

In this issue...

Our feature story this month celebrates leading AIDS researchers and policy makers who were honoured by the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

On page 2 and 3 we congratulate the CAPRISA staff and students who graduated with higher degrees at the recent University of KwaZulu-Natal's graduation ceremonies.

Highlights from the L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards events in Paris are shared on page 4.



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University of KwaZulu-Natal honours triad of AIDS leaders

The University of KwaZulu-Natal honoured three distinguished global AIDS leaders: Dr Robert Gallo Director of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland, UNAIDS Executive Director Mr Michel Sidibé and CAPRISA's Director Prof Salim Abdool Karim for their exceptional contributions in the fight against AIDS. They were honoured at the UKZN graduation ceremonies held in April.



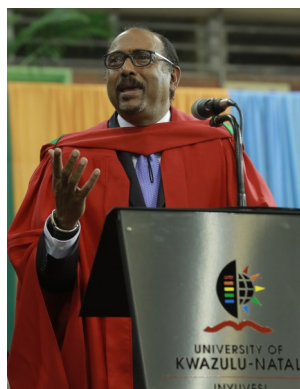
Dr Robert Gallo

Dr Robert Gallo was awarded the Doctor of Science degree (*honoris causa*) on 14th April in recognition of his ground breaking discoveries and outstanding scientific contributions in virology. Dr Gallo is best known for his discovery of two retroviruses, the only known human leukaemia virus – HTLV, the human herpes virus, the interleukin-2, and chemokines. He also made significant contributions to demonstrating that HIV is the cause of AIDS.



Prof Salim Abdool Karim

Professor Salim Abdool Karim who is widely recognised for his scientific contributions in HIV prevention and treatment was awarded a Fellowship of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, his *alma mater*, in recognition of distinguished academic achievement and as one of the most influential South African and global HIV scientists.



Dr Michel Sidibé

Mr Michel Sidibé was awarded the degree Doctor of Administration (*honoris causa*) on 15th April in recognition of his contribution to humanity and his influence in shaping South Africa's policies on HIV and AIDS as well as his extraordinary record of international public health service and leadership in catalyzing the global movement for universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention and support. Michel Sidibé's global advocacy firmly secured the fight against HIV/AIDS at the top of political agendas, including in South Africa.



Celebrating achievements...

CAPRISA celebrates the graduation of 6 Staff and 8 Fellows in April. There were 4 PhDs, 6 Master's, 1 medical undergraduate degree and 4 honours degrees. Colisile Mathonsi deserves special mention for completing her Master's in Medical Science *summa cum laude*.

PhD graduates



Dr Nesri Padayatchi

Dr Nesri Padayatchi showed that early initiation of ART in HIV patients with drug resistant tuberculosis significantly reduced mortality. Xpert MTB/RIF, a new TB diagnostic tool, reduced the time to MDR-TB treatment from 3 months to 3 weeks and Clofazimine improved culture conversion.

Dr Kogie Naidoo's study assessed and identified strategies to overcome clinical and programmatic challenges when integrating HIV and TB care to reduce co-infection mortality. The study provides important evidence for policy and clinical management of patients with HIV and TB co-infection.



Dr Kogie Naidoo

Dr Sinaye Ngcapu's study focussed on the influence of injectable hormone contraceptive use on risk for HIV infection in the context of a heterosexual epidemic in South Africa; and the potentially confounding effect of DMPA (also known as Depo-Provera) use in prevention research. Dr Ngcapu demonstrated that injectable HC use down-modulates expression of specific chemokines, adaptive cytokines and growth factors in the female genital tract.



Dr Sinaye Ngcapu

Dr Navisha Dookie's study has contributed to understanding the dynamics of antimicrobial resistance and the complexity of the mechanisms mediating drug resistance in *M.tuberculosis* strains circulating in our setting.



Dr Navisha Dookie



Celebrating our graduates

L-R: Top Row: Farzana Osman Masters in Science
Dissertation: Statistical Analysis of the attitudes towards blood donation and transfusion in Mali

Andile Mtshali Masters in Medical Science Dissertation: Antimicrobial susceptibility testing of four 5-nitroimidazoles against trichomonas vaginalis

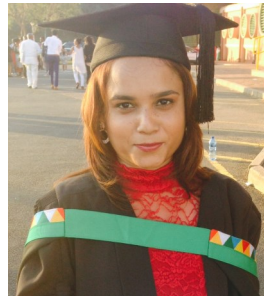
L-R: Middle Row: Colisile Mathonsi – Masters in Medical Science (Summa cum Laude) Dissertation: The effect of adipokines in HIV associated preeclampsia

Michele Upfold—Masters in Pharmacy (Pharmacy Practice) Dissertation: Measurement of vaginal microbicide adherence using visual inspection as compared to ultra violet light assessment of returned empty gel applicators

L-R: Bottom Row: Methembe Mdlalose—Masters in Commerce Dissertation: The intricacies of local governance in local economic development: A case study of uThukela’s traditional Authority

Chanelle Smith Masters in Pharmacy (Pharmacy Practice) Dissertation: Assessing adherence to antiretroviral therapy in a rural paediatric cohort in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

We also congratulate the following Fellows who graduated: **Kasavan Naidoo** obtained his MBChB and **Zanele Hlope, Kimone Fisher, Janine Jewanraj, and Jessica Naidoo**, who all obtained BSc Honours Medical Science degrees.



Farzana Osman (MSc)



Andile Mtshali (MMedSci)



Colisile Mathonsi (MMedSci)
Summa cum Lauda



Michele Upfold (MPharm)



Methembe Mdlalose (MCom)



Chanelle Smith (MPharm)

Appointment to the Primary Health Care Expert Review Committee

Dr Tanuja Gengiah, Head of Pharmacy at CAPRISA, has been appointed to serve on the Primary Health Care Level Expert Review Committee of the National Essential Medicines List Committee for a 3 year period. The Expert Review Committee is responsible for the selection and rational use of essential medicines to be used in the public sector for Primary Health Care Level.



Dr Tanuja Gengiah

Research Excellence recognised

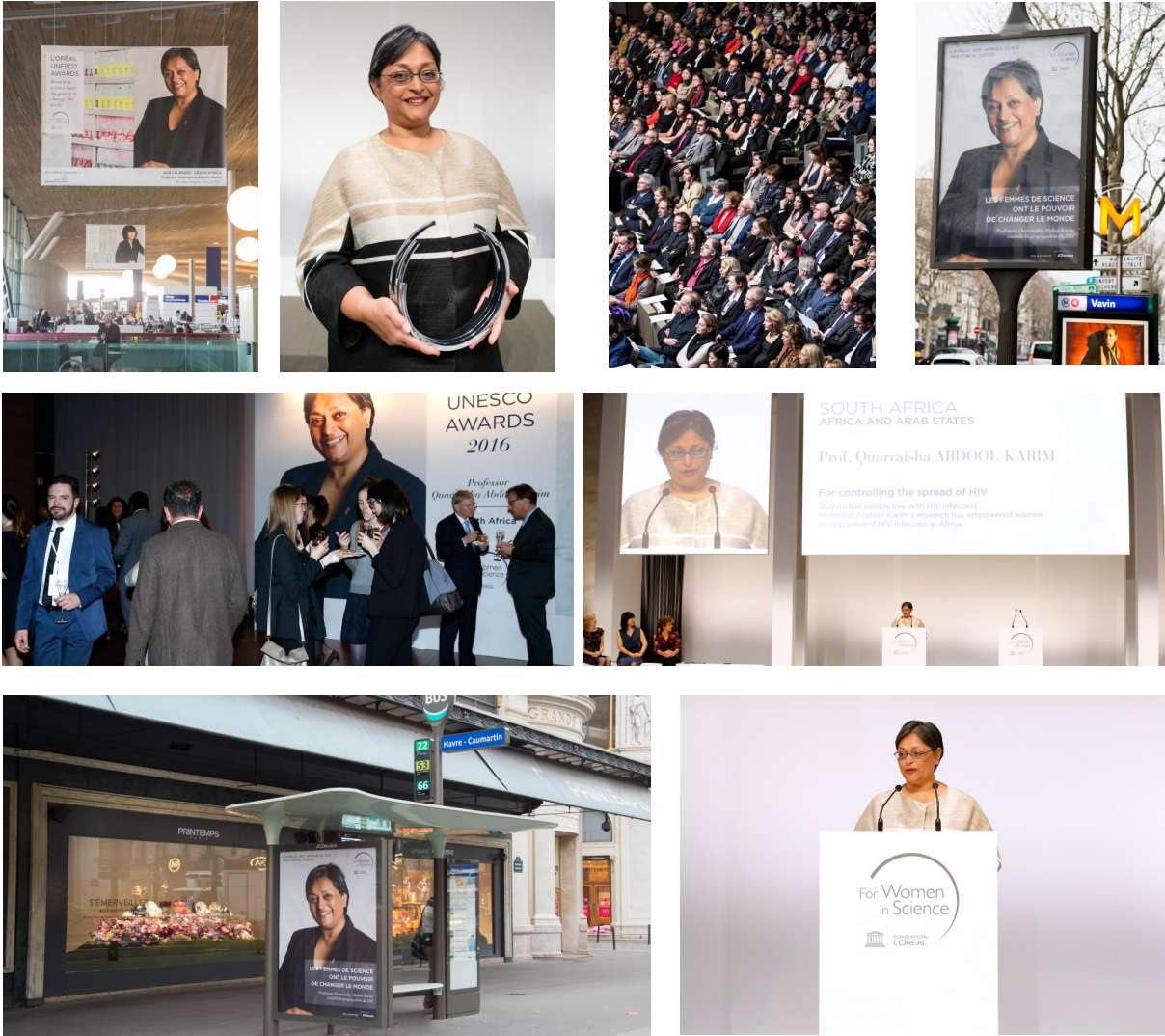
Jinal Bhiman, a PhD student at the NICD supervised by Prof. Penny Moore and Prof. Lynn Morris, received the 2015 Faculty of Health Sciences Research Award from the University of the Witwatersrand in recognition of outstanding research. Jinal won this award for her paper published in Nature Medicine in 2015 entitled: “Viral variants that initiate and drive maturation of V1V2-directed HIV-1 broadly neutralizing antibodies”



Jinal Bhiman being congratulated by Prof Beverley Kramer, Assistant Dean Health Sciences (Wits)

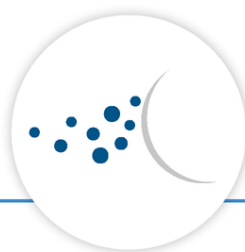
Highlights from the L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards events in Paris

The L'Oréal-UNESCO awards held in Paris last month captured global interest and media coverage. The photographs below capture the spirit of the occasion that recognises women scientists from each of the five regions of the globe, who have excelled and celebrating excellence. In addition to the awards ceremony held at the Maison de la Mutualité and the presentations the laureates made at the French Academy of Science, the streets and the airports of Paris hosted prominent posters and displays of the laureates. We share a selection of visuals of Prof Quarraisha Abdool Karim a 2016 L'Oréal-UNESCO Women in Science laureate at various locations in Paris.



11TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
HIV TRANSMISSION
PRINCIPLES OF INTERVENTION

CHICAGO, IL, USA • 15-16 OCTOBER 2016



The 11th International Workshop on HIV Transmission – Principles of Intervention is scheduled for May 15 and 16, 2016 in Chicago, IL, USA. For more details of the conference and the program, please refer to the website at: www.virology-education.com.



Scientific papers published in 2016

- 19* Gray GE, Laher F, Doherty T, **Abdool Karim SS**, Hammer S, Mascola J, Beyrer C, Corey L. Which new health technologies do we need to achieve an end to HIV/AIDS? *PLoS Biology* 2016; 14(3): e1002372. doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1002372
- 20 MacQueen KM, **Dlamini S**, Perry B, Okumu E, Sortijas S, **Singh C**, **Pillay D**, Majors A, Jerome S, Watson S, **Abdool Karim SS**, **Abdool Karim Q**, **Mansoor LE**. Social Context of Adherence in an Open-Label 1 % Tenofovir Gel Trial: Gender Dynamics and Disclosure in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. *AIDS and Behavior* 2016 March; DOI 10.1007/s10461-016-1339-4
- 21 **Yende-Zuma N**, **Naidoo K**. The effect of timing of initiation of ART on loss to follow up in HIV-TB co infected patients in South Africa: An open label randomized controlled trial. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2016 Mar 16. [Epub ahead of print]
- 22 **Abdool Karim SS**. Is the UNAIDS target sufficient for HIV control in Botswana? *The Lancet HIV* 03/2016; DOI:10.1016/S2352-3018(16)30008-X
- 23 Mkhize N, Durgiah R, Archary D, **Garrett N**, Moore P, **Abdool Karim, Q**, **Abdool Karim SS**, Passmore JS, Tomaras G, Ashley V, Yates N, Morris, L. Broadly neutralizing antibody specificities detected in the genital tract of HIV-1 infected women. *AIDS* 2016 Apr 24; 30(7):1005-1014. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=PMC4816677>
- 24 Wagh K, Bhattacharya T, Williamson C, Robles A, Bayne M, Garrity J, Rist M, Rademeyer C, Yoon H, Lapedes A, Gao H, Greene K, Louder MK, Kong R, **Abdool Karim S**, Burton DR, Barouch DH, Nussenzweig MC, Mascola JR, Morris L, Montefiori DC, Korber B, Seaman MS. Optimal Combinations of Broadly Neutralizing Antibodies for Prevention and Treatment of HIV-1 Clade C Infection. *PLOS Pathogens* 2016 Mar 30;12(3):e1005520. doi: 10.1371/journal.ppat.1005520.

*continuation from previous newsletter

Scientific Reviews

Abstracts submitted for review		Manuscripts submitted for review		Ancillary studies submitted for review	
Total#	Cumulative [^]	Total#	Cumulative [^]	Total#	Cumulative [^]
5	354	2	225	2	70

for month, [^] since committee initiation

Conference & Workshop Reminders

Conference	Deadlines			Website
	Dates	Abstracts	Registration	
21st International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2016) - Durban, South Africa	18-22 July 2016	4 Feb 2016	18 Feb 2016	http://www.aids2016.org/
HIV Research for Prevention - Chicago, Illinois, USA	17-20 Oct 2016	11 Apr 2016	1 Jul 2016	http://hivr4p.org/
11th International Workshop on HIV Transmission - Chicago, Illinois, USA	May 15 and 16, 2016	-	-	www.virology-education.com



National Research Foundation

CAPRISA hosts a DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in HIV Prevention



UNAIDS

CAPRISA is the UNAIDS Collaborating Centre for HIV Research and Policy



CAPRISA hosts a MRC HIV-TB Pathogenesis and Treatment Research Unit

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