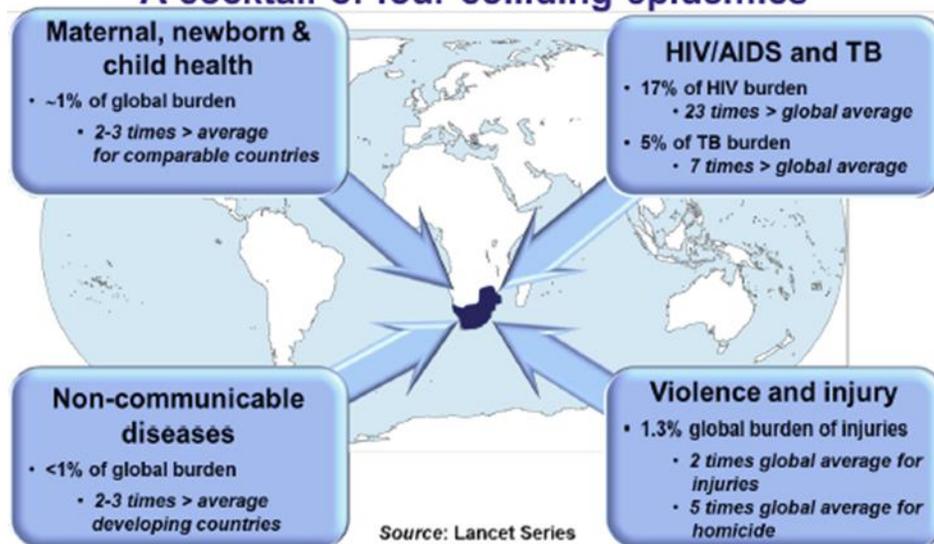




The SMU Research Days Organising Committee is pleased to report on a successful First Annual Research Days Programme. The two and a half days of both oral and poster presentations showed the research potential of SMU. With over 150 abstracts submitted, the programme was able to showcase the research of 56 orally presented research and 76 poster presented research. There was participation from all 4 schools, with the Schools of Pathology and Pre-clinical Sciences and Health Care Sciences topping the list respectively in terms of number of abstracts presented. The Departments of Public Health, Pharmacy and Virology came up tops with the highest numbers of abstracts presented.

As we aspire to encourage Researchers in SMU to focus on research that is relevant and that could make an impact in our country, it was encouraging to see that a little over 30% of the research presented was on two of the groups that make up the Quadruple Burden of Disease in South Africa, namely: Maternal, newborn and child health; and HIV/AIDS and TB (see insert). The other two groups of non-communicable diseases and violence and injury were touched on in some of the research presented and it is anticipated that more research will be presented on these topics in the coming years.

## The quadruple burden of disease in South Africa: A cocktail of four colliding epidemics



The list of winners for the postgraduate and undergraduate student prizes was dominated by the Department of Pharmacy, that took 4 of the 8 awards available. In the staff category, Prof Burnett scooped up both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for her poster presentations. Public Health was well rewarded with the trophy for the most committed department to research in 2015 and they appear determined to ensure that the trophy stays with them in the coming years.

### 2015 RESEARCH DAY WINNERS

| POSTER PRESENTATIONS             |                       |              |                           |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--|
| CATEGORY                         | AWARD                 | NAME         | DEPARTMENT                | TITLE OF THE PRESENTATION  |
| Best Staff Member Poster         | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | Burnett RJ   | Virological Pathology     | Ethical issues of justice and non-discrimination arising from the Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Programme in South Africa |
|                                  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | Burnett RJ   | Virological Pathology     | Vaccination coverage and reasons for not vaccinating in 12-23 month-olds from Muldersdrift, Gauteng in 2014                  |
| Best Postgraduate Student Poster | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | Nemakanga MN | Public Health             | The experiences and knowledge regarding HIV of the older adults living with HIV at Hammanskraal in South Africa              |
|                                  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | Ngobeni LM   | Microbiological Pathology | Tetracycline resistance among Ureaplasmas isolated from  |

|  |                       |                    |   |   |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|---|---|
|  |                       |                    |   | women presenting for termination of pregnancy at the Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital, Ga-rankuwa  |
|  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> place | <b>Mayimele N</b>  | Pharmacy                                | Quality improvement project for the management of ward medicines at a public sector hospital  |
| <b>Best Undergraduate Student Poster</b>     | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | <b>Lepulana SE</b> | Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology | Sentence repetition of Grade 1 learners in rural schools in Ga-rankuwa where Setswana is the language of learning and teaching                    |
| <b>ORAL PRESENTATIONS</b>                    |                       |                    |   |   |
| <b>CATEGORY</b>                              | <b>AWARD</b>          | <b>NAME</b>        | <b>DEPARTMENT</b>                       | <b>TITLE OF THE PRESENTATION</b>  |
| <b>Best Staff Member Oral Paper</b>          | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | <b>Green ED</b>    | Human Anatomy                           | The functional micromorphology of the rare flea <i>Macrosclidopsylla Albertyni</i> from elephant shrews   |
|  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | <b>Mabuza LH</b>   | Family Medicine and Primary Health Care | Factors related to viral suppression among patients on Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy at Phedisong 4 clinic in Pretoria, South Africa       |
| <b>Best Postgraduate Student Oral Paper</b>  | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | <b>Mogale N</b>    | Human Anatomy                           | A theoretical alternative intraosseous infusion site in severely hypovolemic children: a cadaveric anatomical investigation                       |
|  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | <b>Truter A</b>    | Pharmacy                                | Medication error checklist at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital, Gauteng Province   |
|  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> place | <b>Harirari</b>    | Pharmacy                                | Baseline assessment for the implementation of a pharmacist-driven inventory management system in the wards at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital |
| <b>Best Undergraduate Student Oral Paper</b> | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | <b>Matimela MM</b> | Pharmacy                                | Assessment of the effectiveness of problem based learning in Bachelor of Pharmacy at University of Limpopo, Medunsa / TUT Campuses                |

This year the lineup of speakers for the Research Days Programme did not disappoint. The Keynote talk presented by Prof Rubin Pillay from the University of Alabama in Birmingham, was charismatic and he challenged SMU researchers to be innovative and even to be “unreasonable” in their quest for knowledge and finding solution for both local and global challenges. He quoted the statement by George Bernard Shaw that “the reasonable man (woman) adapts himself (herself) to the world. The

unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself (herself). Therefore, all progress depends on unreasonable men (and women).” This he proposed, will be how a health sciences academic institution such as SMU will shift from being merely good to being great.

The three Plenary Speakers, who are all SMU staff members, brought the SMU research environment to the fore as they shared with the SMU community their daily involvement in research within their particular domains or disciplines. Professors Liviu Feller and Rose Burnett are the two most recently rated NRF researchers within the disciplines of Periodontology and Oral Medicine and Virological Pathology respectively. Prof Feller presented on some of the research that he and other Researchers have done on the physiological oral mucosal melanin hyperpigmentation; the melanotic macule; HIV-oral melanosis; oral mucosal melanoma and melanocyte biology. Prof Burnett took us through a discovery of the dangers posed by internet based Anti-Vaccination Lobbying (AVL) in South Africa through a study that she and other researchers undertook under the banner of The South African Vaccination And Immunisation Centre (SAVIC) .

The third plenary talk delivered by Prof Prem Govender, who is the Interim Director of the Research & Postgraduate Studies Directorate, highlighted the SMU Research environment from a research governance and management perspective over the past few years and showed how research activity and productivity can be improved going forward. Linking to this strategic perspective, Elsevier Publishers presented some insights on the publication trends in South Africa and SMU by using the analytical properties of some of their products such as Scopus (world’s largest data set on publications and citations) and Sci-Val. It is encouraging to know that South Africa is leading the continent in medical research, with most of our medical research competencies in the areas of TB and HIV. Patterns of collaboration and potential areas of collaboration were indicated. Using the Scopus data set it seems our successful collaborations are with 2 African countries (Nigeria and Ethiopia), the USA and three European countries (Sweden, Netherlands and Finland).

The Research Days Programme culminated with an Awards Gala Dinner at the CSIR, which was graced by Prof Glenda Gray, President of the SAMRC, as the Guest Speaker. As she was highlighting the Global and National Challenges in Health Research, she took the time to acknowledge women who made significant contributions to medical science in honour of the Women’s month celebrations. She highlighted the points below as some of the main challenges facing the health research landscape:

- Language: important barriers from non-English (first language speaking) communities

- Academics are rarely instructed in scientific writing and manuscript preparation
- Mentorship is not a recognised “science” in RSA
- How many scientists are taught to teach?

As the only standalone health sciences institution in SA, SMU is strategically positioned to take the lead in health research both nationally and in the African continent. It is through the continued support of such platforms as the Research Days that this strategic drive can be attained and sustained.

As the Organising Committee we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the SMU Community (the University Management; the presenters, the attendees, the volunteers, the judges, the session chairs, the various university directorates and divisions). The following sponsors are acknowledged for their support of the SMU Research Days Programme:

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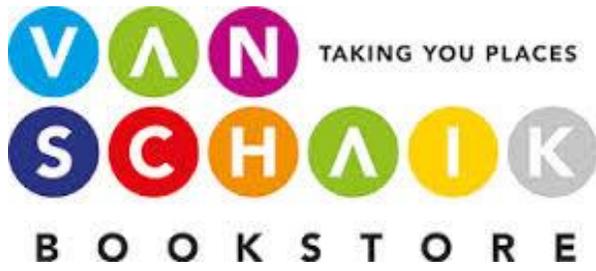
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