

SAFRI NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2014

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Special points of Interest:

- Thank you to Vanessa Burch
- Congratulations to Juanita Bezuidenhout
- Visiting FAIMER
- Bioethics
- Publications & Achievements

Thank you, "Tiger Mum"! *by Ralf Graves*

I am happy to have this opportunity to say thank you to Vanessa Burch because, while everyone associated with the SAFRI fellowship program has reason to be grateful to her, I have more reason than most. When I first started my new job at FAIMER in February, 2007 with the task of managing regional institutes, Vanessa was already there, taking a sabbatical from UCT to complete her PhD dissertation. In her "spare time" she helped me to write a manual for directors of FAIMER



Vanessa Burch

Regional Institutes (FRIs). So, yes, she literally wrote the book on FAIMER Regional Institutes before starting one herself.

In March of 2008, under Vanessa's leadership, SAFRI was launched. Unlike all the previous FRIs, SAFRI was not sponsored by a local institution. Instead, it was created as an independent entity by a dedicated group of volunteer South African FAIMER fellows, many of whom are still involved today. The challenges of this organizational model were monumental, and only an extraordinarily charismatic, skilled and committed leader could have pulled it off.

Vanessa's contributions to SAFRI's success are not, however, confined to her role as founding director. Throughout SAFRI's maturation as a program, she has been devoted to continuous quality improvement of the curriculum, developing both current and new faculty, and increasing the output of genuine scholarship by fellows. She has demanded a standard of excellence from everyone that has earned her the affectionate nickname "Tiger Mum," a title she wears with pride.

Because of the standard she has set and the groundwork she has done, SAFRI is now a well-respected faculty development program in sub-Saharan Africa and is well positioned to carry on with new leadership as it continues to grow from strength to strength.



As Vanessa takes a step back and hands over the reins, in addition to extending a heartfelt expression of gratitude on behalf of all SAFRIans, I want to add one more personal thank you for a great friendship that began in 2007 and will continue no matter what the future holds.

Ralf Graves

Associate Director, FAIMER Regional Institutes

The History of SAFRI

by Juanita Bezuidenhout

SAFRI started with the first FAIMER fellow from South Africa (Vanessa) dreaming of a Southern Africa FAIMER Regional Institute, and this dream grew with each subsequent FAIMER fellow from South Africa and also from the other countries in Africa. In 2006 this dream gained momentum, when the first meeting to establish SAFRI was hosted by prof Marietjie de Villiers, deputy dean of Education at Stellenbosch University. At this meeting it was decided that SAFRI will not be attached to a single institution, but will be independent from any institutions. The FAIMER fellows present at that meeting included

Vanessa Burch (2001 FAIMER fellow), Elizabeth Wasserman (2002), Francois Cilliers (2004), Jacky van Wyk (2004), David Cameron (2005), Juanita Bezuidenhout (2005), Marietjie van Rooyen (2006) and Ben van Heerden (2006); as well as Bill Burdick, fellows from other regions and other stakeholders. In 2007 Vanessa went to Philadelphia for a sabbatical and met Ralf Graves, who then just started as the director for Regional Institutes. Later that year the founding meeting of SAFRI was held in Cape Town, and all the FAIMER fellows listed above, plus three other South African FAIMER fellows, Dan Mwesigwa-Kayongo (2001), Enoch Kwizera (2007) and Gboyega Ogunbanjo (2007) and Christina Tan (2005) from Malaysia and Bill Burdick were at this meeting.



Founding SAFRI fellows (highlighted in bold), together with other FAIMER fellows at the June, 2008 SAAHE Conference: From left to right: Amam Mbakwem, Janet Grant, Efosa Oviasu, **David Cameron, Juanita Bezuidenhout, Vanessa Burch,** Oluwabunmi Olapade-Olaopa, Yinusa Raji, Bosede Afolabi, **Enoch Kwizera,** Page Morahan, Elsie Kiguli-Malwadde, **Ben van Heerden, Marietjie van Rooyen, Christina Tan,** Solomon Genet, Sarah Kiguli, **Francois Cilliers, Jacqueline van Wyk,** and Ara Tekian.

And so SAFRI was born. As you can see from the start this was a team effort. And true to the SAFRI philosophy, we believed in strengths-based, appositive, appreciative and collaborative leadership, and still do. So all of us walked this road together. As the first FAIMER fellow, Vanessa became the leader of the group and she did an excellent job. In the process we all taught each other, and we all became mentors and role-models to the other members of the team. Some of the team left in the meantime, but we all keep in contact and we will always have the bond of being part of the founding team.



Juanita Bezuidenhout
The 2014 - 2016
SAFRI Chairperson

Life moves on and times change, and so it happens that SAFRI has a new chairperson in the form of myself. But, as you can see from the SAFRI story, I have also been part of this from the beginning, and I have walked this road alongside the rest of the team. So this is not about being a successor, or having been groomed, but it is about another member of the original team taking the lead for a while.

I will be the chairperson until March 2016 when a new Board of Directors will take over and I will step down as chairperson so that the next generation of SAFRI leaders can truly take over and lead us into an even brighter and stronger future. I look forward to this period and we have lots of exciting things planned, that we hope as many SAFRI fellows as possible will participate in. I will write more about that later.

A hearty congratulations to Juanita Bezuidenhout on her appointment as the new SAFRI Chairperson!

“Thank you Prof for sharing the history of SAFRI and congratulations for assuming the responsibility of steering this team to yet great heights. Thank you to all the founding members for the vision which has given us in the region opportunities to advance ourselves and others, in many spheres of our individual and professional lives. Looking forward to the future.”

Lastina Lwatula

2008 Fellow



“Yippee! Congratulations Juanita! SAFRI's future is assured, we know you very well and have all the confidence in your ability to lead us for a long time!!!”

Rati Ndhlovu

2011 Fellow



“Congrats Juanita (mama bear) ... SAFRI remains in safe hands.. We love this big warm family and as Ben [van Heerden] said we'll all continue to support you and each other. “

Shahd Osman

2011 Fellow



“Thank you Juanita for the inspiring story, and congrats for the appointment, all of you were our role models as our mentors. Keep up the good work. “

Fasika Amdeslasie

2013 Fellow



“It couldn't have been better than this. For me whenever I saw Vanessa, I saw Juanita and vice versa, and sometimes it was difficult to separate them from SAFRI. So SAFRIans, we are in safe hands. You can now close your eyes and enjoy the ride, it will be a smooth ride. But keep your HPE eyes widely open.”

Mike Kagawa

2011 Fellow



“Congratulation Juanita Bezuidenhout, Undoubtedly this has been a huge team effort and we are so proud of you and all of us that are part of this amazing journey of realising the significance of health professions education in Africa.”

Champion Nyoni

2013 Fellow



Promotions and Appointments

- ◇ **Roy Gonzaga Mubuuke** became a Johns-Hopkins-Fogarty African Bioethics Fellow after attending a Fellowship training in Bioethics and Research Ethics at Johns Hopkins University, Maryland, USA.
- ◇ **Michael Rowe** has just recently been received a Y2 rating from the National Research Foundation. [View <http://www.nrf.ac.za/rating> for a brief description for our non-South African colleagues!]
- ◇ **Ben van Heerden** is the recipient of the Rector's award for General Performance in 2014.
- ◇ The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences of Stellenbosch University became a Best Evidence Medical Education (BEME) International Collaborating Centre (BICC) in 2014. It is operationalised through our Centres for Health Professions Education and Evidence Based Health Care, of which **Ben van Heerden** is the deputy chair of the BICC.

Visiting the “Mother-ship” ...

by Sindi Mthembu

This year I was invited to attend a FAIMER session in Philadelphia, USA, during the first week of October in 2014. It was specifically important for me to choose this week, as this is when fellows first deal with their project; which is an area of interest for me.

During the first week, FAIMER fellows deal predominantly with all the aspects of their education innovation project and project development. Project proposals typically involved focus areas, such as student assessment, health systems integration, community-based health professions education, problem-based learning, clinical skills development, professionalism and ethics, program evaluation, faculty development, curriculum revision and/or integration, interactive teaching methods, development of medical education units and distance learning.

It was very interesting to share this experience with another colleague from a Regional International Faculty Institute in China, as we were able to share how we employ the same teaching and learning methods, but in a different way, due to our differing contexts. It was great to share our FAIMER experience and regional institute journeys too.



Sindi Mthembu at a FAIMER session



Sindi Mthembu
2010 SAFRI Fellow

We also visited the Thomas Jefferson University Scott Memorial Library, which is an exquisite highly resourced library, which fellows were granted off-site access for the duration of fellowship.

This was such a wonderful experience, filled with lots of learning and fun! I gained new ideas and a deeper knowledge about health professions education and project development. I thoroughly enjoyed each and every minute of it!

Congratulations

- * Congratulations to **Hannes Coetser**, who welcomes his second son to his family! This beautiful little baby boy, Nathan Adrian Coetser, was born on 29 September 2014. We know that he will be a huge blessing to you and your family!
- * Congratulations to our very own adventurer - **Dot Bransby** - who successfully completed the Knysna Harkerville Green Route, which is a Mountain Bike trail used for the race at the Knysna Oyster festival!



**Little baby,
Nathan Coetser**

**Dot Bransby
mountain-biking
with her grand-
children**



REMINDER — YOUR SAFRI NEWS ITEMS!

SAFRI is proud to include news items received from Faculty and Fellows. Please keep your news items coming in, so they can be included in our Newsletters.

Publications

- ◆ **Mubuuke, AG.** (2014). A Phenomenological Study to explore the experiences of Ugandan women that have undergone transvaginal ultrasound. *Journal of Medical Radiation Sciences*, 61(2): 78-84.
- ◆ **Mubuuke, AG.,** Businge, F. & Kiguli-Malwadde, E. (2014). Using graduates as key stakeholders to inform training and policy in health professions education: the hidden potential of tracer studies. *African Journal of Health Professions Education*, 6(1): 52-55.
- ◆ Van Wijk, E., Traut, A. & **Julie, H.** (2014). ‘Environmental and nursing-staff factors contributing to aggressive and violent behaviour of patients in mental health facilities. *Curationis*, 37(1), Art. #1122, 9 pages.
- ◆ Jooste, K., **Julie, H.**, Willemse, J., Le Roux, L., Arunachallam, L., Essa, I. & Rashe, H. (2014). Prior expectations of leadership programme attendees’ and their subsequent reflections on completion of a leadership programme in a higher education institution. *South African Journal of Higher Education Special edition*, 28(6).
- ◆ **Julie, H.** (2014). Towards the Development of a Definition of Service-Learning: converging conflicting mind maps. *South African Journal of Higher Education Special edition*, 28(6).
- ◆ Kordom, A., **Julie, H.** & Aranuchallum, S. (2014). Intimate partner violence among undergraduate student nurses at a tertiary institution in the Western Cape. *South African Journal of Higher Education Special edition*, 28(6).
- ◆ Moodley, SV., **Wolvaardt, L.**, Louw, M. & Hugo, J. (2014). Practice intentions of clinical associate students at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. *Rural and Remote Health*, 14: 2381.
- ◆ **Rowe, M.** (2015). Using Google Drive to facilitate a blended approach to authentic learning, 198-203. In Bozalek, V., Ngambi, D. Wood, D., Herrington, J., Hardman, J. & Amory, A. (eds). *Activity Theory, Authentic Learning and Emerging Technologies: Towards a Transformative Higher Education Pedagogy*. Routledge, 2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4RN. *{Should you be interested, please contact Michael for a 20% discount off the book - he gets no royalties—so no strings attached!}*
- ◆ Van Schalkwyk, SC., **Bezuidenhout, J., Conradie, HH.,** Fish, T., Kok, NJ., **van Heerden, B.** & de Villiers, MR. (2014). ‘Going rural’: driving change through a rural medical education innovation. *Rural and Remote Health*, 14: 2493.
- ◆ **Blitz, J.,** Kok, N., **van Heerden, B.** & van Schalkwyk, S. (2014). PIQUE-ing an interest in curriculum renewal. *African Journal of Health Professions Education*, 6:23-27.
- ◆ **Bezuidenhout, J.,** van Schalkwyk, SC., **van Heerden, B.** & de Villiers, MR. Steps in establishing a Health Professions Education research unit: Current research profile and recommendations. *African Journal of Health Professions Education*. (in press).
- ◆ de Villiers, MR., **Conradie, HH.,** Snyman, S., **van Heerden, BB.** & van Schalkwyk, SC. (2014). Experiences in developing a Community-Based Education strategy – a case study from South Africa, 176-206. In Talaat, W & Ladhani, Z. (eds). *Community Based Education in Health Professions: Global Perspectives*. WHO EMRO.



Please remember to send through your published work, so that we can add it to our very own SAFRI Publishers’ Database!

Conferences & Projects

- ◇ **Ben van Heerden**, Susan van Schalkwyk, **Hoffie Conradie**, Norma Kok & Marietjie de Villiers. Assessment performance of students completing a year-long rural clinical clerkship at the Ukwanda Rural Clinical School of Stellenbosch University, South Africa. AMEE 2014 Conference, September 2014, Milan, Italy.
- ◇ E Archer, **J Bezuidenhout**, M Kidd & **BB van Heerden**. Patient-centered attitudes of undergraduate medical students: Using the Patient Practitioner Orientation Scale in a South African context. AMEE 2014 Conference, September 2014, Milan, Italy.
- ◇ **Hester Julie** presented as a panellist of the Women's Health Task Force in Washington, DC.
- ◇ **Hester Julie** also presented at the CORE Group conference and the Consortium of Universities for Global Health, in Silver Springs, USA.
- ◇ Marietjie de Villiers & **Ben van Heerden**. The intern landscape in South Africa – transition from student to doctor. SAAHE Conference 2014, June 2014, Cape Town.
- ◇ **Liz Wolvaardt** (together with Astrid Turner) have received a small Scholarship of Teaching and Learning grant to start their new project, titled: *"The development of a repository of educational tools for public health learning in the undergraduate medical curriculum in the African context."*



Ben van Heerden at the 2014 AMEE conference in Milan

Distance Learning Programme by Susan Nicol

The 2014 SAFRI Fellows are busy completing their last Theme 2 module on Educational Management and Leadership. Fellows have chosen one of the following elective modules:

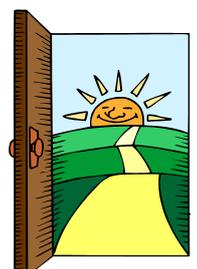
- ✓ Module 2.4. Positive, Appreciative, Strengths-based Leadership
- ✓ Module 2.5. Leading and Managing Projects
- ✓ Module 2.6. Managing Meetings & Group Decision Making
- ✓ Module 2.7. Team Building
- ✓ Module 2.8. Managing and Leading Change

A reminder to fellows to make use of the SAFRI portal "Module Discussions" forum, in order to post questions and comments to fellow colleagues. Remember that collaborative thought and study is hugely beneficial!



Challenge to past SAFRI Fellows and Faculty!

Think back over your SAFRI experience and share with us, how something that you learnt from your distance learning modules has opened doors to an even brighter future for you! Please email your experience to snicol247@gmail.com, for inclusion in the upcoming SAFRI newsletter!



Learning about Bioethics

By Mubunke Gonzaga

I attended a Johns Hopkins-Fogarty Bioethics training Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University, Maryland, USA this year. The purpose of the fellowship was to increase participants' knowledge and awareness of bioethics and research ethics; and to improve their ability to reason through ethical issues that arise in the conduct of human subject research. The course offered an introduction to the foundational approaches and issues in bioethics, including a discussion of the history of the field and the issues that led to its birth and growth.

I learnt a lot regarding theoretical approaches to bioethics, the history and growth of bioethics, ethics and public health, ethics and genetics, clinical ethics as well as ethics of research on humans and animals (including research on vulnerable populations). I gained insight into the historical perspectives and evolution of ethics in research, which gave birth to the famous Nuremberg code, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Belmont report and the Helsinki Declaration. I interfaced with some key architects behind these documents.

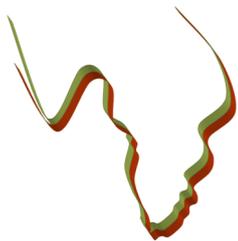
The fellowship was interactive, similar to what we have in SAFRI and involved numerous case scenarios. I and other fellows visited key places in the USA, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda (which is where a lot of research money comes from); and interacted with staff in the Bioethics department at NIH. I also visited the Office of Human Research Protections, as well as the US Food & Drug Administration (where I still learnt the importance of maintaining high ethical standards during research).

Collaboration between rich and poor countries to conduct research was key in this fellowship, but I learnt that there is need to maintain our local ethical principles even when collaborating with our partners.



Mubunke Gonzaga (standing third from the left), as one of the Fogarty Bioethics trainees at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA.

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In 2005 the FAIMER programme was expanded to developing countries by setting up regional institutes, 3 in India, 1 in Brazil and 1 in South Africa, based on the USA model, but tailored to the unique local needs of the host country/region.

The Southern Africa FAIMER Regional Institute (SAFRI) programme is presented by the SAFRI voluntary membership association in Africa in cooperation with FAIMER. It aims to improve the quality of health care of Southern African communities by improving health professions education.

To date there are fellows from South Africa, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, Madagascar, Botswana, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Tanzania.
