide-eyed high-school learners spent a Saturday morning in July getting to grips with the UCT applications process, as part of the Faculty of Humanities' wannabe@humanities programme. Wannabe@humanities is a recruitment initiative aimed at identifying and supporting prospective applicants from

disadvantaged communities, facilitated by senior humanities students.

9 The Baxter Theatre Centre's smash hit *Mies Julie* received unprecedented acclaim and numerous five-star reviews at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival, which ended on 27 August. Theatre critics hailed this Baxter adaptation – which moves the action from Sweden to the Karoo – of August Strindberg's 1888 classic, *Miss Julie*, as "gut-wrenchingly powerful" and "a pitch-perfect repositioning of the action".

10 UCT's Dr Gregory Smith celebrated his win of the Raikes Medal of the South African Chemical Institute with a public lecture at the University of Stellenbosch. The lecture allowed Smith, recipient of the Distinguished Teacher Award in 2011, to explain his work in organometallic chemistry, where carbon and metal compounds meet and bond.

11 UCT staff and students were given insight into the role of the Speaker of the British House of Commons when the incumbent, John Bercow, addressed them. Bercow, a Conservative MP, was elected Speaker of the British lower house of parliament in 2009.

12 Multi-award-winning soprano and UCT graduate Pretty Yende put in a cameo performance at the first of this year's two Vice-Chancellor's Concerts, held on 23 and 24 August. Yende received a standing ovation for her rendition of Vincenzo Bellini's *Qui la voce*, from the opera *I puritani*. The concerts, this year celebrating Women's Month, pay tribute to the staff and students of UCT's South African College of Music. ■

Plenty on the table at internationalisation conference

Some 300 delegates attended the 16th Annual International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA) Conference, hosted by UCT from 29 August to 1 September.

And over three days and a programme packed wall-to-wall with plenaries, workshops and discussions, they had much to ponder. This included, as Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price summarised in his opening talk, questions of graduate attributes, ranking systems, the demands for spots at South African universities, the growing number of satellite campuses (set up “in our own backyard” by international universities), international research collaborations, international university networks, and the question of which students benefit most from international exchanges.

“The one thing that keeps me awake is the concern, as a leader in an institution of higher education, is that we are not really keeping up with the developments in internationalisation,” Price told the meeting.

The conference included a leadership symposium of university leaders, chaired by Price, which discussed the role of university leadership in internationalisation; marked the launch of a special interest group on internationalisation in the curriculum; featured the signing



International crowd: Between 300 and 400 delegates, mostly from South African universities but also from the rest of Africa and the globe, attended the IEASA conference hosted by UCT.

of a historical memorandum of understanding between IEASA and the African Network for International

of Education, or ANIE; and hosted the international launch of the *SAGE Handbook of International Higher*

Education, and also the release of the 2012 edition of *Study South Africa: The guide to South African*

higher education, suitably themed *Partnerships and Global Scholarship*. ■



New-look research report out

The 2011 research report, described by Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price as a “brag-report”, reveals how well the University did last year in terms of research. At the launch of the report, Price said it recorded an overall increase in research funding of 13% in 2011. Furthermore, the funding of postdoctoral researchers increased by 16%. He pointed out that in both cases these figures were well above the inflation rate. “These are phenomenal growth figures and we are very proud.” ■

Delegates to tackle issues of poverty and inequality

From 3 to 7 September UCT will host *Strategies to Overcome Poverty and Inequality: Towards Carnegie III*, a conference that will look for effective ways to reduce inequality and poverty in its many forms. The conference will follow on from two historic Carnegie inquiries that focused on highlighting and addressing poverty and inequality in South Africa. The 2012 conference will focus on understanding the experiences and causes of inequality, and particularly on considering practical strategies – policies and actions – that are aimed at significantly reducing inequality and poverty in both the short and long term. The conference, led by UCT Emeritus Professor in Economics Francis Wilson, will be the beginning of a three-year process. ■



Winning work: Prof Alison Lewis and Prof Hanri Mostert were among the UCT winners of the 2012 Women in Science Awards.



Eleven UCT women win awards

Eleven UCT scholars, young and older, featured among the winners of this year's South African Women in Science Awards, or WISA, presented by the national Department of Science & Technology. Leading the procession of UCT women were Prof Alison Lewis, who picked up the top award in the blue-ribbon category for Distinguished Women Scientists: Physical and Engineering Sciences; and Prof Hanri Mostert, runner-up in the category for Distinguished Young Women Scientists: Social Sciences and Humanities. Then, DST fellowships for doctoral students went to Joyce Mwangama, Gladwell Nganga and Toni-Lee Sterley, and fellowships for master's students were awarded to Matsopiane Maserumule, Lombe Mutale, siblings Narjis and Sumaiyya Thawer, and Akhona Vava. ■

We remember

UCT mourns the loss of retired Dr Neville Alexander, acclaimed linguist, academic and anti-apartheid struggle veteran, who died on 27 August following a battle with cancer. “His incredible impact on the UCT community but also on society as a whole is a profound legacy,” said vice-chancellor Dr Max Price, in

a message to the UCT community. Among his many other roles at UCT, Alexander is known as the founder of the Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa, aka PRAESA, which he established in 1992. His most recent work focused on the tension between multilingualism and the hegemony of English in the public sphere. “In particular, he played a leading role in developing and shaping an agenda of multi-

lingualism, which advocated the centrality of language for education and nation building,” said UCT colleagues Professor Kelwyn Sole and Associate Professor Rochelle Kapp in a joint note. (PRAESA held a memorial service for Alexander on 31 August in the Beattie Building.) ■

Scholar, activist and friend: UCT's Dr Neville Alexander died on 27 August.



Medical pioneers at

Professor Kelly Chibale and the H3-D might be hogging the headlines right now, but this is no flash-in-the-pan moment. On the campus, scholars are making major strides in addressing issues of concern to Africa and the rest of the world. Here is a sample of some of those researchers hard at work making a difference.



Farrant remains on top of her game

Professor Jill Farrant's star has been on the rise in recent years.

There's been a string of awards. In 2009, she won the senior (silver) medal of the South African Association of Botanists. In 2009, she became the first woman in the life sciences at UCT to receive an A-rating from the National Research Foundation, marking her as a world leader in her field, and was also inducted into UCT's College of Fellows. In 2010, she was named the winner of the Harry Oppenheimer Fellowship Award for 2009 – which that comes with a sparkly gold medal and a purse of nearly R1 million – and the Department of Science and Technology's Distinguished Woman Scientist in the Life Sciences. And towards the end of last year, it was announced that Farrant would be the African/Arab States recipient of the 2012 L'Oreal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science.

It's the nature of Farrant's work that's attracted the accolades. Her research revolves around resurrection plants – plants that appear to die in drought, but recover dramatically within 24 to 48 hours after rain, even after a year in a dry state. Working at subcellular levels, Farrant characterises the proteins and metabolites that protect the plant tissue in extreme conditions. She investigates why some plants can switch on their desiccation-tolerant genes, and others can't. And she wants to tease similar responses out of other plants – they all have the same genes, she says, and they just need to learn to use them.

The potential outcome of her work, the production of drought-tolerant crops, has the aim of addressing food security needs in Africa. ■



Heart Champion: Prof Karen Sliwa is leading a new study that is coming to grips with maternal heart disease in Africa.

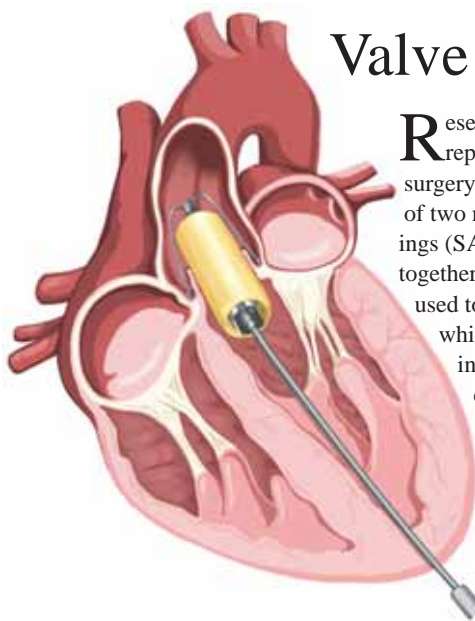
UCT researchers go to the heart of maternal cardiac disease in Africa

Heart disease during pregnancy in Africa is coming under the spotlight in a ground-breaking study led by Professor Karen Sliwa, director of UCT's Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa. Preliminary findings are that rheumatic heart disease (leaking heart valves), unoperated congenital heart disease, and a combination of hypertension and a weakened heart muscle – a condition known as peripartum cardiomyopathy – each account for a third of cardiac disease in maternity. Sliwa and her team also found evidence of gaps in the care of pregnant women with heart problems. "The pregnant mothers are doing quite all right during the pregnancy because they are under constant care," says Sliwa. "However, the mother is given no medical attention in the six months following delivery. Also, when a condition is detected they are not automatically referred to a cardiologist, or they are not referred soon enough." These are some of the issues the Cardiac Disease in Maternity Cohort Study seeks to address. Women with known or suspected cardiac conditions are referred to the Cardiac Disease and Maternity Clinic at Groote Schuur hospital, which Sliwa runs with gynaecologist/obstetricians Professor John Anthony and Dr Catherine Elliott. To date more than 200 patients have entered the cohort. ■

Bringing technology to the continent

Some eight years ago, Professor Jonathan Blackburn came to South Africa with his South African wife, Associate Professor Nicola Mulder, head of the IIDMM's Computational Biology Group, bringing with him experience in an array of cutting-edge basic-science technologies and a specific focus on proteomics – the massively parallel study of the differentials in abundance, localisation and function of proteins in a biological system. In South Africa, where he now holds a SARChI chair in applied proteomics and chemical biology, he's set out to apply those technologies – such as mass array spectrometry and protein microarrays – to a cross section of diseases. This includes tuberculosis and cancers, with a smattering of work on HIV. His work in proteomics falls into two distinct areas – discovery-oriented research and systematic, quantitative studies. It's research he and his team in the Applied & Chemical Proteomics Research Group are applying to cancers such as skin cancer (melanoma) and colorectal cancer, ie cancer of the bowel, both of increasing concern in South Africa. ■

Valve revolutionises heart surgery



Research at UCT into the development and manufacture of devices that can replace damaged heart valves without the need for expensive open-heart surgery is attracting the right sort of interest. The project sparked the formation of two new biotechnology companies – Southern Access Technologies Holdings (SATH) and its subsidiary, Southern Access Technologies (SAT) – which together have drawn investments totaling R30 million. That funding will be used to develop a new technique to assist victims of rheumatic heart disease, which is estimated to affect up to 78 million people worldwide, particularly in emerging and developing countries. The project will tackle heart-valve diseases through the development of devices that can be deployed under conditions prevalent in developing countries and emerging economies, without requiring open-heart surgery and sophisticated operating theatres. "Counterintuitively, this latest technology holds the key for the millions of patients in developing countries that have no access to open heart surgery," said Professor Peter Zilla, one of the founders of the SAT. ■



George Vicatos

Dr George Vicatos, of UCT's Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, headlines a couple of years ago with his work on bone tissue. His prostheses would be destined for patients with missing or failing limbs.

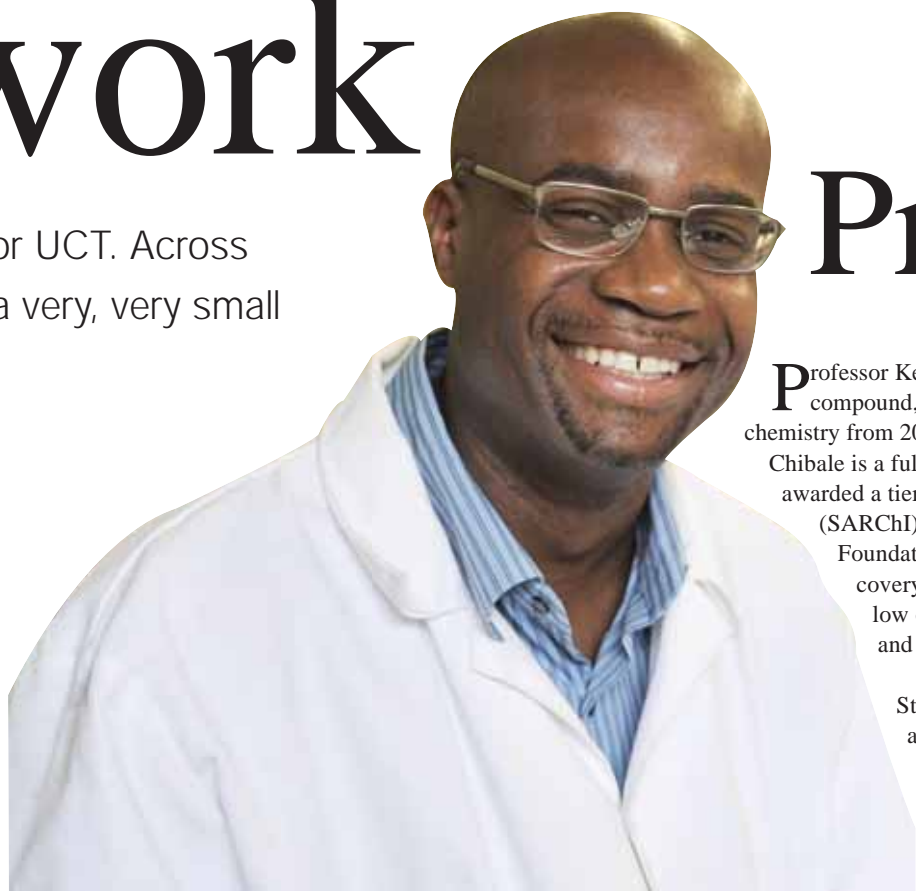
Last year Vicatos was making some progress with a device that coaxes bone tissue to grow along a curved surface. He completed with his master's student, James Vicatos, a device for patients' missing or cleft palates.

As a result, the team, consisting of Vicatos and his colleagues, was named as one of the top 100 sci-tech magazine *Popular Mechanics*.

Instead of using traditional methods of bone grafting, the technique in which the bones on either side of a gap are joined together, ensuring that new bone tissue will grow. Vicatos' device ensures that the curve needed for the

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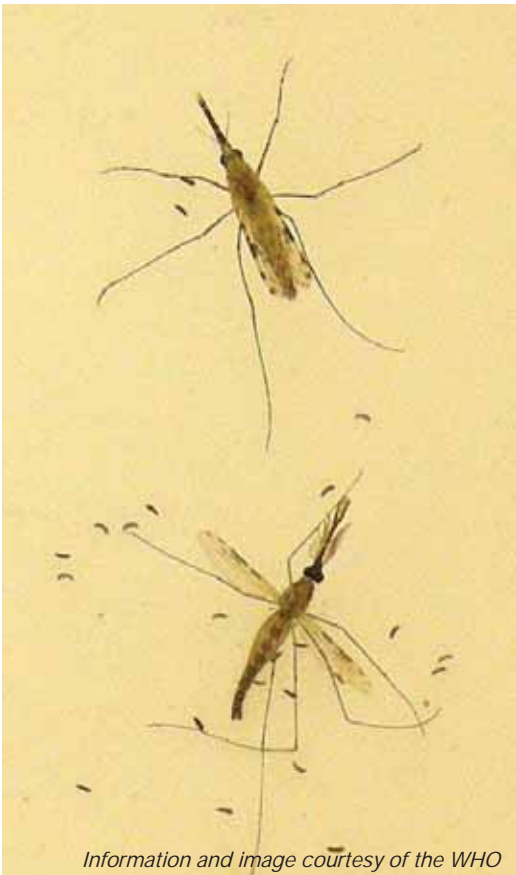
Prof Kelly Chibale

Professor Kelly Chibale who leads the team of scientists from H3-D, responsible for developing the malaria-fighting compound, joined UCT in 1996 as a lecturer and rose through the academic ranks to become full professor of organic chemistry from 2007. His research is in the field of drug discovery.

Chibale is a full member of the UCT Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM). In 2008 he was awarded a tier 1 South Africa Research Chair in Drug Discovery under the South Africa Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and administered through the National Research Foundation (NRF). In 2009 he became the founding director of the Medical Research Council (MRC) Drug Discovery and Development Research Unit at UCT. In the same year, he was elected a life fellow of UCT and a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa. In 2010 he became the founding director of the UCT Drug Discovery and Development Centre (H3-D).

Kelly obtained his PhD in synthetic organic chemistry from the University of Cambridge in the UK with Stuart Warren in 1992. This was followed by postdoctoral stints at the University of Liverpool in the UK, as a British Ramsay Research Fellow with Nick Greeves (from 1992 to 1994), and at the Scripps Research Institute in the US as a Wellcome Trust International Prize Research Fellow with KC Nicolaou (from 1994 to 1996). He was a Sandler Sabbatical Fellow at the University of California San Francisco in the US (2002), a US Fulbright Senior Research Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in the USA (2008), and a visiting professor at Pfizer in the UK (2008). ■

Malaria: the facts



Information and image courtesy of the WHO

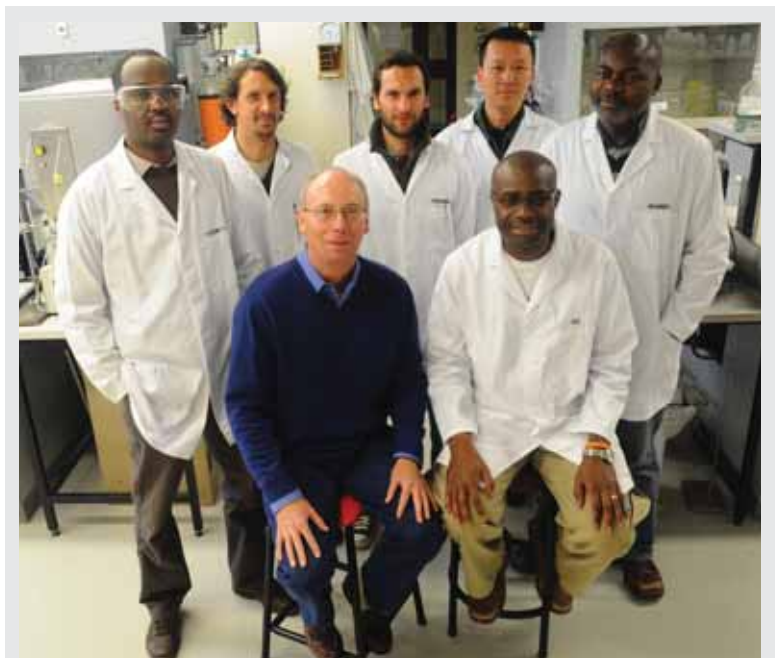
Malaria is caused by a parasite called Plasmodium, which is transmitted via the bites of infected *Anopheles* mosquitoes, called ‘malaria vectors’, which bite mainly between dusk and dawn. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the parasites multiply in the liver, and then infect red blood cells.

Symptoms of malaria include fever, headache, and vomiting, and usually appear between 10 and 15 days after the mosquito bite. If not treated, malaria can quickly become life-threatening, by disrupting the blood supply to vital organs. In many parts of the world, the parasites have developed resistance to a number of malaria medicines.

Key interventions to control malaria include prompt and effective treatment with artemisinin-based combination therapies, the use of insecticidal nets by people at risk, and indoor residual spraying with insecticide to control the vector mosquitoes.

Key facts

- According to the World Malaria Report 2011, there were about 216 million cases of malaria and an estimated 655 000 deaths in 2010, mostly among African children.
- Malaria is preventable and curable.
- Increased malaria prevention and control measures are dramatically reducing the malaria burden in many places.
- Non-immune travellers from malaria-free areas are very vulnerable to the disease when they get infected.
- Malaria mortality rates have fallen by more than 25% globally since 2000, and by 33% in the WHO African Region.
- Most deaths occur among children living in Africa, where a child dies every minute from malaria. ■



H3-D & MMV390048 timeline

June 2007: The idea of a drug discovery centre in South Africa is first raised in a discussion between Prof Kelly Chibale and ex-colleague Dr Frederik Deroose of the pharmaceutical company Jansen and Jansen in Beerse, Belgium.

January 2008: Chibale is awarded the DST/NRF SARChI Chair in Drug Discovery.

July 2008: Chibale, Tim Wells (chief scientific officer at the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV)), and other associates draw up a draft business plan for a drug discovery centre at UCT; all this took place at Terminal 1 of Heathrow Airport in London (UK).

September – December 2008: Chibale spends a period of sabbatical at the pharmaceutical company Pfizer in the UK, to learn about pharmaceutical industry drug discovery.

2009: Seed funding for the development of a detailed business plan for the establishment of a sustainable drug discovery centre is made available.

April 2010: The H3-D Drug Discovery and Development Centre is established.

September 2010: A compound code named MMV390048 is designed and made at H3-D.

2011: The compound is successfully tested on animals.

July 2012: The MMV selects MMV390048 for further development.

29 August 2012: Naledi Pandor, minister of science & technology, makes the announcement at UCT.

2020: Estimated year in which an anti-malaria drug combination regimen containing MMV390048 may enter the market. ■

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Travellers to tropical and subtropical regions can attest to the stringent immunisation they have to undergo in preparation for an assault from the real-life vampires that kill more people each year than sharks, hippos and car accidents combined.

But it only takes one bite from a hungry female mosquito of the *Anopheles* genus to infect human beings with the parasite plasmodium that causes malaria.

Out of hundreds of recognised species of the nocturnal *Anopheles* mosquitoes, between 20 and 40 are known human-malaria vectors. The mosquitoes pick up plasmodium from human bite-victims and transmit them, along with the mosquito’s saliva, to the next victim.

In Africa, the *A.gambiae* sub-species is the dominant vector, while *A.freeborni* and *A.stephensi* stand out among other



(Image courtesy of the CDC.)

important global carriers. Mosquitoes typically choose the ‘blood donor’ according to a rubric that includes odour, movement and body temperature.

Besides human malaria, the *Anopheles* mosquitoes transmit various other diseases such as filariasis during their weeks-long life cycle.

Insecticide-treated bed nets can save many of the lives lost to the disease, believe groups like the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and many organisations and charities attempt to provide such nets. ■

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF FEROZAH JACOBS, STAFF HOUSING OFFICER AT THE STUDENT HOUSING & RESIDENTIAL LIFE UNIT IN THE DEPARTMENT: STUDENT AFFAIRS



Staff Housing Office

Hours of Opening:
Monday – Friday 08h00 – 13h00
14h00 – 16h00

Who is who in the unit and what does their working day look like?

Based in Mill Court along Main Road in Mowbray, Jacobs' unit includes handyman Andrew Jafta, supervisor Freda Jephta, and cleaner Gladys Vongwe. Their core business

is to provide short- to medium-term accommodation, aka transit accommodation, for new, permanent academics, visiting academics, and new, senior, permanent non-academic staff. Transit accommodation provides a temporary home for up to six months (or up to twelve months in exceptional cases) until the new appointees have found permanent accommodation. Contract staff members are also catered for under the same conditions. On a daily basis, Jacobs and her team take care of finances, maintenance, and all the general and incidental household issues pertaining to property management.

What are the challenges of the job?

UCT attracts world-class academics and visiting academics who have different expectations of the academic

culture and environment at UCT, including staff housing facilities. "We work hard to ensure that we provide them with accommodation that makes them feel at home, and we strive to make their stay memorable," says Jacobs. Another challenge is managing time in light of the heavy 'foot traffic' through the unit and coping with the variability of the work. "No day is the same," Jacobs adds.

What are the highs of the job?

Client satisfaction and friendships made with the visiting academics (who often surprise Jacobs and her team by expressing great admiration for South Africa and its people) are at the top of her long list of high moments.

And the lows?

Being called out after hours for in-house emergencies such as lockouts, alarms going off, flooding, etc, makes the job tough at times.

Any weird moments?

Dealing with characters from all walks of life has its lighter moments. Jacobs does sometimes get requests from desperate tenants, whose temporary accommodation tenure has ended, to accommodate them in her own home.

Such situations demand exceptional patience and communication skills from Jacobs, to politely deny the tenants without hurting their feelings. ■

Postdoctoral fellows to benefit from Microsoft renewal

UCT's Information and Communication Technology Services department (ICTS) recently completed its annual renewal of the university's Microsoft Campus Agreement – which makes it convenient for UCT individuals to use Microsoft software both at work and at home.

As an addition to the previous agreement, ICTS and Microsoft negotiated a special arrangement for UCT to purchase additional licences for postdoctoral research fellows. This means that these fellows may install and use popular Microsoft products such as Office, Project, and Visio – subject to pre-defined conditions of use.

Permanent staff, joint medical staff, and staff members with a minimum of a T1 six-month employment contract also fall under the arrangement.

To take advantage of the agreement, you'll need to visit the ICTS Front Office on upper campus and produce your UCT ID card. If you'll be taking a Work-at-Home licence, you'll need to pay R35 for the media disc.

For more information, visit the "Site licenced software" link on the ICTS home page. ■

24-hour study space to open in time for exams

The Students' Representative Council (SRC), together with UCT management and executive director of UCT Libraries Gwenda Thomas, recently secured a study space in the Chancellor Oppenheimer Library that will remain open to students 24 hours a day.

This development is the culmination of a series of discussions that began early last semester, and an idea that has been debated at the university for years.

Set to open for the October/November exam period, Immelman 5 will provide 98 study seats for students who wish to study through the night. The secure space is the first of two planned 24-hour study venues which, upon completion, will house 288 students.

The second venue, on level six of the Library, is presently undergoing renovation. It will house a further 190 seats and is expected to open at the start of the 2013 academic year. It is anticipated that this

number of seats will be sufficient to accommodate the students who are likely to utilise the space.

As level six will not be available during the upcoming exam period, Menzies 12 will be used as an overflow venue for students who cannot be accommodated in Immelman 5.

UCT Libraries has advised management that this area should be upgraded with new and comfortable furniture in the hope that this will bring it up to standard with other study areas provided by the library.

Once open, the 24-hour spaces will be entered through external access-controlled doors, which will come into operation every night after the main library has closed. Security guards will be positioned to monitor these entrances and to patrol the surrounding areas from 22h00 to 08h00.

Although the after-hours study areas will be available for the use during normal library hours,

the separate doors will require that students leave the library at closing time and re-enter through these access-controlled doors.

In addition to the 24-hour study spaces, the Library, while maintaining its opening hours, will extend its weekend hours to 8pm over the exam period. These hours come into effect on the weekend starting Saturday 27 October, and will run until the weekend ending Sunday 11 November.

Thomas explained that the extension of library hours during the week is incompatible with the present number of staff. Extended weekday hours would encroach on the compulsory 12-hour daily rest period required of employees.

Nevertheless, UCT Libraries has stressed its commitment to meeting students' needs by partnering with the university in its goal to "improve student throughput and graduation rates by providing the right level of support". ■

New staff



Greetings: The vice-chancellor, Dr Max Price, has made a point of entertaining many students and staff from around campus at his official Glenara residence. And as he does a couple of times a year, he recently greeted new staff at a cocktail event hosted in their honour. They included (from left) Tabeth Masengu, (Price), Rethabile Possa, Lisa Wilson and Sianne Abrahams; Mignon Reyneke and Sarah Marriott; Yvonne Sing Min and James Damster; Gregory Martin and Devine Fuh.

EVENTS

Seminars and Lectures and Meeting



When: Wednesday, 17 October 2012 at 17h30. Speaker: Professor David Britton, NanoSciences Innovation Centre, Department of Physics, Faculty of Science. Title: 'Nanoscience, Nanotechnology and Nanovation'. Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus, University of Cape Town

Philosophy Society Meeting

When: Tuesday 11 September @ 20h00. Speaker: Prof Peter Collins. Title: Thinking about Jean-Jacques Rousseau in the bicentenary of his birth. Venue: Lecture Theatre 2, Humanities Building

James Grace in concert

When: September 16, Where: Plaisir de Merle wine estate in Paarl. Tickets for his Plaisir de Merle concert are R170 and include delicious light snacks served with the estate's finest wines after the concert. Bookings can be made by emailing concerts@distell.co.za or by calling (021) 809-8345 or (021) 809-8106.

VACANT POSTS

EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer (Academic Teacher)in Mathematics OR Applied Mathematics, Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 10 September 2012

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer, Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 15 September 2012

Professor & Head of Department, Department of Mathematics & Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 15 September 2012

Lecturers (X4), Emerging Markets (Old Mutual), UCT Graduate School of Business, Closing date: 15 September 2012

Chair and Head of Department: Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 21 September 2012

Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 21 September 2012

Professor/Associate Professor, Department of Oceanography, Faculty of Science, Closing date: 01 October 2012

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer: Economic History, Department of Historical Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 1 October 2012

RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSTS (PASS)

Administrative/Personal Assistant, Division of Medical Virology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 5 September 2012

Research Study Coordinator, Department of Paediatrics & Child Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 7 September 2012

Research Study Nurse, Department of Paediatrics & Child Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 7 September 2012

Floor Instructor (Sessional Staff), UCT Fitness Centre, Sport & Recreation, Closing date: 7 September 2012

Part-time Postgraduate Administrative Assistant, Paediatric Medicine, Department of Paediatrics & Child Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 7 September 2012

Senior Research Officer/Research Officer, Centre for Minerals Research, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 9 September 2012

Careers Advisor (X2), Careers Service, Centre for Higher Education

Development, Closing date: 10 September 2012

Research Officer: Urban Water Management, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 14 September 2012

Research Assistant (Administrative), Department of Psychiatry & Mental Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 14 September 2012

Manager: African Partnerships & Programmes, IAPO, Closing date: 16 September 2012

Advisor: Special Projects, IAPO, Closing date: 16 September 2012

Coordinator: African Partnerships & Programmes, IAPO, Closing date: 16 September 2012

Communications & Marketing Coordinator: Systems, Information & Communication, IAPO, Closing date: 16 September 2012

Senior Internal Auditor, Internal Audit, Closing date: 17 September 2012

Facility Coordinator (Radiotherapy), Department of Radiation Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Closing date: 21 September 2012

POSTS FOR UCT STAFF ONLY: EXECUTIVE AND ACADEMIC POSTS:

Departmental Assistant, School of Dance, Faculty of Humanities, Closing date: 3 September 2012

Administrative Assistant, Department of Construction Economics & Management, Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment, Closing date: 3 September 2012

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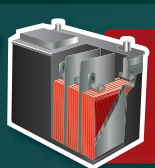


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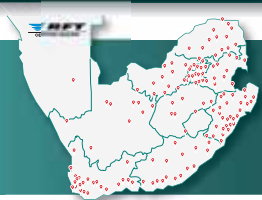
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The second Future Health Leaders Programme (FHLP) concluded recently with a Centenary Celebrations and Awards Evening. This year 32 participants completed the FHLP, which grooms junior health sciences students for leadership positions. The programme is run for students by students, and includes various workshops and seminars presented over five weeks. Itumeleng Ntamatamala is stepping down as FHLP chairperson; here, he reflects on his role as its founding co-ordinator and the achievements of the programme in its two-years:

MP: You were part of the group of senior students who started the FHLP. What was your part in its establishment?

IN: As chairperson of the Rural Support Network in 2010, I had formed part of the Health Sciences Inter-Societies Forum, which comprised society leaders on the health sciences campus and the deputy dean of undergraduate education, Associate Professor Gonda Perez. I proposed the idea of a student leadership development programme – by the students and for the students – that would benefit all UCT societies; and was subsequently tasked by the group with drafting the proposal, sourcing the funding and being its founding co-ordinator. The FHLP was launched on 28 July 2011.



Leading by example: Itumeleng Ntamatamala, outgoing chairperson of the FHLP, enjoyed his two-year tenure and will miss the camaraderie with fellow student leaders from health sciences.

A leader among leaders

MP: What's your role in the FHLP?

IN: I liaise with the current student leaders regarding the programme, inform them of the shape that it will take and encourage them to help identify students who show leadership potential.

I also lead a team of four committee members and five mentors in delivering a successful programme each year. I'm responsible for liaising with the Faculty of Health Sciences (as sponsor of the programme) regarding progress made each year, and for presenting the finan-

cial report to the Inter-Societies Forum and the Deanery.

MP: What were the aims of the FHLP when it started?

IN: The immediate aims of the FHLP were to encourage Health Sci-

ences students to join student leadership structures, and to equip them with the necessary skills to serve on these structures. The long-term goal, however, was to begin grooming a cohort of students and future graduates from this university that will go on to lead the South African health system.

MP: Do you think the programme has lived up to those early ambitions?

IN: The programme has certainly lived up to the expectations. Forty per cent of the 25 students who graduated from the programme last year took up leadership roles on campus, ranging from members of the Health Sciences Student Council (HSSC) to being Steering Committee members of developmental organisations such as SHAWCO Health. This year alone, eight students from the FHLP contested the 2013 HSSC elections, and all were all elected to the committee of 12 members.

MP: You're about to leave – what will you miss about it?

IN: I'll definitely miss the candid interactions I have had with each new cohort of students into the programme [laughs]. I will also miss working with the team to successfully deliver the programme each year; the exciting brainstorming sessions, evaluations, and making adjustments after each session has helped us forge a camaraderie that I believe will last even beyond UCT. ■

Footloose students waltz to glory (again)

The UCT Ballroom and Latin Dancing Society continued their winning ways at the annual South African National Student Ballroom and Latin-American Dance Competition. Winner of 15 of the past 21 competitions, UCT again hogged the awards, picking up 21 medals – nine gold, seven silver and five bronze – this year to retain the championship title. The nimble-footed students also took home the Team Dance Spirit, the Spirit Trophy and the Overall Trophy, beating runners-up the University of Stellenbosch by a clear 40 points. ■



UCT dance students bring crowd to its feet

A star troupe of UCT dance students received rave reviews at the annual International Theatre School Festival in Amsterdam in July; this for their performance titled *A Journey from Past to Present*. The nine undergraduate students were honoured with a standing ovation for their piece, comprising four themed dance pieces, each expressing a slice of South Africa's history, from the experiences of black migrant workers in the 1950s to a celebration of the urban township – Pantsula dance-style. ■

UCT students top in moot competition



Two UCT law students beat their counterparts from the University of the Western Cape – on their home turf, no less – in the very first Kader Asmal Law Moot. Hemlata Hunma and Stephen Miller argued before a panel including three High Court judges in the final round of the competition, which saw students lock horns over the pre-paid water management system imposed in a fictitious town. In picture, from left, are Nekwaya Iileka, Reon Cloete (coach), Hunma, Miller, and Steven Stuart-Steer. ■

Platforms bring dignity to township open spaces



A new standard for washing platforms in townships was established recently when second-year architecture students from UCT erected a platform in the Imizamo Yethu township in Hout Bay. The aim of UCT-designed washing platforms is to provide “more dignified places for water collection, spaces for the washing of clothes and the integration of these with shared toilet facilities where these are in close proximity”, says Mike Louw, one of the UCT staff members currently running the project. ■



Research associateships for top postgrads

Some of UCT's leading senior postgraduate students were recognised for their sterling work at the Research Associateship Award Ceremony in August. Twenty-one students from a range of faculties and departments, including chemistry, dermatology, sociology and zoology, were the grateful recipients of the 2012 round of awards. The research associateships are awarded annually to master's and PhD students for their individual research, and include financial grants. ■