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Editor’s message:

The much anticipated trial of para-Olympian Oscar Pistorious who was arrested and charged with the premeditated murder of his girlfriend Reeva Steencamp began in May 2014. We along with the rest of the world were given access to court proceedings through daily televised coverage. The spotlight for the next few months will be on the South African criminal and legal systems. On 20 May 2014, the trial proceedings were adjourned until 30 June to enable Pistorius to undergo psychiatric evaluation. Judge Masipa agreed to a request for the evaluation by prosecutor Gerrie Nel after a forensic psychiatrist testified for the defence that she had diagnosed Pistorius with generalized anxiety disorder. Not since the OJ Simpson trial has there been so much controversy and media attention and we like the rest of the world eagerly await the verdict.

In this issue of the FORENSIC INFORMER:
Damien Schumann (a photography student) spent time at the Salt River Mortuary and he was inspired to write an article about the Forensic Pathology Services. His article was published in the May issue of the Mail and Guardian. We feature a shortened version in our newsletter. We were delighted to welcome international celebrity forensic pathologist Dr G to our University and her visit did not disappoint. In addition we have all the regulars including the bulletin board and a new quiz corner challenge. So yes lots to report!!

Till the next time everyone, stay well and happy reading

Sairita ☺
It was 3am on a Friday night when something clicked in my mind. For the first time I considered that I could be out socializing with friends, or warmly tucked into bed, but I had not chosen to do either. The lights in the reception area of the Salt River Forensic Services had been turned off and the forensic officers on duty and myself were sitting in a semi-slumber waiting for the phone to ring. That inevitable phone call was what had caught my interest on that cold night in late September.
It would be notification of an unnatural death, and I wanted to visit crime scenes to see how a forensic team works, learn what type of person finds a calling to such a career, and better understand the state of violent crime in South Africa. For a second I thought I was crazy to be here, but then I chuckled and imagined how I would tell this story at a later point. What storyteller ever made a compelling tale from the comfort of his own bed? The truth is that I wouldn’t have chosen to be anywhere else.

I was introduced to pathology after being intrigued by UCT’s Pathology Museum, and I started photographing their specimens. With a background in health and social issues, I was fascinated by the internal impact our actions and choices can have on our body. This was the unknown and unseen, and I wanted to expose this with the hope that the unusual visuals I was making would resonate with viewers and challenge them to consider their bodies more, particularly in the face of diseases like TB and HIV. The UCT medical campus is small with Forensic Pathology right across the road from the museum. It was not long before wind caught my ear of the Salt River Forensic Services and the work that was happening there. For most people death is another unknown and unseen, and so I decided to explore it.
Once access was granted, I was moved by the enthusiasm with which the employees of the morgue worked. It broke all stereotypes and assumptions I had about the morgue, and quickly became a focal point for my work. In general I like to make well-rounded stories, ones that expose the severity of an issue, but also leave the viewer with a sense of direction as to how best to move forward, and not a sense of hopelessness. At one of the busiest morgues in the world due to exceptionally high levels of violence, this enthusiasm was going to be vice of hope.

It was not difficult to find the severity of the issue. I chose to follow forensic officers on a Friday nights and particularly near the end of the month as I had learned that murder rates increase around paydays, when people have money to drink. On the first night I spent sitting in the reception area waiting for phone calls to come in, and then following the forensic vans out to the crime scenes, the frequency of human inflicted death that I witnessed (literally) piling up in the refrigeration rooms imprinted a memory in my mind that was far more powerful than any statistic that can be claimed. It was quite disturbing to comprehend how common cold-blooded murder is in this country, and how close to home it actually is.
My story needed a hero, someone that was challenging this social demon that is causing an estimated 3 500 bodies to be seen at Salt River Forensic Services this year. I found that in the forensic pathologists. The morgue has always juggled the old and the new. There is talk of the establishment under the SAPS and Dept of Health. There is discussion of how the operations changed after Apartheid. And amongst the pathologists I learned that there were two types of people working there: one being a committed and meticulous worker that had devoted their life to their work, and another younger generation that was trying to bring a new energy into forensic pathology. They were working side by side, to build on the existing developments that has been made since forensic services was passed onto the Dept of Health from the SAPS in 2006, and were trying to reinvent the perceptions of the morgue to make is more people friendly.

Dr Sairita Maistry, and Dr Linda Liebenberg offered their time and intimate stories to share this perspective. Between them I learned how this job is a calling, and how it is about justice and improving our society. Dealing with corpses is merely industry requirement. Our jobs actually share a commonality in a sense – we are both telling stories. The pathologist’s job is to decode a corpse to piece a story together and learn how someone died, and then use that in court to seek justice. We are both curious in the unknown and unseen, and have a desire to share this knowledge with a greater audience.

The story of these storytellers who translate a type of human brail into a comprehensive document of the final moments of someone’s life, proved to be quite difficult to publish. Many publications found the reality too severe for their pages, but finally Mail and Guardian saw the importance of the story and published it as a feature story. The response so far has been good, and I hope that is can contribute in some way to furthering the developments that are currently happening within forensic pathology at UCT and the Salt River Forensic Services.

The article can be read at:

**Damien Schumann**
www.dspgallery.com
dspgallery@gmail.com
0735673731

**Editor’s note:** A full length article entitled *Tales from the Morgue* was accepted and published in the Mail and Guardian May2-8 2014
I have campaigned strongly on both of the SAPS National Forensic Services Conferences, in July 2013 and February 2014. I was working towards SAPS accepting that they need to collaborate with Universities in order to validate their methods and for universities to engage in research for SAPS, basically to become the R&D for SAPS. Also, there is a need for a Forensic Science Academy / Society / Association and this would be followed by a process for recognition and registration at SACNASP. The South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) is the legislated regulatory body for Natural Science Professionals in South Africa. SACNASP recognizes and registers natural scientific practitioners and fosters the ethical practise and training of the natural scientific professions.

Dr Ryan Blumenthal, Dr Antonel Olckers and I are in the process of getting a database together for the Forensic Science Association and a website will be designed that will allow for interested person to indicate this. In addition, a meeting is being scheduled to meet with Major General Shezi to formalise some of the SAPS resolutions.

Here follows the SAPS Resolutions and I am particularly happy with Resolution 1/2014!!!!

**1st National Forensic Services Conference:**

**RESOLUTION 1/2013:**

Improve the co-operation and communication between first responders, detectives and forensic examiners

**RESOLUTION 2/2013:**

Encourage and create forums for criminal investigators, detectives, forensic examiners, academia and service providers of forensic products to engage and interface on forensic science and related issues in order improve the standards applied in the forensic value chain and to make a positive impact in the investigation of crime
RESOLUTION 3/2013:
Review the prescripts and training manuals for crime scene management;

RESOLUTION 4/2013:
Provide enabling mechanisms to foster greater professional and ethical conduct in the field of forensic services.

2nd National Forensic Services Conference:
RESOLUTION 1/2014:
Create synergy and opportunities between Institutions & Academia focusing on research and development in areas which are relevant and will positively contribute in improving forensic examinations.

RESOLUTION 2/2014:
Provide the resources for 1st responders and detectives to protect the integrity of the crime scene.

RESOLUTION 3/2014:
Evaluate and align forensic practice and the learning material with best practices deliberated during the conference
Staff News:

2nd SAPS National Forensic Science conference:

Dr Marise Heyns, Dr Iekram Alli, Dr Sairita Maistry, Mr Calvin Mole and Mr Mo Kasu all attended and presented papers at the 2nd SAPS Forensic Science Conference which was held from the 10-13th February 2014 at the CSIR Pretoria. There were a number of national and international speakers from the police, forensic science and forensic pathology. The highlight of the event was the keynote address by Riah Piyega the current National Commissioner of the South African Police Service(SAPS).
The division of Forensic Medicine presented a short day of talks with special guest lecturer Dr Garavaglia (Dr G). The event took on the 4th April 2014 at the University of Cape Town.

Dr Garavaglia is the Chief Medical Examiner for Orange and Osceola counties in Orlando, Florida. Garavaglia received her medical degree from the Saint Louis University School of Medicine and completed an internship in internal medicine and residency in anatomic/clinical pathology at Saint Louis University Hospitals. She also completed a fellowship in forensic pathology at the Dade County Medical Examiner's Office in Miami. She is board-certified in combined anatomic and clinical pathology and forensic pathology. The program included talks from Dr G as well as local pathologists from UCT and Tygerberg. The event was well attended and everyone described the experience as exhilarating and informative.

**Programme:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09h30 – 09h45</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Prof Lorna J Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>09h45 – 10h30</td>
<td>Introduction to SA Forensic Pathology</td>
<td>Prof Lorna J Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10h30 – 11h30</td>
<td>The US system – why autopsies are important</td>
<td>Dr Jan Garavaglia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11h30 – 12h00</td>
<td>SUDA case studies</td>
<td>Dr Gavin Kirk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12h00 – 12h30</td>
<td>Lodox in Forensic Pathology</td>
<td>Dr Liebenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12h30 – 13h15</td>
<td>Lunch – Attendees are invited to visit our Pathology Learning Centre</td>
<td><a href="http://www.digitalpathology.uct.ac.za/index.php">http://www.digitalpathology.uct.ac.za/index.php</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13h15 – 14h15</td>
<td>The origins of “Dr G Medical Examiner” TV show</td>
<td>Dr Jan Garavaglia</td>
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<tr>
<td>14h15 – 14h45</td>
<td>Henssge Normogram</td>
<td>Dr Lene Burger</td>
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<tr>
<td>14h45 – 15h15</td>
<td>Maternal deaths</td>
<td>Dr Celeste Herbst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15h15 – 15h45</td>
<td>A cluster of deaths at Valkenberg Hospital</td>
<td>Dr Iekram Alli</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY WORKSHOP:
An expert witness workshop was held in the Division of Forensic Medicine on the 5th February 2014. The event was organised by Dr Marise Heyns. The program was informative and featured legal and forensic experts from past and present.

Programme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slot</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09h00 – 09h15</td>
<td>WELCOME</td>
<td>Prof Lorna Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09h15 – 10h00</td>
<td>Introduction to the court system</td>
<td>Adv Lynette Myburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10h00 – 11h00</td>
<td>The Court’s Expectations of an expert Witness</td>
<td>Judge Deon van Zyl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11h00 – 11h40</td>
<td>How is an expert witness different from other witnesses</td>
<td>Helene Combrinck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11h40 – 12h20</td>
<td>Expert Witness: Pathology</td>
<td>Prof GJ (Deon) Knobel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12h20 – 13h00</td>
<td>The Expectation of The Magistrate regarding Expert Witnesses</td>
<td>Mag Ingrid Arntsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13h00 – 13h40</td>
<td>LUNCH (not provided)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13h45 – 14h20</td>
<td>The Future of Forensic Services</td>
<td>Prof Lorna Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14h20 – 14h50</td>
<td>Personal experiences as expert witness: Pathology</td>
<td>Dr Sipho Mfolozi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14h50 – 15h20</td>
<td>Expert Witness: Odontology</td>
<td>Prof V Phillips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15h20 – 16h00</td>
<td>The Expectation of The Defence regarding Expert Witnesses</td>
<td>William Booth</td>
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<tr>
<td>16h00</td>
<td>Closing comments</td>
<td>Prof Lorna Martin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STAFF ABROAD:

Dr Mandy Date Chong: Specialist Forensic Pathologist

I was privileged to be able to visit the Lab Plus Forensic Mortuary in Auckland, New Zealand on the 19th of March. My guide was Dr Paul Morrow a Forensic Pathologist originally from the United States who has been practicing in Auckland for the past four years. Four Forensic Pathologists are based at the Auckland facility which admits approximately 800-900 cases per year, of which approximately 12 cases are homicides (1 per month). There are only eight Forensic Pathologists in the whole country. A coronial system is in place in New Zealand under the Ministry of Justice and this brings with it many challenges as the coroner ultimately decides which deaths require autopsy. The Forensic Pathologists at the Lab Plus facility collaborate with Neuropathologists and Paediatric Pathologists based at the Auckland General Hospital and anthropologists attached to the Auckland University.

Toxicological samples are sent to the Environmental Science and Research Laboratory in Wellington and testing is paid for from the police budget. Histology is taken for every case as the law allows for “minute samples” to be retained. Consent from the coroner is required for all other tissue. Relatives of the deceased may demand slides and blocks to be returned. The dissection area comprises eight dissection stations and a homicide room as well as an infection control room. Included in the mortuary space is a family room where Maori death rituals can be respected.

While in Australia, I managed to spend a day at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine in Melbourne on the 22nd of April. I was escorted by Dr Heinrich Brouwer, a South African doctor who completed his specialist training in New Zealand. The institute falls under the auspices of the Department of Justice and employs twelve Forensic Pathologists and ten Forensic Physicians. The area serviced is vast covering the state of Victoria as well as the Australian Capital Territory (Canberra). 5000 cases are admitted every year and in all cases a CT scan is performed.
Human Identification (with odontologist), Toxicology and Histopathology are performed in house with a Radiologist on site two days per week and available by phone on other days. The on call Pathologist attends at scenes of homicides or where the circumstances of death are suspicious. This Pathologist then performs these autopsies during the week on call.

An on duty Pathologist has the daily task of reviewing all cases that have been admitted overnight and assessing each case with the case history (taken by nurses on staff who contact the families of the deceased), whole body photograph, CT scan and overnight toxicology.

During the morning, a meeting is held with the coroner to decide which cases are for autopsy or which may be considered inspection and report cases where only an external examination is performed. Another highlight of the day was being able to spend time with a Forensic Physician and find out how their work complements that of the Forensic Pathologists. Subspecialties include Sexual assault, traffic medicine, alcohol and drug testing, fitness for interview, child abuse and custodial medicine. At the end of the afternoon I was able to give a short presentation to the Pathologists on the practice of Forensic Pathology in Cape Town which was well received.
Dr Sairita Maistry:
Specialist Forensic Pathologist:
I was fortunate to visit the Forensic Institutes in Baltimore Maryland, Washington DC and New York City (October 2013). I was also able to attend the National Association of medical examiners conference (NAME) in Milwaukee. The event consisted of the who's who of the forensic world and the talks were very informative. I also met former colleague Dr Isabela Brouwer who is now based in Australia.
### Staff birthdays:

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!!!:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 March</td>
<td>Mandy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 March</td>
<td>Denise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>Omar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>Izelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 April</td>
<td>Tumi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 April</td>
<td>Yolande</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 May</td>
<td>Iekram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 June</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 July</td>
<td>Gavin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 August</td>
<td>Prof Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 August</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 September</td>
<td>Elrona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 September</td>
<td>Linda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 September</td>
<td>Yolanda</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Quiz corner:
A 32 year old Zimbabwean male died suddenly and unexpectedly. From the history it is reported that he suffered from new onset seizures (4 months). An autopsy was done and pathology was noted in his cerebellum. Below are H+E slides of cerebellum.

WHAT IS YOUR DIAGNOSIS?
Bulletin Board:

UNIPATH
Unifying Pathology & Laboratory Medicine in the Era of P4 Medicine

19—21 September 2014 | CSIR ICC | Pretoria | South Africa

We are pleased to announce that the 54th FSASP Annual Congress will take place in Pretoria including Anatomical Pathology, Virology, Chemical Pathology, Microbiology, Forensic Pathology, Haematology and Immunology.

For more information please visit: www.pathconference.com
Invitation
Seminar hosted by University of Cape Town, Division of Forensic Medicine.

Context:
Annually in South Africa there are many casualties and fatalities of people who suffer the effects of hypothermia, drowning and hyperthermia.

Relevance:
First responders to such medical emergencies, like paramedics, emergency health care practitioners, sport scientists, divers. Also Forensic pathology officials who deal with fatalities of such cases.

Outcome:
Understanding the physiology of humans exposed to extreme situations of immersion and the opposite ends of temperature.

Date: 4 September 2014, 08h00-17h00
Venue:
Garden Court Hotel, Nelson Mandela Boulevard, Cape Town

Main speaker:
Professor Mike Tipton, Portsmouth University:
http://www.port.ac.uk/departments/sport-and-exercise-science/staff/prof-mike-tip.png

Invited speaker:
Professor Timothy Noakes, Sport Sciences Institute, UCT

For registration and further details contact: cindy.maree@uct.ac.za
CPD accredited

Website:
- http://extremeophysiology2014.co.za
We will be hosting a Forensic Open Day for Grade 11 learners on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

It will be a full day of presentations and interactive sessions in various disciplines in Forensics (e.g.: Forensic Biology, ballistics, fingerprinting, pathology, etc).

For more information please contact:
Michelle Perrins: michelle.perrins@uct.ac.za (021 406 6001)
Postgraduate Academic Program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday:</th>
<th>Tuesday:</th>
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| • Docket discussion/alternating with teaching and research meetings  
• Paediatric histopathology                  | Histopathology  
Brain cut                                      |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday:</th>
<th>Thursday:</th>
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</table>
| Histopathology  
Academic presentations / Journal club        | Anat Path presentations.  
Grand rounds Salt River Mortuary (fortnightly)  
General histology  
Paediatric histopathology                      |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday</th>
<th></th>
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</table>
| Brain cut- Professor Hewlett  
Neuropathology brain cuts(moved from Wednesday to Friday) |                                    |

Paediatric histopathology: Professor Kaschula  
Brain cuts: Professor Hewlett  
Grand rounds: all staff  
Histopathology: Professor Wainwright  
General histology: Dr Kirk  
Academic presentations/journal club: all staff  
Brain cut with neurosurgeons: co-ordinator Dr Molefe
CONTACT DETAILS:

**Address:**
Division of Forensic Medicine  
Faculty of Health Sciences  
Falmouth Building, Entrance 3, level 1 University of Cape Town  
Anzio Road  
Observatory  
7925

**Postal:**
PO Box 13914  
Mowbray 7705

**Tel:** 021 406 6412  
**Fax:** 021 448 1249

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**Website:** [www.forensicmedicine.uct.ac.za](http://www.forensicmedicine.uct.ac.za)  
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**FI TEAM:**

Dr S Maistry ([Sairita.Maistrys@uct.ac.za](mailto:Sairita.Maistrys@uct.ac.za))  
Dr G Kirk([Gavin.Kirk@uct.ac.za](mailto:Gavin.Kirk@uct.ac.za))  
Dr IJ Molefe ([molefetums@gmail.com](mailto:molefetums@gmail.com))