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It is with much pride that the Division of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town is launching the first issue of The Forensic Informer.

Designed to notify, educate and engage this quarterly newsletter will introduce you to the dedicated team of forensic pathologists, administrators and medical technologists in the Division of Forensic Medicine. It will report on the day to day academic activities and services of the division and notify you of upcoming events, conferences, workshops and courses.

We will also be providing a platform for public health awareness and keep you up to date with the progress of the new Observatory Forensic Pathology Institute. In future we will be bring you in-depth forensic articles, review journals and discuss interesting case studies as well as featuring other disciplines used in medicolegal investigation such as histology, neuropathology, anthropology, entomology and odontology.

The newsletter will be distributed electronically every quarter to forensic medicine departments nationwide and will also be available on the UCT Forensic Medicine divisional web site (www.forensicmedicine.uct.ac.za). In this way we hope to encourage dialogue with our readers and create opportunities for national and international contributions and collaborations.

Our FI team made up of Drs Maistry (editor), Kirk and Molefe are committed to publishing content that will generate interest and enthusiasm for the subject of forensic medicine and will showcase the work done in the division. It is our sincerest hope that our publication will be a warmly received and grow to become a helpful companion in the exploration of the field of forensic medicine.

Special thanks to Natalie Thomson and Kathy Verhoeven for all your help.
Thousands of staff, students and academics joined in the UCT March against crime which took place on the 20/02/2013.

Representing the division was June Mehl, Dr Molefe, Lennon Martin and Michelle Perrins who added their voice in protest against the amount of violent crime in the country.

For more on the March and its aftermath go to www.uct.ac.za.

I would like to express my delight that such a publication has been launched.

I am thrilled that it will have a large academic component, but also a public health message. My hope is that The Forensic Informer will not only speak to the academic community but will also help to promote the subject of forensic medicine to a wide and diverse audience. All of us in the Division of Forensic Medicine work tirelessly in one of the busiest mortuaries in South Africa and are excited to share our many experiences, as well as hear from other departments nationally and internationally.

The world of forensic medicine is evolving, with new technologies and investigative techniques. This newsletter will give us an opportunity to not only report on these but also document the role our division plays in this evolution.

‘MY HOPE IS THAT THE FORENSIC INFORMER WILL PROMOTE FORENSIC MEDICINE TO A WIDE AND DIVERSE AUDIENCE’
ABOUT THE DIVISION

The Division of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town is actively involved in medicolegal investigations, academia and research.

There are a total of 21 staff members (medical professionals, administrative officers, medical technologists) all under the dynamic and innovative leadership of Professor Lorna Martin.

Daily the forensic pathologists conduct post-mortem examinations of deaths received from the Cape Town Western Metropole at the Salt River Mortuary, which is managed and run by the Forensic Pathology Service. On average 3000 bodies are received at this facility annually. As part of medicolegal investigation the division regularly collaborates with other disciplines such as anthropology (Staff at the Department of Human biology University of Cape Town - Professor Allan Morris and Jacqui Friedling), odontology (Professor Vince Phillips - Tygerberg), Anatomical pathology (Professor Wainwright, NHLS), neuropathology (Professor Hewlett) and paediatric pathology (Professor Kaschula). The division also boasts a histopathology lab run by Michelle Perrins and Yolanda Davids (medical technologists) who process tissue specimens for histological evaluation which is an important tool in medicolegal investigation. In addition the pathologists visit crime scenes and provide expert testimony in court.

Apart from service delivery the pathologists provide teaching to undergraduate (medical and law students) and postgraduate students (forensic science: coordinated by Marise Heyns), forensic officers and host international scholars. There is also a weekly academic program which includes docket discussions, case presentations, brain cuts and journal clubs. The medical staff also participate and provide feedback to clinicians.
Dr Maistry visited the Department of Legal Medicine at the University of Hamburg Eppendorf in January 2013.

She interacted with the staff, observed autopsies and presented a talk on her experiences as a forensic pathologist in Cape Town.

Professor Pueschel Head of the Department of Legal Medicine at the University of Hamburg Eppendorf visited our division and the Salt River Mortuary in March 2013.

He met with staff members and encouraged and supported opportunities for future inter-departmental collaborations.

The new divisional histopathology lab is in the final phase of completion.

The 'old' lab space has been converted into new offices for Mr Galant and Elrona Roberts. Mr Galant 'old' office is now the new divisional tea room.

at morbidity and mortality meetings held at Groote Schuur hospital.

Lastly the division is closely associated with the Gender Health and Justice Research unit which is at the forefront of research with regards women’s rights and is actively involved in changing legislation and improving access to health and justice services for victims of gender based violence.

We echo the sentiments of each and every staff member when we say that it is truly an honour and privilege to be part of such a multi-faceted division.

(For more information on the activities of the UCT division of Forensic Medicine go to www.forensicmedicine.uct.ac.za)
CONGRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

LABORATORY MEDICINE CONGRESS
Serving Science at the Table

We are pleased to announce that the Laboratory Medicine Congress 2013 will be held

28 – 31 JULY 2013
CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE
SOUTH AFRICA

We trust you will be as excited as we are about hosting this memorable event in Cape Town and that you will join us in sharing the wonders of Medical Laboratory Science beneath one of the wonders of the natural world, Table Mountain!

For more information visit:

www.lmcongress.com
# POSTGRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

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<th>Monday:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Docket discussion</td>
<td>Histopathology</td>
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<td>Paediatric histopathology</td>
<td>Brain cut</td>
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<th>Wednesday:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Histopathology</td>
<td>Anat Path presentations.</td>
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<td>Academic presentations / Journal club</td>
<td>Grand ward rounds Salt River Mortuary (fortnightly).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brain cut with neurosurgeons (monthly)</td>
<td>General histology</td>
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<td>Note: There will be no academic presentation on the day of the neurosurgical brain cuts.</td>
<td>Paediatric histopathology</td>
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<th>Friday:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brain cut</td>
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Paediatric histopathology: Professor Kaschula
Brain cuts: Professor Hewlett
Histopathology: Professor Wainwright
General histology: Dr Kirk

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Izelle Möller – 4 April
Itumeleng Molefe - 13 April
Yolande van der Heyde – 16 April
Akmal Khan – 6 May
Iekram Alli – 29 May
June Mehl – 24 June
QUIZ CORNER

What is your diagnosis?
IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- Answer to Quiz Corner (with discussion)
- Highlights of the weekly academic program
- Staff profiles
- Full report LMC2013...and much much more!

We are on the web at www.forensicmedicine.uct.ac.za
any contributions or enquiries can be addressed to the editor
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