

## UKZN & CAPRISA host a NIH Grant Writing Workshop

**I**n October a two day NIH grant writing workshop, hosted by the Research Office, University of KwaZulu-Natal, was held at the Govan Mbeki Centre, Westville Campus. The target audience was any member of staff from the University of KwaZulu-Natal involved in NIH research and grant administration.



Participants of the NIH grant writing workshop hosted by the Research Office of the University of KwaZulu-Natal

### *In this issue.*

CAPRISA has undergone some restructuring and the Newsletter is now being managed in-house. We would like to thank Liz Clarke for her valuable contribution to the newsletter over the past 2 years.

Our main story in this issue reports on the recent NIH grant writing workshop which was held at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

CAPRISA's proposed research expansion has necessitated that options to accommodate the growing number of studies and participants be explored at the eThekweni Clinical Research Site.

CAPRISA's community core continues to play a vital role in recruiting and maintaining cohorts. The efforts of Lucky and her team in the recent skills building workshops is featured on page 3.

SANBI, based at the University of Western Cape has an exciting scholarship opportunities for all persons interested in doing basic science research or making a difference in the fight against cancer, HIV and sleeping sickness. Read more on page 3.



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Presenters of the workshop included Marian Swart (Admin Manager), Des Sykes (Finance Manager) and Cheryl Baxter (Research Associate) all from CAPRISA, and Suraiya Buccas from the Research office.

The Director of Research, Prof Ramesh Bharuthram, opened the workshop and stressed the importance of the NIH to the University. He said that the NIH is the single biggest external funder of research at the University contributing in excess of R20 million in 2004.

The aim of the workshop was to equip participants with the basic and necessary tools for preparing NIH grant application and managing these grants once awarded.

The first day focused on identifying grant opportunities and completing a NIH grant application. An explanation of the different types of NIH grants was given and participants were given the task of reading a RFA in detail and identifying im-

portant sections that had to be noted when completing an application. The general format and structure of the NIH grant application, PHS 398, including budgets and checklists was discussed.

*"the workshop was very useful, particularly the tips on how to complete the forms as it isn't always easy to understand what information is required"*

The logistics of putting a grant application together such as identifying co-investigators, role of co-investigators, milestones and timelines for putting application together, team meetings, institutional support, and government and regulatory approvals was also discussed.

*Continued on page 2....*



## Future expansion plans at the CAPRISA eThekweni Clinical Research Site

**T**he CAPRISA eThekweni Clinical Research Site (eThekweni site) is a custom designed research facility attached to the Prince Cyril Zulu Communicable Disease Clinic, which annually treats about 18 000 TB (and 40 000 sexually transmitted disease). The eThekweni Site was established to undertake operational research to optimize and inform scale up of HIV care provision in resource constrained setting with a specific focus on assessing the feasibility of integrating TB and AIDS care.



Reception area in the CAPRISA eThekweni Clinical Research Site in Durban

This site is currently home to several of CAPRISA's studies including:

- CAPRISA 003 - the SAPIT (**S**tarting **A**RT at 3 **P**oints **i**n **T**B) study which is a pilot study of ART Initiation in HIV/TB co-infected patients SAPIT,
- CAPRISA 051 Seroincidence Study, which is a preparatory study that will feed participants to the proposed microbicide trial,
- CAPRISA 001 START (**S**tarting **T**B and **A**nti-retroviral **T**herapy) trial which will address some important questions on optimal clinical management of the large numbers of TB-HIV co-infected patients, and
- CAPRISA 053 – the **C**APRISA **A**IDS **T**reatment (CAT) Programme which aims to provide an integrated package of prevention and treatment services to more than 1000 patients.

In addition this is one of the sites proposed for the CAPRISA 052 Microbicide trial and will be one of the sites where several thousand STD patients will be screened for the new Center for HIV/AIDS Vaccine Immunology (CHAVI) initiative which is an international effort to galvanize HIV vaccine discovery.

In order to accommodate the expansion and increased patient burden, CAPRISA are currently in

negotiation with the eThekweni Municipality to occupy and renovate the balance of the old chest clinic which includes space on the ground floor and the first floor. The new part of the clinical research site will include a reception area, data capture and archive/record room, nurses station, 3 assessment cubicles, a specimen preparation room, 4 clinical examination rooms, an outside waiting area, 2 patient toilets, 4 counselling rooms, and a group counseling room. The first floor will be renovated to accommodate office space. The new part of the clinic will also have access to the pharmacy and dispensary. If all goes well the negotiations, renovations will begin within the next few weeks.

### Grant Writing Workshop

*From page 1*

The new research funding alert, ResearchResearch, which the University of KwaZulu-Natal has now purchased was described. This resource provides access to a wide range of national and international funding opportunities and each University staff member will be able to register and have direct access to funding alerts in a particular research area. A personal account allows an individual to set up email alerts and access other customized features. Staff of the University can now register at <http://www.researchresearch.com>.

The second day of the workshop focused on the NIH review process and the financial management and administration of NIH grants. A detailed discussion of how to complete the NIH grant reporting document (PHS 2590) was given. The financial management of grant awards focussed on the OMB A-133, Foreign Organization System Survey (FOSS), Financial Status Report (FSR), Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), and the NIH Grants Policy.

The NIH will soon be moving over to an electronic submission system. Several computer packages are already available to assist with the completion of NIH grant applications. A demonstration of one such package, Grantslam, was provided. GrantSlam is sophisticated software for preparing and submitting NIH grant applications on paper and securely over the internet. The University of KwaZulu Natal has purchased 10 licences for this package and the research office can be contacted for further information.



## Contributing to skills development



**S**kills development and training are key initiatives of the Community Core of CAPRISA. The Durban CAPRISA Community Programme recently hosted skills building training for 24 Acute Infection study participants and community liaison persons. The workshops were facilitated by Embo Craft Training Trust. These training sessions included 5 days of arts and crafts activities followed by 3 days of business training. The workshop was open to all CLP's and participants of the AI study who have kept their clinic appointments. A further workshop is planned for participants of the CAPRISA AIDS Treatment Programme from the CAPRISA eThekweni Clinical Research Site on 31/10/2005 – 04/11/2005 (arts and crafts) and 09/11/2005-11/11/2005 (business training).



## Training opportunities at SANBI, UWC

**D**o you want to do basic science research or make a difference in the fight against cancer, HIV and sleeping sickness? Do you enjoy using a computer?

Modern biology is deluged with data and codes from genomes and is now an information science. Join our graduate programme for a PhD or MSc and research with top professors from UWC and Stanford University (USA) working on deciphering genomes like humans, mice, HIV, and trypanosomes or develop drugs, databases and algorithms leading to vaccines against cancer, HIV, and sleeping sickness. If you have a degree in biology, mathematics, physics, computer sciences, engineering, chemistry or statistics, are good at what you do, enjoy a challenge and want to work with the leaders in the field, the South African National Bioinformatics Institute (SANBI, UWC) offers rapid growth and internationally recognised study. Visit our website, review the graduate programme and our recent publications in the top journals such as Science, Nature and Public Library of Science Biology.

SANBI founded bioinformatics in South Africa, has produced the

The image contains the following elements:

- Logos for MRC SOUTH AFRICA, UNIVERSITY of the WESTERN CAPE, and SANBI.
- A photograph of a fly.
- A grid of research topics:
  - Gene regulation
  - Algorithm development
  - CANCER AND GENE EXPRESSION
  - SLEEPING SICKNESS
  - HIV TB INFORMATICS
  - HUMAN VARIATION
- A photograph of two people looking at a screen.

first graduate students in Bioinformatics in Africa and has the highest concentration of internationally recognised bioinformatics faculty on the continent.

UWC/SANBI graduates have published with Nobel Prize winner Sydney Brenner, won the UNESCO/L'Oreal award for women in science, and research at Max-Planck Institute. Many are already leaders in their chosen fields. Top students at SANBI can join the Stanford-South Africa Biomedical Informatics Programme, working directly with UWC and

Stanford faculty with the opportunity to study at Stanford for up to a year. We offer government registered undergraduate, MSc and PhD programmes in computational biology. UWC, a node of the SA National Bioinformatics Network, offers competitive bursaries.

**For more information:**

[www.sanbi.ac.za/graduate-research.html/](http://www.sanbi.ac.za/graduate-research.html/)

## Research update - September 2005

CAPRISA is a multi-institutional collaboration, incorporated as an independent non-profit AIDS Research Organisation

Registration Number:  
2002/024027/08  
<http://www.caprisa.org>

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Study	stage / site	screened		No. enrolled	
		total#	cumulative^	total#	cumulative^
AI	Phase I	0	776	0	246*
	Phase II	3	19	2	19
CAT	Vulindlela	86	1266	49	354
	CDC	0	874	0	209*
CAPRISA 050	Vulindlela	0	785*	0	369*
	CDC	264	644	27	73
SAPIT	CDC	51	181	35	106

\* enrolment completed, # for month, ^since committee initiation

## SRC update - September 2005

Abstracts submitted for review		Manuscripts submitted for review		Ancillary studies submitted for review	
Total#	Cumulative^	total#	cumulative^	total#	cumulative^
0	36	2	9	0	1

# for month, ^since committee initiation

## Upcoming Conference Reminders

Conference	Deadlines for abstract submission to		Registration deadline	website
	CAPRISA SRC	Conference organizers		
CROI	10th Oct 2005	14th Oct 2005	5th Jan 2006	<a href="http://www.retroconference.org/2006">www.retroconference.org/2006</a>
Microbicides	8th Dec 2005	14th Dec 2005	31-Dec-05	<a href="http://www.microbicides2006.org">www.microbicides2006.org</a>
XVI Int AIDS Conference	17th Feb 2006	22nd Feb 2006	Feb-06	<a href="http://www.aids2006.org">www.aids2006.org</a>