



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

Faculty of Health Sciences

Newsletter

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Diversity is key to good quality Health Sciences Education

Article 1



Goal no.3 of the 7 strategic goals of the University of Fort Hare is to 'Improve the Quality of Student Life and Enhance Student Experience. Diversity, at all levels, is key to achieving this goal. Diversity in training backgrounds will ensure that the Faculty's curriculum transformation fosters inclusivity and considers experiences beyond the UFH and the Eastern Cape.

We bring the world to the small towns of Alice and East London. To keep a sharp eye on this, amongst other things, the Faculty keeps track of who our teachers are. The map below demonstrates that lectures with PhDs in the Faculty trained in various Universities nationwide. Our students are this trained by a team with a wealth of diverse backgrounds, which is important for us.

Article 2

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCE ATTENDED THE SAAHE CONFERENCE



Figure 1: Faculty of Health Sciences Staff attended the SAAHE Conference at Gqeberha

The 2023 South African Association of Health Educationalists (SAAHE) Conference was hosted by the Nelson Mandela University in collaboration with the University of Fort Hare, Walter Sisulu University and Rhodes University from the 19th to the 21st of June 2023.

This was the first in-person conference since COVID-19. The theme was "Health is a Key to Life", thus speaking to 2023 being the 21st year of SAAHE's birth. The SAAHE experiences globally and using the past two and a half years as a backdrop, brought a realisation that it is vital to nurture and expand the role of the Association in the field of Health Professions Education. In July 2002, Athol Kent and a group of South Africans attending the Ottawa Conference in Canada got together to promote the idea of forming SAAHE.

SAAHE was 'birthed' in October of the same year at a meeting in Bloemfontein. The conference programme included workshops, panels, symposia, knowledge-sharing sessions (seaside stories), keynote presentations, cock-tail welcome party, and a Gala dinner. As we know, June is a winter season in Gqeberha (formerly known as Port Elizabeth), yet that did not prevent the FHS crew, both staff and students (Figure 1), from engaging and enjoying the sessions provided within the programme. Indeed, it was an eye-opening, learning, and interactive experience for the Faculty Staff as it was the first time for some to attend the conference. We look forward to attending the next one in June 2024 in Durban



Figure : Mrs Hellen Bunt (UFH, FHS – Department of Nursing Science) presenting a Palliative Care mobile app during growing your own Digital Garden for Interprofessional Education & Collaborative Practice



Figure : Dr JD Wagner (UFH, FHS-Department of Nursing Science) presenting a portion on Growing your Digital Garden for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice



Figure : Mrs Noluvo Gosangaye (UFH, FHS-Department of Nursing Science), chairing during a parallel session on Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice in Health Professions Education

Understanding Inequalities in the South African Health System from the Eastern Cape's Point of View



Build a plane while it is moving!!!!

The team (Dr Gwebu, Dr Mashau, Dr Sekoba, Ms Maqoma and Mr Matiwane) is involved in the Global Health Equity Project, a project that brings together researchers from the Sub-Saharan Africa with collaborators from the University of California Institute for Global Health, were invited to attend a workshop hosted by the Human Research Science Council (HRSC) in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Department of Science and Innovation of the Republic of South Africa. The Workshop aimed at addressing and understanding the inequalities within the South African health system and to get provincial perspectives on finding innovative solutions to redress these interrelated inequalities in our society. Amongst the delegates from University of Fort hare (UFH), Faculty of Health Sciences team, Eastern Cape (non-profit organizations) NGOs and medical practitioners were in attendance. Dr Gwebu from UFH presented on Training Health Professionals: The Perspective of Historically Disadvantaged Institutions, where she highlighted the challenges currently faced by Faculty of Health Sciences and that need fortitude and local solutions. She emphasized that "We find it unappealing that after a century and years later since the establishment of Fort Hare, it is still categorized under historically disadvantaged universities ... which given its rich history that should not be the case". Furthermore, the workshop addressed the impact of COVID-19 in exposing many factors that are linked to injustice, inequality, lack of resources, lack infrastructure, 'money buying health' and lack of community involvement. Lessons learned from COVID-19 include the need to increase community engagement on health issues through NGO's, traditional leaders, and religious leaders As well as capacitating communities with basic health care practices. From the Eastern Cape point of view, the meeting concluded that the province needs to use resources at its disposal to support research and training. to be elevated. These beds will certainly bring comfort to some of our residents."

"We are caring for people who are sometimes forgotten by society or even by their own families and to have Fort Hare and other donors visiting the facility bearing gifts, brings joy to the residents," said Nanto.

Faculty of Health Sciences Finance and business development Workshop

Goal number 7 of the UFH's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan is to 'Ensure Financial Sustainability and a broader Resource Base'. To realise this, the Faculty of Health Sciences held in first Finance and business development Workshop in East London Campus on the 12th of June 2023. The workshop included representatives of staff members, Managers, Faculty and University of Fort Hare Finance and Human Resource Departments. The workshop goals included the following:

- To ensure financial operations are carried out effectively and efficiently going forth.
- Facilitating receiving and completion of documents. E.g., obtaining quotes, suppliers' information, and requisition forms.
- The effective implementation of financial policies and processes
- Gain a better understanding of each other's roles in the finance department.
- A broad understanding of financial and management accounting principles and systems.
- Provide assistance and guidance to researchers with budgets and the costing of proposals.
- To mitigate risk and to ensure the University receives the maximum benefit and value for every rand spent.

Because doing business with you is important to us!

The faculty equipped its admin staff and HoDs about Procurement Plans and Processes, Payroll-related issues, matters related to external funding for Project Grant Proposals, Implementation and Management thereof, Cash Management and

Human Resources. The faculty plans for this to be an annual meeting to gather updates and explore ways to improve the faculty's financial management and business development.

RESEARCH CORNER

Research Seminars

The Faculty of Health Science & Health Sciences Institute hosted Professor Anne Matthews as she presented her research on "Evidence-based infant-feeding policy implementation in Malawi: Research findings on Care Groups and the Baby-Friendly Hospital/Community Initiative" during transnational dialogues in health.



Professor Anne Matthews is a full Professor of Nursing at the School of Nursing, Psychotherapy & Community Health and School Equality Diversity and Inclusion Convenor at the Dublin City University in Ireland. She teaches on sustainable development, health equity and global health challenges. She is a Registered General Nurse and Registered Midwife and holds a PhD from Dublin City University on power and empowerment in midwifery in Ireland involving the development of a new scale, the Perceptions of Empowerment in Midwifery Scale. She has worked in health and social research, education, policy and practice in Ireland, England and Malawi and was an Honorary Researcher at Durban University of Technology 2016 to 2020. She is a trainer with Evidence Synthesis Ireland and Cochrane Ireland and conducts systematic reviews and meta-analysis. She was awarded a Fellowship of the Faculty of Nursing & Midwifery of the RCSI (FFNMRCIS) (Ad Eundem) in 2018 and a Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy from Advance HE in 2021. She is the chairperson of the Irish Global Health Network from 2017 to 2021 and IGHN representative on the Federation of European Societies for Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH), Coalition 2030 and the Baby Feeding Law Group of Ireland. Get more details on her scholarly work on following links: <https://www.dcu.ie/snpch/people/anne-matthews>; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4845-869X>; <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=xQIUH8EAAAAJ&hl=en>;

If you would like to present your study in our research seminar series, please contact Dr Chitnis Pratima at PChitnis@ufh.ac.za

The Faculty of Health Science & Health Sciences Institute hosted Mr Suntosh R. Pillay during PhD Seminar Series as he presented his research on “How do LGBT+ South Africans of Indian descent construct and navigate their intersecting identities and related psychosocial experiences?”.



Mr Suntosh R. Pillay is a clinical psychologist at King Dinuzulu Hospital Complex in Durban and has a research affiliation to the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). He completed his Bachelors, Honours and Masters' degrees in social sciences (majoring in psychology) between 2004 – 2008 at UKZN and completed his internship at Fort Napier and Townhill Hospitals in Pietermaritzburg in 2009. He has worked for about 15 years in the public health sector in KZN, at the coalface of service delivery at a busy district hospital. His research interests include critical and community-oriented forms of mental health practice, including a focus on social justice and decoloniality. He serves on the Editorial Boards of Psychology in Society (PINS) and the South African Journal of Psychology (SAJP). Few studies explore the intersection of being a South African of Indian descent and being lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender (LGBT+). This is the first known doctoral-level study exploring how this population navigates and constructs their intersecting identities (linked to race, nationality, culture, sexual orientation, gender, and geographic location) and related psychosocial experiences (such as coming out, mental health, social and family life, and wellbeing and resilience). This is a qualitative study using a participatory action research design. This PhD is informed by three interconnected theoretical approaches: social constructionism, intersectionality, and decoloniality. Ultimately, this study will have implications for not only psychology, but also related fields of sociology, public health, gender studies, and philosophy, given the interdisciplinary contexts of both LGBT+ research and theories and applications of intersectionality and decoloniality. You may get more info of his research on the following links:

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6013-9966>. GOOGLE SCHOLAR: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=PxIOi7gAAAAJ&hl=en>

The Faculty of Health Science & Health Sciences Institute hosted Prof Maya van Gent as she presented her research during Brown Bag Series on “Scholarly Engagement in Research Seminars.”



Prof May van Gent is a Specialist in Sport Science and a Lecturer in the Department of Human Movement Science, in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Fort Hare. Prof Maya van Gent has held two national grants, NRF Thuthuka fund (2011-2013) and MRC research capacity grant (2021-2023). She has published 11 research articles in international journals, was invited speaker to two International Conferences, and has presented research papers at 6 international conferences. She has acted as an external examiner for 12 Master dissertations and 5 PhD theses. She is the subject editor for two international journals and was sub editor for the South African Journal for Sport, Recreation and Dance (2019-2021). You may get more info of her scholarly research on the following links.

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6051-1270>; GOOGLE SCHOLAR: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=S65TZ50AAAAJ&hl=en>



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The Speech-Language Pathology department

Speech-Language Clinic

The Speech-Language Pathology department at Fort Hare University currently services the community by running a speech-language clinic.

Patients are allocated among the days via appointment-basis only. The clinic is student-led and supervised by qualified speech-language pathologists.

A variety of conditions are assessed and managed, namely: speech errors, difficulties with understanding and producing language, stuttering, voice problems, swallowing and feeding difficulties, individuals with learning difficulties, as well as those patients with cognitive-linguistic impairments (such problems with memory or problem-solving skills).

In the event of needing a referral to book an appointment with the speech clinic, Mrs. Pinkie Gqiba
pgqiba@ufh.ac.za

Operational Times: 13h00 - 16h00

Operational Days: Monday, Wednesdays & Thursdays

**Venue: Third Floor, New Teaching & Learning Building
(Opposite the Magistrate Court)**





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NOTICE

HMS RESEARCH AND FITNESS FACILITY (GYM)

Please Note that The Hms Research
And Fitness Facility (gym)
Will be closed for Public use due to hailstorm damages
on the roof causing water leaks which could
be a hazard to the users.

Notice will be sent to the public once we are
reopening the Facility.

Call: 062 597 9831 for more information



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