



News Report 2010

Centre for Health Systems
Research & Development

Sentrum vir Gesondheidsstee-
navorsing & Ontwikkeling

UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



*One of the clinics near
Coffee Bay visited by
the CHSR&D*



News Report 2010





2010

Year in retrospect

The Centre for Health Systems Research & Development (CHSR&D), University of the Free State (UFS), has been in existence for 18 years. As it is staffed mainly by social scientists (sociology of health and health care, research psychology, health education, criminology), the Centre is unique among its kind. This *News Report 2010* again testifies to the wide-ranging work of the CHSR&D. By and large, our focus is on the Free State and national health systems, the transition of these systems, the arising challenges and how they can be addressed, and, ultimately, the impacts of health system developments and interventions on population health and wellness. Around the world, health systems strengthening has come to assume major strategic importance. However, because health systems are highly context-specific, there is no single set of best practices that can be advanced as a model for improved performance. Context-specific health systems strengthening – via research and development work – is therefore the Centre’s niche area.

The year 2010 was another exciting and challenging year for the CHSR&D. The Centre’s mission to meet the need for social scientific research and development work in the field of health and health care took the form of five ongoing and three new projects. In terms of *ongoing projects*, we firstly continued to contribute to the data collection and computerisation for the multi-year “FEATS” study to assess AIDS treatment and support. This research investigates the longitudinal impact of nutritional and treatment support interventions for patients undergoing antiretroviral treatment. Secondly, our endeavour to develop a strategy to evaluate interventions to improve TB patients’ uptake of HIV testing was also sustained. The proposal has now taken the form of an application for a CDC-funded public health evaluation. The application is conducted in close collaboration with the Free State Department of Health and a number of collaborating experts and organisations. A third ongoing venture contributed knowledge on the characteristics and changing patterns of nursing practice in South Africa. This study, lead by the Centre for Health Policy, University of the Witwatersrand, forms part of the larger Research on the State of Nursing (RESON) study which aims to strengthen research evidence for improved nursing policy, development and practice in South Africa. The fourth project-in-process continued to assess of the application of a state-of-the-art information system created for use in occupational health in South Africa. Conducted at Pelonomi hospital, the project is original in its application of a novel occupational health and safety information system

to the South African health care context. The fifth ongoing initiative comprised continued “twinning” with the State University of New York – Downstate Medical Center (SUNY-DMC) to strengthen the capacity of the CHSR&D in data management, dissemination of research findings, and the development of interventions based on quality scientific research that informs TB-HIV policy and practice. In 2010, the partnership provided training of CHSR&D researchers in a new field, “implementation science”.

New projects here reported include, firstly, an undertaking to comprehensively assess the TB programmes in two districts in the Eastern Cape and one in the Northern Cape. Continuing into 2011, the project aimed at recommending evidence-based suggestions for strategic interventions to strengthen TB control at the district level. Secondly, we commenced with a study of the implementation and evaluation of workplace-based programmes for HIV and TB prevention and care. This work aims at building capacity to design, implement and evaluate workplace-based occupational health interventions in view of the scourge of HIV and drug-resistant TB. A training programme to meet this challenge is a joint offering by the CHSR&D and the Department of Community Health’s Occupational Health Unit at UFS, the Department of Computer Science at UFS, and domain experts from the University of British Columbia. A third new project comprises a quantitative as well as qualitative investigation of the association between new smear-positive TB patient two-month sputum smear non-conversion and delayed treatment onset, disease severity, HIV status and patient demographics in the Free State Province. This study forms part of a four-year Operational Research Assistance Project (ORAP) driven by the Desmond Tutu Tuberculosis Centre, Stellenbosch University.

We would like to express gratitude to the Free State Department of Health for again authorising, supporting, facilitating and using our research. Our gratitude is further extended to our funders (see list on last page), research partners and associates and every hard-working staff member – researchers, as well as support staff. André Janse van Rensburg is thanked for compiling this news report. Importantly, we would also like to sincerely thank the many patients and lay and professional health workers and managers who participated in our field-work endeavours. Your contribution to our work is vital!

Christo Heunis, Director

The Centre for

Health Systems

Research & Development

Background

Established at the UFS in 1993, the CHSR&D stems from a rich tradition of research and training in medical sociology/sociology of health and health care in the Department of Sociology. Founded specifically to address the need for social scientific and operational research and related skills in the field of health and health care, the CHSR&D has shown unremitting growth and expansion in terms of staffing, projects, the scope and diversity of R&D activities, and financial standing. After eighteen years of successful operation, the Centre has commendable experience and expertise in a number of fields of study and methodological approaches and amid ever-widening local, national and international research collaborations and partnerships.

Mission and goals

The CHSR&D is committed to efficiency, equity and equality in health and health care. It strives to contribute constructively towards optimising health services and the health of the people of South and southern Africa. The main goals of the Centre are to:

- Meet the need for social scientific research and development work skills in the field of health and health care.
- Generate and disseminate research findings and information in respect of health and health care.
- Assist in developing and restructuring health systems with a view to enhancing equity, equality, effectiveness and efficiency.
- Empower staff, students, clients and beneficiary groups through active involvement in research and development activities.
- Provide training and expand expertise in the spheres of health systems research and development.

Nature and scope of work

Within the framework of our goals, the CHSR&D perceives its role as both generating scientific knowledge and acting upon the prevailing policy, information and development needs in the health system of the Free State Province and South Africa. The focus areas and activities of the Centre comprise eight main programmes, namely:

- HIV/AIDS/STIs, antiretroviral treatment, HIV counselling and testing, sexuality and reproductive health.
- Tuberculosis control and TB/HIV programme integration.
- Health information systems, health surveys and environmental profiling.
- Health systems research development.

- District health system development.
- Health policy, legislation and human rights.
- Health management and development.
- Health programme monitoring and evaluation.

Events in 2010

- Five ongoing projects.
- Three new projects.
- Eleven scientific articles.
- Three chapters in books
- Four international presentations.
- Four national/local presentations.
- Twelve reviews of scholarly outputs

Centre staff

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Prof Dingje van Rensburg
Director



Prof Christo Heunis
Acting Director / Director



Dr Michelle Engelbrecht
Senior Researcher



Dr Katinka de Wet
Senior Researcher



Gladys Kigozi
Junior Researcher



Mosilo Machere
Junior Researcher



André Janse van Rensburg
Junior Researcher



Anja Pienaar
Junior Researcher



Bridget Smit
Administrative Officer



Belinda Jacobs
Financial Officer



Theresa Neuhoff
Data Manager



Jo-Ann Lebaka
Data Capturer



Hlengiwe Mdebuka
Contracted part-time researcher



Dr Chantell de Reuck
Post-doctoral student



Nandipha Jacobs
Full-time doctoral student

Research associates



Prof Herman Meulemans
Senior Research Associate



Prof Helen Schneider
Professor Extraordinary



Dr Edwin Wouters
Research Associate



Francois Steyn
Research Associate



Prof André Pelsler
Senior Research Associate

Staff achievements, awards and grants

- Prof Christo Heunis was appointed as Director as from October 2010.
- Prof Dingie van Rensburg was appointed as Outstanding Professor of the Faculty of the Humanities.
- Prof Dingie van Rensburg was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Antwerp (see particulars on page 18).
- Dr Katinka de Wet was selected to join the UFS prestige scholars programme, which is designed to fast track the academic careers of promising scholars towards superior NRF ratings and professorship.
- Dr Katinka de Wet won first prize in her category at the UFS Humanities Faculty Forum for her presentation "Reviewing the University of the Free State's Research Ethics Committee at the Faculty of Humanities".

Staff departures

Dr Katinka de Wet accepted an appointment at the Department of Sociology, UFS. Anja Pienaar and Mosilo Machere left the Centre to pursue their post-graduate studies full-time. Prof Dingie van Rensburg retired as director on 31 May 2010.



Prof Dingie van Rensburg with Centre staff

Ongoing projects



Jo-Ann Lebaka and Mosilo Machere gathering FEATS clinical data



Bridget Smit, Chantell de Reuck and Jo-Ann Lebaka gathering FEATS clinical data

Effective AIDS treatment and support in the Free State (FEATS)

Project leaders

Prof Frikkie Booysen (Department of Economics, UFS), Dr Damien de Walque (The World Bank), Dr Mead Over (Center for Global Development)

Principal investigators

Prof Alok Bhargava (Department of Economics, University of Houston), Dr Marianne Reid (School of Nursing, UFS), Prof Corinna Walsh (Department of Human Nutrition, UFS)

CHSR&D post-doctoral student

Dr Chantell de Reuck

CHSR&D staff

Dr Katinka de Wet, Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Anja Pienaar, Mosilo Machere, Bridget Smit, Belinda Jacobs, Theresa Neuhoff, Jo-Ann Lebaka, Corrie le Roux

Background and aims

The FEATS study has three broad objectives, namely to: (1) present a broader view of treatment success (e.g. how access to ART impacts on labour productivity and the time allocation of patients and other household members, and how access to ART and to nutritional supplementation impacts on educational and health outcomes for children in households with ART patients); (2) develop a more complete model of the determinants of treatment success (e.g. individual, household and facility-level characteristics, including access to peer adherence support and/or to nutritional supplementation) and how these impact on adherence to ART; and (3) understand the nature of the links between treatment and prevention (e.g. how access to ART impacts on sexual behaviour of patients and other household members).

Research strategy and progress

The study was conducted in twelve Free State PHC clinics/community health centres (CHCs) in which ART had been available since 2004/05. During 2007/08, 648 public-sector ART clients who had recently started treatment were recruited into the study. Trained enumerators conducted baseline interviews with patient households and also interviewed 208 randomly selected comparison households. A facility survey, comprised of interviews with facility/programme managers, health care staff and lay workers working in the ART programme, was also conducted. In November – December 2008, the experimental component of the study was implemented. ART clients in the study were randomly assigned to one of three groups: (1) clients who received ART only; (2) clients who received peer-adherence support from experienced ART patients; and (3), clients who received both peer-adherence support and nutritional supplementation. During 2009, the first round of follow-up interviews were conducted not only with patients, but also with patient households and with comparison households so also to track the impact of ART and the experimental interventions on various study outcomes. A repeat round of facility-survey interviews was simultaneously conducted. The last round of follow-up interviews with patients, with patient households and comparison households, and with programme staff was completed by September. Between September and October, information was collected from patients' clinical and hospital files to construct full clinical marker histories. Joint analyses of the clinical and survey data are underway to assess the impact of ART and the experimental interventions on treatment adherence, treatment success and a range of other biomedical and socio-economic outcomes.

Funding

Development Economics Research Group (DERG) and the World Bank – Netherlands Partnership Programme of the World Bank, the European Union funded Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development (PSPPD) in the South African Presidency, the Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences at the University of the Free State, Health Economics and AIDS Research Division (HEARD), University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), and the UFS Strategic Academic Cluster for New Frontiers in Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction.



Bridget Smit conducting FEATS field-editing



Data capturers Boitumelo Tlhapuletsa and Corrie le Roux

Non-uptake of HIV counselling and testing among TB patients: research to inform intervention

Project leader

Prof Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D)

Principal investigator

Prof Christo Heunis (CHSR&D)

CHSR&D staff

Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Gladys Kigozi, Dr Hlengiwe Mdebuka, Dr Edwin Wouters, André Janse van Rensburg, Belinda Jacobs, Mosilo Machere, Jo-Ann Lebaka, Corrie Le Roux

Background and aims

Evidence on how to increase uptake of counselling and testing among TB patients is lacking. The project's objectives have changed following comments from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in terms of our associated application for funding to conduct a Public Health Evaluation. The new objectives follow recent legislation changes allowing lay health workers to perform the "finger prick" for HIV rapid testing. The proposed interventions now include: (1) training and mentoring of nurses and clinic managers to conduct routine PICT of TB patients, (2) training and mentoring of lay health workers to conduct (a) appropriate high-quality counselling and (b) administer rapid HIV testing of TB patients, and (3) training and mentoring of both the above following an integrated team approach. The training and mentoring interventions will be developed, implemented and evaluated by a multi-disciplinary training, mentoring and research team working in close collaboration with the provincial managers of the TB Management Directorate and the HIV&AIDS/STI & CDC Directorate. The impact of the training and mentoring interventions will be measured by pre- and post comparison of changes in (1) the rate of uptake of HIV testing by TB patients, (2) TB patients' satisfaction with routine PICT by nurses and counselling and HIV testing by lay health workers, and (3) professional and lay health workers' HIV counselling and testing (HCT)-related knowledge, ability, skills and attitudes.

Research strategy and progress

In 2010 we set up the partnerships with the training and mentoring partners. We extensively consulted on and designed the cost-effectiveness component as well as the instruments for this. The survey instruments were also re-developed, translated and piloted tested. The

evaluation design and sample estimation were done in collaboration with the Urban Institute, Washington. An "implementation science" angle was incorporated in collaboration with the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center (SUNY-DMC) and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Funding

UFS Strategic Academic Cluster on Transformation in Highly Diverse Societies, Medical Research Council (MRC), National Research Foundation (NRF), American International Health Alliance (AIHA) HIV/AIDS Twinning Center (Funding from PEPFAR with support of CDC South Africa to the HRSA-funded Twinning Center).





From left to right: John Capati (AIHA), Andrea Wilson (University of British Columbia), Dr Henriëtte van den Berg (Department of Psychology, UFS), Seipati Motlhanke (Free State Department of Health), Hlengiwe Mdebuka (CHSR&D), Tshidi Morighlane (Free State Department of Health), Carmen Dyck (University of British Columbia), Dr Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D), Tinky Stofile (Free State Department of Health), Dr Tandiswa Lusu, Rethabile Monare (both Foundation for Professional Development), Gladys Kigozi and Prof Christo Heunis (both CHSR&D)

CHSR&D–SUNY–DMC Twinning Partnership

Partnership manager

John Capati AHIA HIV/AIDS Twinning Center, South Africa)

State University of New York – Downstate Medical Center (SUNY-DMC) project leader

Prof Jack DeHovitz (Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease)

CHSR&D project leader/co-ordinator

Prof Christo Heunis

SUNY-DMC co-ordinator

David Odegaard (Department of Medicine and HIV Training and Education)

CHSR&D staff

Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Dr Katinka de Wet, Gladys Kigozi, André Janse van Rensburg, Anja Pienaar, Mosilo Machere, Theresa Neuhoff, Belinda Jacobs

SUNY-DMC staff

Dr Anjali Sharma (Division of Infectious Diseases), Dr Camille Ragin (Department of Epidemiology)

Background and aims

International peer-to-peer institutional capacity-building partnerships are empowering and productive in generating operational research

capacity in the domains of quantitative and qualitative research and implementation science, catalysing the development of effective coalitions of stakeholders, and supporting effective and beneficial changes in TB-HIV policy and practice. In 2007, the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center of AIHA initiated a partnership between the CHSR&D and SUNY-DMC in respect of capacity building in TB and HIV/AIDS-related research. The three main objectives of the ongoing twinning partnership are to strengthen the Centre's data management capacity, its ability to disseminate research findings, and its skills to translate research findings into improved TB and HIV-related policies and practice.

Strategy and progress

In 2010, these objectives were further pursued through training, technical and academic assistance, and mentoring. An exchange visit (23–24 March) took place during which Dr Wynne Norton (Department of Health Behavior, School of Public Health, University of Alabama, Birmingham) trained CHSR&D researchers in the concepts and practice of implementation science. This led to the collaborative publication of an article, "Patient- and delivery-level factors related to acceptance of HIV counseling and testing services among tuberculosis patients in South Africa: a qualitative study with community health workers and program managers", in *Implementation Science* (2011, 6:27).

AIHA and SUNY-DMC continue to support the CHSR&D's endeavour to gain approval from the CDC for a public health evaluation (PHE) of training and mentoring interventions to better equip frontline TB and HIV/AIDS service providers to increase the uptake of HIV testing by TB patients.

Funding

AIHA HIV/AIDS Twinning Center (Funding from PEPFAR with support of CDC South Africa to the HRSA-funded Twinning Center).

The nature and health system consequences of casualisation, agency nursing and moonlighting in South Africa (CAM)

Project leader

Prof Laetitia Rispel (Centre for Health Policy, University of the Witwatersrand)

Centre for Health Policy staff

Drs Sue Armstrong, Duana Blaauw, Tobias Chirwa, Pascalia Munyewende

CHSR&D staff

Dr Katinka de Wet, Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Gladys Kigozi, Anja Pienaar, André Janse van Rensburg, Mosilo Machere, Prof Christo Heunis, Belinda Jacobs, Bridget Smit, Jo-Ann Lebaka

Background and aims

This project is one component of the larger Research on the State of Nursing (RESON) research programme lead by the Centre for Health Policy. The RESON project is a multi-year research programme with the aim of developing and strengthening research evidence for improved nursing policy, development and practice in South Africa. The CAM study was prompted by reported increases in the use of agency nurses in both the public and private health sectors and anecdotal reports of moonlighting and negative health system consequences. The study aimed to develop new knowledge on the characteristics and changing patterns of nursing practice in South Africa, with a particular focus on agency nursing and moonlighting. The objectives of the study were to:

- Examine for the country as a whole:
 - a. Regulatory environment and policies on nursing agencies.
 - b. Characteristics of nursing agencies.
 - c. Utilisation and management of nursing agencies by provincial health departments.
- Ascertain the opinions and views of key informants on casualisation, agency nurses and moonlighting.
- Determine the factors that influence nurses to do agency nursing and to moonlight, including perceived advantages, disadvantages and health system consequences.
- Examine the health system consequences of nursing agencies and moonlighting, and make policy recommendations, based on the findings of the study.

Research strategy and progress

The study used a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. CHSR&D undertook fieldwork in the Free State Province which consisted of structured interviews with key informants in the health sector, focus group discussions with nurses, and a survey among nurses from randomly selected hospitals in both the public and private health sectors. The study found that there is lack of overall policy guidelines on nursing agencies in the public sector, and there is no active management of moonlighting. In the private sector, there is a considerable variation in the contractual arrangements and management of nursing agencies, and moonlighting not perceived as a problem.

Using a recall period of one year, 45% of nurses reported that they had worked for an agency, while 34% had done moonlighting and 61% had done overtime. Moonlighting in the previous year varied by province (highest Free State 40%; lowest Eastern Cape 21%), primary job (public sector vs. private sector), nursing category; and category of hospital (central, regional or district)

The survey found that the reasons for moonlighting among nurses were varied, but primarily economic or financial (weekly agency pay = 84%; more money = 78%). The study also found that there were many negative consequences of moonlighting or agency nursing, with almost one in two nurses (47.9%) saying that they felt too tired to work while on duty, and 9.5% said that they had taken sick leave when not actually sick.

Funding

Atlantic Philanthropies.





Standing from left: Dr Dewald Steyn (Department of Internal Medicine, UFS); Lyndsay O'Hara (University of British Columbia); Justin LoChang (University of British Columbia), Prof Christo Heunis (CHSR&D), Prof Lucius Botes (Faculty of Humanities); Dr Katinka de Wet (CHSR&D), Dr Annie de la Querra (Department of Community Health, UFS)

Seated: Prof Jerry Spiegel (University of British Columbia, Lucky Nophale (Provincial Occupational Health Unit, Free State Department of Health); Dr Kerry Uebel (Free State Department of Health); Prof Annalee Yassi (University of British Columbia)



From left to right: Dr Katinka de Wet (CHSR&D); Andrea Wilson (University of British Columbia); Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, André Janse van Rensburg, Anja Pienaar (all CHSR&D)

Tool, weapon or white elephant? Assessing the application of a state-of-the-art information system created for use in occupational health in South Africa

Project leader

Prof Jerry Spiegel (University of British Columbia)

University of British Columbia staff

Prof Annalee Yassi, Dr Elizabeth Bryce, Justin LoChang, Lyndsay O'Hara

CHSR&D staff

Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Dr Katinka de Wet, André Janse van Rensburg, Anja Pienaar, Mosilo Machere, Prof Christo Heunis, Belinda Jacobs, Bridget Smit, Jo-Ann Lebaka

Department of Community Health (UFS) staff

Prof Willem Kruger, Dr Faan Oosthuizen

Department of Informatics and Computer Science (UFS)

Dr Eduan Kotze

Free State Department of Health staff

Lucky Nophale (Provincial Occupational Health Unit)

Background and aims

The goal of the project is to evaluate the use and the perceived usefulness and impact of introducing a health information system (OHASIS – Occupational Health and Safety Information System) to improve the health, safety and overall well-being of health care workers in a setting where contextual factors have limited the systematic use of relevant information.

The study examines perceptions of the various occupational stakeholders (managers, front-line workers, unions, government decision-makers, occupational health practitioners and researchers) regarding the use and perceived usefulness of OHASIS. It will also examine workplace contextual factors as facilitators or barriers to the uptake of OHASIS and the relevance of a participatory method of introducing a workplace health information system.

Specific objectives include to:

- Ascertain the purposes for which the information system (OHASIS) is used.
- Assess the process flow of information.
- Evaluate if information (from OHASIS) has resulted in reduced risk and other positive or negative outcomes.
- Identify and compare the perceptions of various stakeholders regarding the ease of use and utility of OHASIS.
- Assess the factors encountered in the process of technology transfer to research site from Canadian context.

Research strategy and progress

This project is a longitudinal pre-post mixed method study with a comparison site (Pelonomi and Universitas Hospitals as the experimental



From left to right: Mosilo Machere, Jo-Ann Lebaka, Dr. Katinka de Wet (all CHSR&D); Lucky Nophale (Provincial Occupational Health Unit Free State Department of Health)



Carmen Dyck (University of British Columbia)



Jo-Ann Lebaka and Gladys Kigozi conducting OHASIS field-editing

sites and Bongani Hospital as the control site). It is original in its application of a relatively novel occupational health and safety information system to the South African health care context where health human resource demands greatly exceed existing supply and where the risk of occupational injury is high. This project has the potential to provide important insights into the tailored use of health information systems in different contexts. It also has the potential to contribute to improving workplace conditions and subsequently health human resources in the Free State and possibly in South Africa.

Fieldwork commenced in mid 2010 at Pelonomi Hospital with a survey among the stakeholders (i.e. occupational health practitioners; infection control practitioners; hospital managers; health and safety committee members; and nursing, medical, administrative and cleaning staff) on issues related to occupational health and safety.

Funding

Canadian Institutes of Health Research.



OHASIS personal safety demonstration

New projects

Implementation and evaluation of workplace-based programmes for HIV and tuberculosis prevention and care

Project leader

Prof Annalee Yassi (University of British Columbia)

University of British Columbia staff

Prof Jerry Spiegel, Justin LoChang, Lyndsay O'Hara

CHSR&D staff

Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Dr Katinka de Wet

Department of Community Health (UFS) staff

Prof Willem Kruger

Department of Informatics and Computer Science (UFS)

Dr Eduan Kotze

Free State Department of Health staff

Lucky Nophale (Provincial Occupational Health Unit)

Background and aims

International efforts are underway to improve working conditions for health workers, including improving access of health care workers to HIV and TB prevention and care. Building capacity to design, implement and evaluate workplace-based interventions, especially among African health care workplaces in view of the scourge of HIV and drug resistant TB is warranted. A programme to implement and evaluate health workplace-based HIV and TB prevention and care is offered to meet this challenge and is a joint offering by the CHSR&D and the UFS Department of Community Health's Occupational Health Unit, working in collaboration with the Department of Computer Science at UFS, and the University of British Columbia in Canada. The course spans over one year, with three contact sessions and will cover:

- Power relations and politics involved in workplace health research.
- Legislative frameworks, policies and programme in occupational health - including the rights and obligations of employers and worker rights.

- Importance of health and safety committees and the role of unions.
- Basic overview of occupational health hazards (including infection control issues, stress, burnout, and various control measures).
- Basics of HIV and TB transmission, as well as prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and support.
- Relevant WHO and ILO guidelines including policy guidelines on improving access of workers to HIV and TB prevention, treatment, care and support.
- Basic research designs including qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- Basic research methods focused on intervention evaluation.
- Social-cultural, gender and ethical issues as well as rights-based issues to be addressed in the research process.
- Budgets and timelines construction using logic framework analysis.

Research strategy and progress

The first contact session will commence on 12 April 2011 with 32 participants. Each module will be co-led by international interdisciplinary experts from Canada along with local experts. The 2011 admission cycle will receive full scholarships.

Funding

International Development Research Centre, Canada.



Fieldworker Gerrit Janse van Rensburg conducting an interview

Baseline assessment of TB programme management in Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo Districts (Eastern Cape) and John Taolo Gaetsewe District (Northern Cape)

Project leader

Prof Christo Heunis

CHSR&D staff

Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Gladys Kigozi, André Janse van Rensburg, Belinda Jacobs, Theresa Neuhoff, Bridget Smit, Jo-Ann Lebaka

Background and aims

The TB epidemic is escalating partly because of growing numbers of undiagnosed and untreated people in the community. Moreover, increasing numbers of untreated TB suspects also present together with immune-suppressed patients at public health care facilities increasing the chances of infection and re-infection with TB. The Eastern Cape and Northern Cape Departments of Health and CDC South Africa commissioned the CHSR&D to conduct basic programme assessments in three districts: Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo (Eastern Cape) and John Taolo Gaetsewe (Northern Cape). The assessments cover the following focal areas:

- TB-HIV/AIDS integration.
- Intensified TB case finding.
- Infection control.
- Management of drug-resistant TB.
- Recording and reporting.

Research strategy, progress and findings

A cross-sectional baseline survey was conducted in each of the three districts. Representative samples of 28 clinics in Alfred Nzo, 62 in OR Tambo and 37 in John Taolo Gaetsewe were selected. Three instruments were developed for data gathering by means of an interview

with the operational manager, TB nurse or nurse actively working in the TB programme. In addition, observations were conducted with regard to equipment and drug shortages, environmental and infection control, and the availability of TB and HIV/AIDS guidelines and policies. The completeness and outcomes of various TB-related recording mediums were also observed.

Summarily, the baseline survey revealed the following strengths across all districts: TB, HIV/AIDS and VCT training attended by majority of nurses, sputum smear test turn-around times of 48 hours or less, health education given on TB and HIV/AIDS (mostly on a daily basis), sputum collection took place outside, all newly diagnosed HIV-positive patients were screened for TB, and patients coughing for more than two weeks were sent for a sputum test. Additional strengths observed in Alfred Nzo and OR Tambo included that all facilities ensured that TB patients with HIV were receiving cotrimoxazole prophylactic treatment, In OR Tambo, clinics were also well stocked with observed equipment and supplies.

Weaknesses identified across the three districts included: shortages of medical officers, pharmacists and social workers; many nurses required training on ART; poor infection control and management of drug-resistant TB; not all facilities had dedicated TB nurses; not all nurses knew how to diagnose MDR TB; ART was not available at all facilities; and IEC materials on TB and HIV were largely lacking. Further identified weaknesses included that some clinics lacked reliable water supply (Alfred Nzo and Oliver Tambo) and N95 respirators were lacking at some facilities (OR Tambo).

Funding

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) South Africa.



From left to right: Kungeka Gonxoza, Tembile Xalisa (fieldworkers from the Catholic Development Centre, Mthatha), Gladys Kigozi, Prof Christo Heunis, André Janse van Rensburg (all CHSR&D)

Gladys Kigozi assessing clinic TB records



André Janse van Rensburg conducting clinic observations

Operational Research Assistance Project (ORAP): Quantitative and qualitative assessment of factors associated with high two-month sputum smear non-conversion of new smear-positive tuberculosis patients in the Free State Province

Mentor

Prof Nulda Beyers (Desmond Tutu TB Centre [DTTC], Stellenbosch University)

Principal investigator

All nine provinces:
Brenda Smuts

Principal investigators

Free State Province:
Sonja van der Merwe (Tuberculosis Management Directorate, Free State Department of Health), Prof Christo Heunis (CHSR&D)

Department of Community Health/Health Services Research Unit (Free State Department of Health) staff

Dr Perpetual Chikobvu

CHSR&D staff

Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Dr Asta Rau, André Janse van Rensburg, Gladys Kigozi, Belinda Jacobs, Theresa Neuhooff, Bridget Smit, Jo-Ann Lebaka

Background and aims

In 2010, TREAT TB and its local partner, the DTTC, started to implement the four-year Operational Research Assistance Project (ORAP). The goal is to build the operational research skills of South African professionals at local, provincial, and national levels while carrying out much-needed TB-related operations research in each province. In the Free State, the provincial TB Management Directorate, CHSR&D and Department of Community Health/Health Services Research Unit are partnering to examine the factors that contribute to a high two-month non-conversion rate among treated new smear-positive TB patients. The project addresses one of the national TB research priorities for 2010-2011.

Research strategy and progress

A preliminary literature review showed that both medical and demographic factors are associated with sputum smear/culture non-conversion/longer time to conversion. The primary aims of the research are to assess whether associations exist between two-month sputum smear non-conversion among new smear-positive TB patients and (1) delayed treatment onset after pre-treatment sputum-positive diagnosis, (2) disease severity, (3) HIV status, and (4) patient demographics (age and sex). These primary aims are to be achieved by a quantitative design. A record review will be conducted on routine administrative data (2003-2009) to compare sputum smear converting and non-converting patients in respect of the above-mentioned independent variables. The quantitative design will entail a record review and analysis of the data for the entire population of new smear-positive pulmonary TB diagnosed patients in the provincial TB database from January 2003 to December 2009. Information will thus be obtained by extracting the variable information from the provincial TB routine database.

The secondary aim is to establish TB nurses and facility managers' suggested reasons for and solutions to the problem of high two-month sputum smear non-conversion. This will be pursued through a qualitative study entailing administration of an open-ended question interview schedule with informed and consenting TB nurses and facility managers at 15 purposively-selected (well-performing, average, poorly-performing) clinics/community health centres.

The expected benefits and value of the study for the Free State Department of Health Staff is that it will contribute information to help address the highest two-month sputum smear non-conversion rate among the nine provinces. The proposed study will help the province to design short- and longer-term interventions to increase the two-month sputum smear conversion rate. After the project obtained ethics approval from both the Stellenbosch University Health Research Ethics Committee and The Union Ethics Advisory Group, funding was released early in 2011. Both the quantitative and qualitative analyses are in progress.

Funding

Funded by TREAT TB, The Union and USAID.

Publications

Articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals

De Wet K. Les trois ages de la sante communautaire en Afrique de Sud. *Sciences Sociales Et Sante*, 28(3): 85-107.

De Wet K. The importance of ethical appraisal in social science research: reviewing a Faculty of Humanities' Research Ethics Committee. *Journal of Academic Ethics*, 8(4): 301-314.

Fairall L, Bachman MO, Zwarenstein M, Bateman ED, Niessen LW, Lombard C, Majara B, English R, Bheekie A, Van Rensburg D, Mayers P, Peters A, Chapman R. Cost-effectiveness of educational outreach to primary care nurses to increase tuberculosis case detection and improve respiratory care: economic evaluation alongside a randomised trial. *Tropical Medicine and International Health*, 15(3): 277-286.

Heunis C, Wouters E, Kigozi G, Engelbrecht M, Tsibolane Y, Van der Merwe S, Motlhanke S. Accuracy of tuberculosis routine data and nurses' views of the TB-HIV information system in the Free State, South Africa. *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*, 22(1): 67-73.

Kigozi NG, Heunis JC, Chikobvu P, Van den Berg H, Van Rensburg HJ, Wouters E. Predictors of uptake of human immunodeficiency virus testing by tuberculosis patients in Free State Province, South Africa. *International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*, 14(4), 399-405.

Schneider H, Coetzee D, Van Rensburg D, Gilson L. Differences in antiretroviral scale up in three South African provinces: the role of implementation management. *BMC Health Services Research*, 10(Suppl 1): S4.

Uebel KE, Timmerman V, Ingle SM, Van Rensburg DHJ, Mollentze WF. Towards universal ARV access: Achievements and challenges in Free State Province, South Africa. *South African Medical Journal*, 100(9): 589-593.

Wouters E, Heunis C, Ponnet K, Van Loon F, Booysen F le R, Van Rensburg D, Meulemans H. Who is accessing public-sector anti-retroviral treatment in the Free State, South Africa? An exploratory study of the first three years of programme implementation. *BMC Public Health*, 10: 387.

Wouters E, Van Rensburg D, Meulemans H. Role of communities in HIV/AIDS care (Letter to the Editors). *Health Affairs*, 29(6): 1275.

Wouters E, Van Rensburg HJ, Meulemans H. The National Strategic Plan of South Africa: what are the prospects of success after the repeated failure of previous AIDS policy? *Health Policy and Planning*, 25(3): 171-185.

Wouters E, Vermeiren P, Katabaro M, Van Damme W. Modelling social reality: limitations to measuring the impact of HIV/AIDS on rural households (Letter to the Editors). *Tropical Medicine and International Health*, 15(8): 955-957.





Presentations

International

De Reuck CJ

Perceived stigma and tobacco use are predictors of non-adherence to antiretroviral medications among South African woman in the Free State provinces public health sector: data from a prospective cohort study (Poster presentation). *XVIII International AIDS Conference*, Vienna, Austria, 18-23 July.

De Reuck CJ

Validity of measures used to assess medication adherence and appointment adherence vary by sex: findings from the Free State province of South Africa (Poster presentation). *XVIII International AIDS Conference*, Vienna, Austria, 18-23 July.

Heunis JC

Towards universal HIV testing of tuberculosis patients in the Free State, South Africa. *First Global Symposium on Health Systems Research* (Poster presentation), Montreaux, Switzerland, 16-19 November.

Heunis JC, Engelbrecht MC, Parsons S, Kigozi NG

Impact of TB infection control interventions in Cacadu District, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. (Poster presentation). *41st Union World Conference on Lung Health*, Berlin, Germany, 11-15 November. Abstract in *The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*, 14(11) (Suppl 2): S304.

National and local

De Wet K

Reviewing the University of the Free State's Research Ethics Committee at the Faculty of Humanities. *UFS Humanities Faculty Forum*, Bloemfontein, 20 July.

Foster H, Steyn F

Measuring life skills transfer as intervention in school-based violence. *Action Research: Exploring its Transformative Potential*, Port Elizabeth, 18-19 August.

Heunis C, Odegaard D, Capati J

A twinning partnership to build capacity in operational research results in strengthened and coordinated response to TB-HIV in the Free State (Poster presentation). *2nd South African TB Conference on Forging Strategic Partnerships to Fight TB & HIV*, Durban, 1-4 June.

Kigozi NG, Heunis JC

Determinants of tuberculosis patients' condom use at most recent sexual activity: a survey in four sub-districts in the Free State Province. *2nd TB Conference on Forging Strategic Partnerships to Fight TB & HIV*, Durban, 1-4 June.



Chapters in books

Engelbrecht M, De Wet K

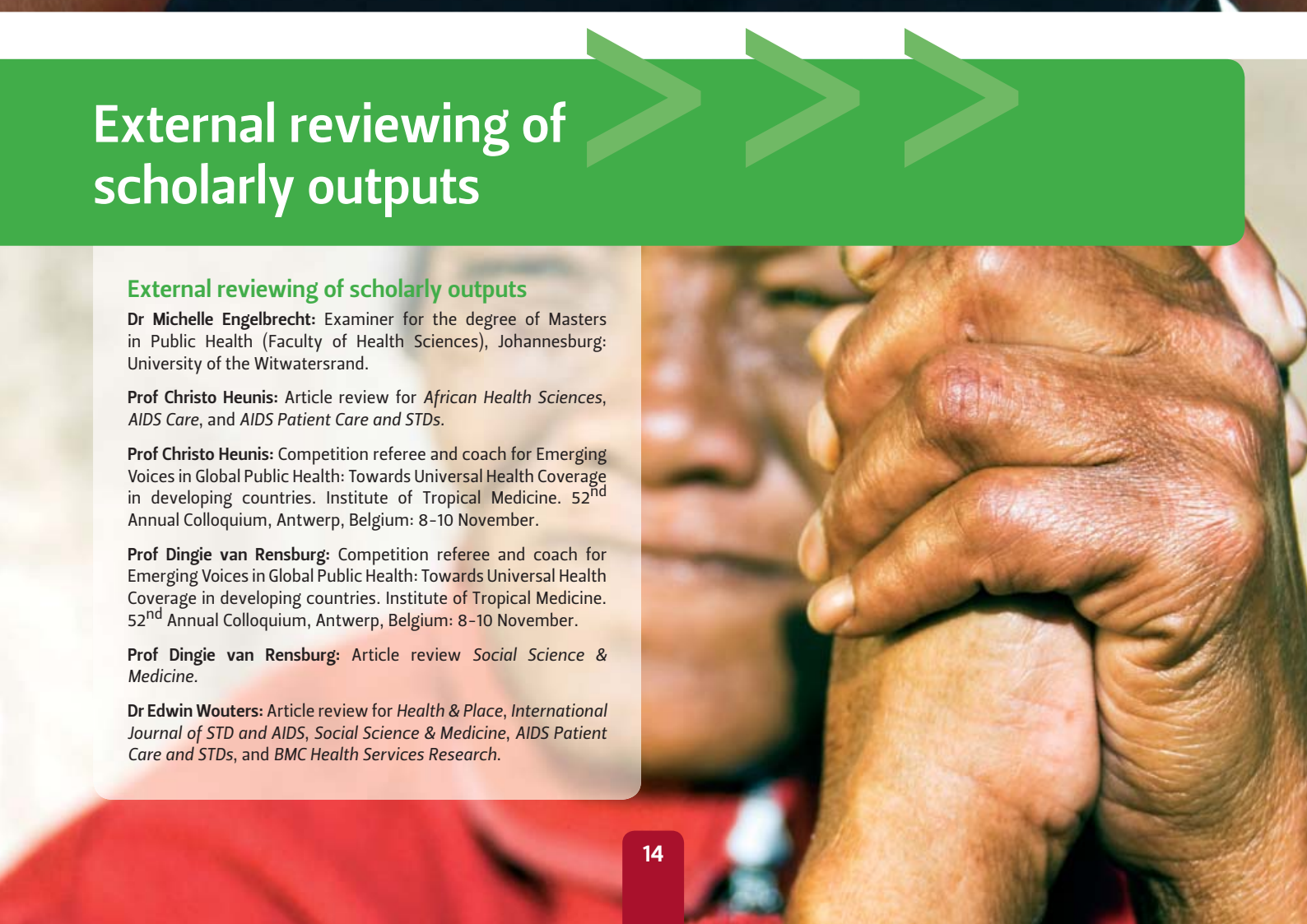
Health. In: *Free State Provincial Government, Free State State of the Population Report*. Bloemfontein: Department of Social Development.

Wouters E

No one should walk alone: achieving universal treatment access through community mobilization. In Evans T (Ed.). *Young Researchers for Health 2010: Health systems research towards universal health coverage*, Switzerland, Geneva: Global Forum for Health Research & *The Lancet*.

Wouters E

No one should walk alone: achieving universal treatment access through community mobilization. In Koleva M & Gardner C (Eds.). *Strengthening health systems: Global Forum update on research for health*, UK, Woodbridge: Pro Book Publishing.



External reviewing of scholarly outputs

External reviewing of scholarly outputs

Dr Michelle Engelbrecht: Examiner for the degree of Masters in Public Health (Faculty of Health Sciences), Johannesburg: University of the Witwatersrand.

Prof Christo Heunis: Article review for *African Health Sciences*, *AIDS Care*, and *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*.

Prof Christo Heunis: Competition referee and coach for Emerging Voices in Global Public Health: Towards Universal Health Coverage in developing countries. Institute of Tropical Medicine. 52nd Annual Colloquium, Antwerp, Belgium: 8-10 November.

Prof Dingie van Rensburg: Competition referee and coach for Emerging Voices in Global Public Health: Towards Universal Health Coverage in developing countries. Institute of Tropical Medicine. 52nd Annual Colloquium, Antwerp, Belgium: 8-10 November.

Prof Dingie van Rensburg: Article review *Social Science & Medicine*.

Dr Edwin Wouters: Article review for *Health & Place*, *International Journal of STD and AIDS*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*, and *BMC Health Services Research*.

Visitors to the CHSR&D



Profs Lucius Botes, Teuns Verschoor, Dingie van Rensburg and Jonathan Jansen

Profs Annalee Yassi and Jerry Spiegel, Lyndsay O'Hara, Justin LoChang (University of British Columbia)	Talks on the OHASIS project and visits to proposed intervention sites	3 - 5 February
Mrs Annatjie Peters (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention South Africa) and Mr. Sidney Parsons (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research)	Information session on infection control	11 March
Dr Wynn Norton (University of Alabama at Birmingham)	Lecturing and mentoring on implementation science	23 - 24 March
Prof Jonathan Jansen (Vice Chancellor and Rector, UFS), Prof Teuns Verschoor (Vice Rector: institutional affairs, UFS), Prof Engela Pretorius (former Vice Dean of the Humanities Faculty, UFS), Prof Lucius Botes (Dean of Humanities Faculty, UFS)	Congratulating Prof Dingie van Rensburg on his honorary doctorate	23 March
Carmen Dyck and Andrea Wilson (School of Public and Population Health, University of British Columbia)	As part of a Masters in Public Health at the University of British Columbia, undertook a practicum at the CHSR&D and were involved with the OHASIS project	26 July - 9 September
Profs Annalee Yassi and Jerry Spiegel and colleagues (University of British Columbia)	Occupational health and safety training as part of the OHASIS project	23 - 27 August
Andy Guise (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)	Consulted Prof Christo Heunis for his PhD research, which explores the impacts of the expanding HIV treatment programme on primary health care nursing in South Africa. Specifically, his research entailed a qualitative study exploring the impact of a HIV treatment programme on primary health care, particularly looking at how nursing care is organised and delivered.	March-May

Andy Guise



Post-graduate training attended by staff



Current master's studies – with supervisors

Janse van Rensburg AP

M.Soc.Sc. (Criminology): *Dimensions, coping strategies and management of school-based violence*. Francois Steyn (Department of Social Work and Criminology, UP) and Herma Foster (Department of Criminology, UFS).

Current doctoral studies – with supervisors

Kigozi GN

PhD (Interdisciplinary): *Facilitating factors and barriers to the uptake of HIV counselling and testing among tuberculosis patients in the Free State Province (South Africa)*. Prof Christo Heunis (CHSR&D), Dr Henriëtte van den Berg (Department of Psychology, UFS) and Prof Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D).

Steyn F

PhD (Criminology): *Approaches to diversion of child offenders in South Africa: a comparative analysis*. Profs DA Louw (Department of Psychology, UFS) and Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D).

Wilke M

PhD (Nursing): *Models of care for antiretroviral treatment delivery: a faith-based organisations' response*. Profs Y Botma (Department of Nursing, UFS) and Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D).

Uebel, Dr K

PhD (Internal Medicine): *Developing, implementing and evaluating a practical approach to integrating HIV care into primary health care services in the Free State*. Profs Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D) and Willie Mollentze (Department of Internal Medicine, UFS).



Study guidance

Completed master's studies – with supervisors

Gwarisa N

MDS: *An investigation into the factors influencing uptake of HIV testing among pregnant women accessing antenatal care services in rural Zimbabwe: a case study of Mutoko District Hospital.* Prof Christo Heunis and Gladys Kigozi (both CHSR&D).

Matimba G

MDS: *Male involvement in the care of orphaned and vulnerable children in Harare, Zimbabwe: a qualitative investigation.* Francois Steyn (Department of Social Work and Criminology, University of Pretoria) and Anja Pienaar (CHSR&D).

Mugabe M

MDS: *Is Southern African AIDS Trust influencing HIV and AIDS community competence? A case study of two community based organisations in Zimbabwe.* Dr Katinka de Wet (CHSR&D).

Murandu C

MDS: *Correlates of male participation in the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) Programme at Seke North Clinic, Makoni District Zimbabwe.* Prof Christo Heunis and Gladys Kigozi (both CHSR&D).

Muyunda L

MDS: *Investigating current perceptions, attitudes and practices towards tuberculosis among people living with HIV and community care givers in Ngombe Compound in Lusaka, Zambia.* Prof Christo Heunis and Gladys Kigozi (both CHSR&D).

Njoroge J

MDS: *The impact of clinical mentoring on access to antiretroviral (ART) services and nurses' ART-related knowledge in Lesotho.* Prof Christo Heunis (CHSR&D).

Saka L

MDS: *Investigating the role of culture in the uptake of antiretroviral therapy services in Mwanachingwala area, Mazabuka District in Zambia.* Prof Christo Heunis and Gladys Kigozi (both CHSR&D).

Serekoane J

MA (Anthropology): *The socio-cultural context of patients undergoing antiretroviral treatment in Petrusburg: an anthropological perspective.* Profs Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D) and Piet Erasmus (Department of Anthropology, UFS).

Van De Water P

MA (Sociology): *Bloeddonatie: Waarom geven mensen bloed?* Dr Edwin Wouters (CHSR&D and Department of Sociology and Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies, University of Antwerp).

Current master's studies – with supervisors

Allingham R

MDS: *Appropriate interventions for the City of Cape Town Metro District Health Service to address the high rate of teenage pregnancy in the Eastern sub-District.* Dr Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D).

De Bruyn S

MA (Sociology): *HIV en disclosure aan partners: onderzoek naar het disclosure-proces aan partners van homoseksuele mannen met HIV in Vlaanderen.* Dr Edwin Wouters (CHSR&D and Department of Sociology and Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies, University of Antwerp).

Kanjipite W

MDS: *Male involvement in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Kasama District, Zambia.* Dr Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D).

Machere M

MDS: *The influence of antenatal clinic attendees' knowledge and experience on the uptake of Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV services in the Free State.* Dr Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D).

Masango M

MDS: *Sex and sexuality knowledge, attitudes and practices of adolescent school-going girls (age 14-16) in the Chitungwiza District, Zimbabwe.* Dr Michelle Engelbrecht and Gladys Kigozi (both CHSR&D).

Mashapa F

MDS: *Reasons for low uptake of men in voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services in Swaziland: a case study of the New Start Programme.* Prof Christo Heunis (CHSR&D).

Mhiti SB

MDS: *An evaluation of psychological support interventions – The case of orphaned and vulnerable children in the high density suburbs of Harare, Zimbabwe.* Dr Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D).

Moshabesha M

MDS: *The influence of the "String Game Story" on the sexual behaviours of adolescents in post primary school in peri-urban Lesotho.* Nandipha Jacobs (CHSR&D).

Simelane D

MDS: *Prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV: Identifying barriers and facilitators to access in a district of Swaziland.* Dr Michelle Engelbrecht (CHSR&D).

Uytterlinde P

MA (Sociology): *Socio-economische impact van HIV/AIDS in Zuid-Afrika: HIV/AIDS als veroorzaker van sociale adhesie.* Dr Edwin Wouters (CHSR&D and Department of Sociology and Research Centre for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies, University of Antwerp).

Staff development initiatives

Dr Katinka de Wet completed a post-doctoral degree at the Centre under guidance of Profs Dingie van Rensburg (CHSR&D) and Helen Schneider (CHSR&D and Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit, UCT), as well as a post-graduate diploma in International Research Ethics at the Centre for Bioethics, University of Cape Town. Her practicum for the latter was entitled: *Restructuring the Ethics Committee at the Faculty of the Humanities, University of the Free State (2008-2010)*.

Prof Christo Heunis attended a Workshop on Operations Research Protocol Development presented by Desmond Tutu Tuberculosis Centre (DTTC), Stellenbosch University, the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union), TREAT TB and the National Tuberculosis Control Programme, Stellenbosch, 10-15 May.

Prof Christo Heunis, Dr Michelle Engelbrecht, Dr Katinka de Wet, Gladys Kigozi, Anja Pienaar, Mosilo Machere and Theresa Neuhoff attended training on implementation science presented by Dr Wynne Norton

(Department of Health Behavior, School of Public Health, University of Alabama at Birmingham), Bloemfontein, 23-24 March.

Dr Chantell de Reuck (post-doctoral student, CHSR&D) completed a Campbell Collaboration training workshop with the title "Systematic reviews and Meta-analysis for the Social Sciences", presented by Profs JH Littell and T Pigott, Bloemfontein, 2-4 August.

Theresa Neuhoff completed a MySQL administration course, presented by IntoWeb, UFS, 27-28 May.

André Janse van Rensburg and Theresa Neuhoff completed a basic SPSS course, presented by the Centre for Higher Education Studies and Learning, UFS, 28 April, 5, 12, 19 May.

Belinda Jacobs completed a Basic Sesotho Communication course, presented by Human Resources: Performance Management and Staff Development, UFS, January-December.

An honorary doctorate for Prof Dingie van Rensburg

On 29 April 2010, the University of Antwerp in Belgium bestowed their most distinct accolade - the title of *Doctor Honoris Causa* - in the Political and Social Sciences, upon Prof Dingie (HCJ) van Rensburg, Outstanding Professor of the Faculty of the Humanities, and founder and first Director of CHSR&D.

Prof Dingie received this honour for his eminent and internationally recognised social scientific research on health and health care in multicultural South Africa in the globalised world, and in recognition of his expertise and vast contribution in the field of sociology and social policy. In the words of Prof Francis Baron Van Loon, former Rector of the University Antwerp, "... he has built a career of exceptional brilliance. He continues to play an important role in the social policy of the new South Africa, and he can take pride in opus of internationally renowned work".

The University of Antwerp awarded only three honorary doctorates to political and social scientists in the past, i.e. to Prof Raymond Boudon, sociologist at the University of Paris-Sorbonne (1995); Prof Robert Putnam, political scientist at Harvard University (2000); and Prof John Nash (of *A Beautiful Mind* fame), mathematician and economist at MIT and Princeton (2007).

In the past, only two South Africans were honoured with honorary doctorates by the University of Antwerp, i.e. Constitutional Court Judge, Albie Sachs (2000) and former State President, Nelson Mandela (2004).

What follows, are some excerpts from the laudatio by Prof Francis Baron Van Loon, while presenting Prof Dingie (HCJ) van Rensburg for the title during the event: *"Poverty invokes different reactions in different people. For some, it ignites the desire to achieve a more affluent lifestyle and acquire more possessions as quickly as possible. For others, such as Dingie van Rensburg, poverty becomes ingrained in their*

personality, characterized by modesty, deference, diligence and great compassion for the condition of their brothers and sisters who are less fortunate than themselves. His education in the social sciences served to strengthen and deepen this compassion, laying the foundation for an exceptional academic career."

"In 1992, just before Nelson Mandela was elected President of South Africa and the democratization of the country took flight, Professor van Rensburg published his major work, Health Care in South Africa. He saw that the time was ripe to deploy empirical research to attack the ethnic divisions and inequalities in South African society."

"Although the current antiretroviral therapies for HIV/AIDS are highly effective medically, the management of public programmes for fighting AIDS is relatively complex in a context like South Africa, given the high numbers of patients, the work-intensive character of the programmes and similar factors. In such a context, a social scientific contribution such as that made by Professor van Rensburg can often make the difference between the success and failure of social healthcare programmes."

Prof Dingie received the honorary doctorate in **Political and Social Sciences** along with four other achievers:

- **Prof Moshe E Ben-Akiva** (Edmund K Turner Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Director of MIT Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (United States) in **Applied Economics**, for his eminent and internationally recognized leadership role in the application of discrete choice modelling, particularly in transportation economics, and for the development of intelligent transportation systems that contribute to more efficient and sustainable transportation.

Prof Dingie (HCJ) van Rensburg receiving the title of Doctor Honoris Causa



The Doctor Honoris Causa diploma



From left to right: Prof André K Geim, Prof Moshe E BenAkiva, Prof Alain Verschoren, Burggraaf ir dr Frank de Winne, Dr Rajendra K Pachauri, and Prof Dingie van Rensburg

- **Prof André K Geim** (Langworthy and Royal Society Research Professor, Chair of Condensed Matter Physics, University of Manchester, UK) in **Science**, for the discovery of grapheme and for his fundamental contributions in various domains of mesoscopic physics.
- **Dr Rajendra K Pachauri** (Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, United States) received the title for **General Merit**, for his important scientific role as Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and his eminent and internationally recognized contribution to the scientific development of knowledge and implementation concerning climate change.
- **Burggraaf ir dr Frank de Winne** (Astronaut, European Space Agency) in **Medicine**, for his exceptional contribution to space medicine in the context of his space mission to the International Space Station and for his extraordinary efforts to promote scientific research in medicine as well as in general.



From left to right: Prof Ria Janvier (Dean, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences University of Antwerp); Prof Dingie van Rensburg and Prof Francis Baron Van Loon

A tribute in honour of Prof Dingie van Rensburg

At the end of May 2010, Prof Dingie stepped down from his position as Director of CHSR&D and as Outstanding Professor at the University of the Free State. On 4 June 2010, personnel at the CHSR&D held a tribute in recognition of the occasion. The function was held at Tuscan Rose outside Bloemfontein. Guests included a variety of colleagues, friends and family of Prof Dingie. Seven of Prof Dingie's long-time colleagues and former students paid tribute to his work, and to him as scholar and person. They included Profs Gerhard de Klerk, Engela Pretorius, Lucius Botes, Helen Schneider, André Pelser, Christo Heunis and Dr Edwin Wouters. A candle-lit dinner was accompanied by the music of the ARCO Musica string quartet. It was a memorable occasion during which Prof Dingie was showed appreciation for and recognition of his impressive career.

Academic career

Prof Dingie van Rensburg commenced his BA studies at the UFS in 1964 and graduated in 1966. Thereafter he consecutively obtained the BA Hons (1967 with distinction), MA (1978 with distinction) and DPhil (1972) in Sociology. For more than 41 years (since 1969) he served the University of the Free State as a staff member in various positions. He started his career in the Department of Sociology and Social Work in 1969. After being lecturer and senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology, he was promoted to Professor in Sociology in 1979, and headed the Department from 1980 until 1992. In Sociology he specialised particularly in Medical Sociology and the Sociology of Health and Health Care, a field in which he was well renowned, both in South Africa and abroad. In 2005 he was promoted to Senior Professor and in 2008 to Outstanding Professor at the UFS. After his retirement in 2010, he continues his career at the University in the capacity of Extraordinary Professor, as PhD supervisor, author and co-author of research outputs generated by the CHSR&D, and as mentor and advisor for personnel of the CHSR&D.

Research and publications

In 1992 he and colleagues published *Health care in South Africa: structure and dynamics*, and in 2004 he initiated and was editor and main author of *Health and health care in South Africa*. In 1993, Prof Dingie established, and since then, directed the Centre for Health Systems Research & Development. During his career he was author, co-author and editor of many books/volumes (27), chapters in books (16), monographs (8), articles in scientific journals (80 odd), technical research and policy reports (26) - in later years mostly in collaboration with his colleagues and post-graduate students in South Africa and abroad. During his career he presented and co-presented at 58 national and international conferences. He supervised a significant number of master's, doctoral and post-doctoral students. In his 17 years as Director of the Centre he initiated, managed and led approximately 50 research and development projects, several of them large and long-term projects, and many of an inter-institutional and multidisciplinary nature. In this way he generated millions of Rands for research and development, especially from international donor agencies and through national commissioned work.

Since 1979, he brought regular study visits to several overseas universities and research institutions and undertook post-doctoral research at the universities of Louvain (Belgium) and Marburg (Germany). *Sociologist, founder and first Director of the Centre for Health Systems Research & Development – a life-long career at the University of the*



Free State. Afterwards he became increasingly involved in international research collaboration with colleagues at the University of Antwerp and the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Belgium. The focus of the collaboration was throughout on the social, policy and systems dimensions of tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and antiretroviral treatment.

Awards and recognitions

During his academic career he was honoured with an array of awards. Among these the following:

- 1989, 1990 and 1992 - merit academic awards from the University of the Free State;
- 2001 - award for exceptional achievement and entrepreneurship from the University of the Free State;
- 1993 the Stals Prize for Sociology - bestowed on him by the South African Academy for Science and Arts for his contributions to the field of Medical Sociology;
- 2003 - the University Council Medal for outstanding and continuous contributions as an academic, particularly in respect of contributions outside the University context;
- 2004 - for research excellence from the University of the Free State in the category "established researchers with a sustained recent record of productivity";



Prof Christo Heunis
(CHSR&D)



Dr Edwin Wouters
(University of Antwerp)



Prof Lucius Botes (Dean of the
Humanities, UFS)



Prof Gerhard de Klerk
(former Dean of the Humanities, UFS)



Prof Engela Pretorius (former Vice
Dean of the Humanities, UFS)



Prof André Pelsler
(Department of Sociology, UFS)



Prof Helen Schneider (University
of Cape Town)



Prof Dingjie van Rensburg (right), and his wife, Mariëtte

- 2004 - the University of the Free State Centenary Medal in recognition of an exceptional and above average contribution to the establishment, development or transformation of the University, especially in regard to his contribution to academic excellence, solution oriented research as well as academic entrepreneurship by establishing and developing the Centre for Health Systems Research and Development into an internationally recognised research centre” came his way;
- 2004 - the Free State Department of Health awarded the Centre for service excellence in recognition for “excellence and continued support of the Department of Health during the first 10 years of South Africa’s democracy”;
- 2006 - the Free State Premier’s Excellence Award GOLD for “outstanding excellence and leadership in the category: Research and Development”;
- 2008 - honoured with membership of the Scientific Committee of the Research Centre on Health Systems and Welfare Policies (CRISP) at the University of Bologna, Italy; and
- 2010 - the University of Antwerp (Belgium) bestowed an honorary doctorate, Doctor Honoris Causa in Political and Social Sciences, on him for his eminent and internationally recognised social scientific research on health and health care in multicultural South Africa and the globalised world.

In 2002 he became an NRF-rated researcher and in 2007 his rating as an established researcher was renewed. In the past two decades he received several research grants simultaneously from both the National Research Foundation and from the Medical Research Foundation of South Africa, mostly for projects on tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and antiretroviral treatment.

Memberships of scientific and related bodies

Prof Van Rensburg holds membership of both the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns (South African Academy for Science and Arts) and the Academy for Science of South Africa; he also served for varying periods on the Councils of these two academies. In addition, he served for times as member of the following bodies: the Free State Provincial Council on AIDS, the Free State Antiretroviral Treatment Task Team/Steering Committee, the Research Committee of the Free State Department of Health, the Free State Facilitating Committee for District Health Development, the Strategic Planning Unit for District Health Development (Free State), and the National Science and Technology Forum.

Other newsworthy events



Giving to the community

After completion of 2010 FEATS fieldwork, the FEATS team donated surplus incentives to Sunflower House, the Rekgonne Primary School Heartbeat Project, and Lebone House.

Anja Pienaar with some of the children of Sunflower House



Hlengiwe Mdebuka and Anja Pienaar



From left to right: Jo-Ann Lebaka (CHSR&D), Richard Marston (Sunflower House), Dr Chantell de Reuck (CHSR&D), Sr Melinda Muller (Sunflower House), Bridget Smit (CHSR&D)



Hlengiwe Mdebuka and Anja Pienaar with the children and employees of Rekgonne Primary School



Jo-Ann Lebaka with a child from Sunflower House

Births

Dr Katinka De Wet gave birth to Roy, a beautiful baby boy, on 26 November 2010.



Dr Katinka de Wet with her husband, Morné Maree, and their son, Roy

Willemien Heunis (Prof Christo Heunis's wife) gave birth to a lovely baby girl named Hannah on 14 February 2010.



Hannah Heunis

Hlengiwe Mdebuka gave birth to a beautiful baby boy named Nhlanhla, on 1 March 2010.



Nhlanhla Mdebuka

Condolences

The Centre regrets the passing of Glenwin Smit, son of Bridget Smit, who passed away on 30 August 2010.

Gratitude

With this *News Report*, we express our sincere gratitude to all those funders who in recent years, and especially during 2010, so generously supported the efforts of the CHSR&D in its endeavours to contribute to a better society and health system in the Free State and South Africa:

- African-Asian Society (AAS)
- American International Health Alliance (AIHA) Twinning Center funded by CDC through PEPFAR
- Andrew Mellon Foundation
- Atlantic Philanthropies
- Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
- Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, USA)
- Development Cooperation Ireland (DCI)
- Development Economics Research Group (DERG), World Bank
- Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF)
- European Union (EU)
- Flanders International Cooperation Agency (FICA)
- Ford Foundation
- Free State Department of Health (FSDoH)
- Health Systems Trust (HST)
- HIVCare (an operating division of Medicross Healthcare Group)
- HLSP and Department for International Development (DfID, UK)
- Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit (IDEU, UCT)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada)
- International Projects Advisory Service (Ipas)
- Joint Economics, Aids and Poverty Programme (JEAPP)
- Medical Research Council of South Africa (MRC)
- National Research Foundation (NRF)
- Netherlands Support Programme, World Bank
- Open Society Foundation for South Africa (OSF-SA)
- Programme to Support Pro-Poor Policy Development (PSPDP)
- Research Matters (IDRC)
- Save the Children (UK)
- South African-Flemish Bilateral Scientific and Technological Cooperation Programme
- South African Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU)
- State University of New York Downstate Medical Center (SUNY-DMC)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union)
- Technology, Research, Education and Technical Assistance for Tuberculosis (TREAT TB)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)
- University of the Free State (UFS)
- US Agency for International Development (USAID, USA)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- WK Kellogg Foundation

Centre for Health Systems Research & Development
Sentrum vir Gesondheidsisteemnavorsing & Ontwikkeling

Faculty of the Humanities
Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe

P.O. Box 339, Bloemfontein, 9300, Republic of South Africa
Posbus 339, Bloemfontein, 9300, Republiek van Suid-Afrika

(T) +27(0) 51 401 2181

(F) +27(0) 51 444 5011

(E) heunisj@ufs.ac.za

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www.chrysalis-advertising.co.za