

Word From The Dean



This special Newsletter is a brief overview of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) supported and funded three-year start-up project that the Faculty of Health Sciences has embarked on.

A 10 year Masterplan with financial projections and I&E requirements was supported in principle by NMMU Council and then endorsed by the Director General of DHET.

The project is entitled “TRANSFORMING HEALTH SCIENCES EDUCATION TO SUPPORT

EQUITY IN HEALTH”

This month we will arrive at the end of Phase 1 which has been very successful but hectic for all concerned, as it was a pilot first in SA and due to the very strict reporting demanded by DHET for every cent that is spent as well as ensuring that every cent is spent in line with the agreed to MOU.

Currently NMMU is working towards obtaining Health Professions Council of SA (HPCSA) approval via its professional Board for Medicine and Dentistry, for:

FIRSTLY Implementing the training of Clinical Associates (BCMP) in 2017

SECONDLY Taking on board a first group of Cuban-trained South African doctors for their final 18 months SA clinical skills training (this with the assistance of UCT/WSU) in 2018, prior to them obtaining registration as medical practitioners with the HPCSA in 2018

THIRDLY Implementing 3rd year graduate (GEMP) and multi-entry medical u-grad training MBChB on this same clinical training platform in 2020.

Background Of The Project Transforming Health Science Education to support Equity.

The Faculty of Health Sciences embarked on a Project called Transforming Health Education for equity in April 2015. This project is funded by the National Skills Fund, a division of the DHET over a 3 year period of curriculum transformation.

The purpose of the Project is to implement changes that will ensure the development of a new Health school by the year 2020 it is also a response to the training of Health Professionals in line with Global Consensus on rethinking health sciences education in the light of dynamically changing community needs.

The new graduate will be able to work in under served and rural areas.

The vision of an innovative medical programme training competent, accountable health professionals with a transformative, primary health care based approach to address the health needs of the Eastern Cape and beyond. This vision is undergirded by a set of principles that cohere around social accountability and community engagement, training competent caring clinicians with broad skills, excellence in educational practice, and promotion of access and diversity.

The Project is divided into four objectives that are all designed to achieve the above mentioned vision.

Foundations

A set of principles:



Objective 1: Purpose Community Engagement/ Partnering for Health

Missionvale has been identified as one of the centre for Engaging the Community in Partnership that will benefit both the University and the Community. A Community Profile has been compiled with Data from the Department of Health. This is happening at the Missionvale Campus which has been identified as the first site for community engagement. The team is soon expected to be joined by the Nursing, Environmental Health, Social Work, Pharmacy, Medical Laboratory Science, Psychology, Dietetics students thus piloting the first Interdisciplinary Team approach for learning and teaching.

The team will work in partnership with NGO's, CBO's and the Department of Health in piloting inter professional education.

The expected outcome for teams will be improvement in understanding their Health Care teams and improving service delivery in communities they train in.



Picture: Missionvale Campus

Objective 2:

Improving The Quality And Relevance Of Health Professions' Education And Training Programs And Upgrading Facilities

Development is in the early stages, workshops are being conducted for the Faculty Development on Community Oriented Primary Care Course Curriculum. The aim is to later offer COPC TO for first year FHS students.

There has been an establishment of a Inter-professional Research Unit within the FHS whose responsibility is to promote inter-professional research among faculty staff and postgraduate students. The project leader for this unit is Prof Truter jointly with Prof Stroud. This unit has recently approved 5 research projects that will be done around the University and at Missionvale. The importance of these research projects is to unveil new knowledge that will be used to update new modules across the FHS.

Dietetics has been awarded funding through the project for new classrooms, construction is at roof level and a hand over of completed classrooms is expected on the 15th of March. The leader for this project is Prof Rosa du Randt.

Funding has also been set aside for the Retrofitting of Computers and Radiography Labs at the School of Clinical Care with Prof Dalena van Rooyen being the leader of this project. These fittings will aid in improvement of the facilities and quality for Dietetics and Radiography Students.

The NSF-Project funds also made it possible for 2 Bachelor of Social Work lecturers to pursue Post-graduate studies.



New building under construction for Dietetics

Objective 3: Curriculum Transformation Plan

The Wits Centre for Rural Health was appointed as the Consultant for the input on the Medical Curriculum. Dr Richard Cooke has been representing WCRH in curriculum workshops at the Faculty.

Trans disciplinary foundation courses, which will be offered at entry level to all FHS students. Programs have been identified in a process of consultation between the curriculum consultant and the representatives of schools of the FHS.

A curriculum Committee composed of representatives selected by Director of Schools including all Head of Departments, has been tasked with reviewing the common foundation modules or topics that need to be learnt by all Faculty

of Health students. Eleven Generic Outcomes were initially identified that will need to be introduced in one way or another into the existing Curricula. Mrs Gail Ehbel is our Departmental Expert in the Dean's Office who is analysing the existing Modules that fit the mold of what has been recommended by the Consultants.

Dr Suzette Du Randt is the FHS internal Curriculum Consultant, looking at the Content aspects.

Initial Generic Outcomes to become common to faculty of health science students:

- Teamwork
- Project Management
- First AID
- Wellness and Resilience

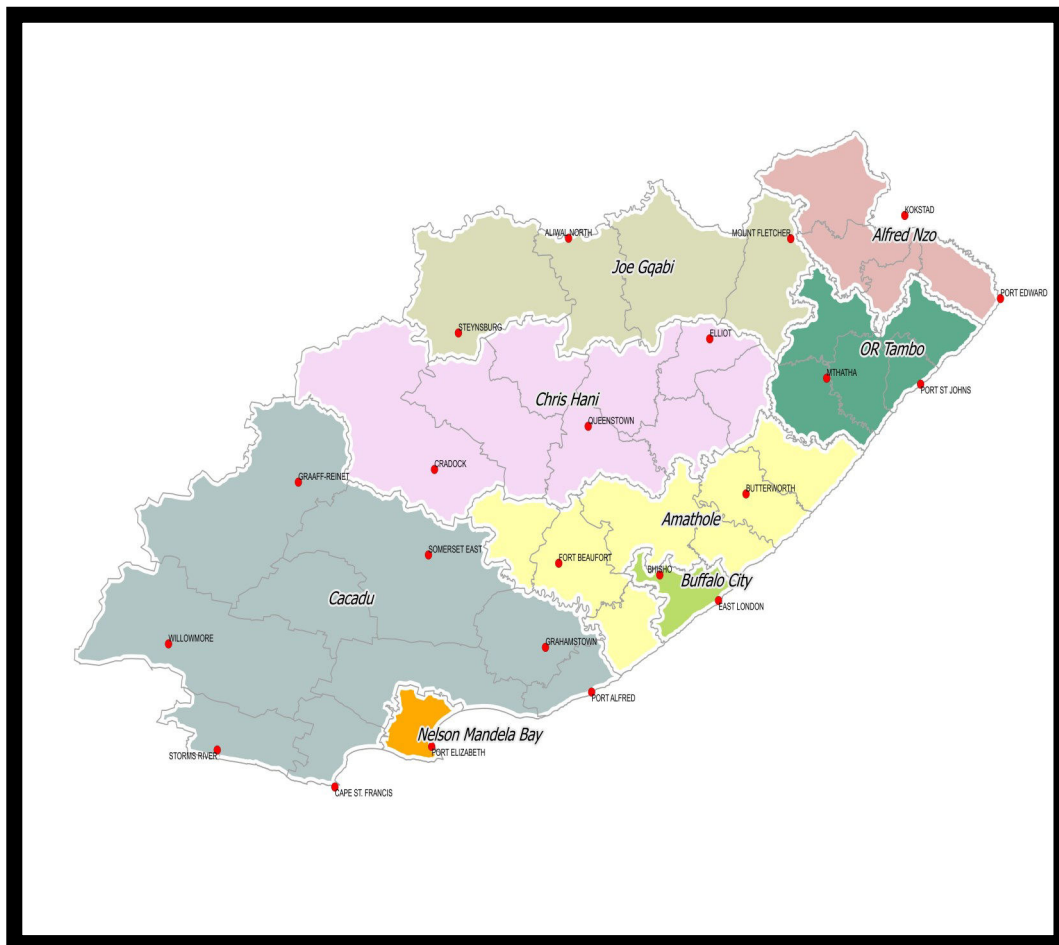
- Communication
- Language and Terminology: Practical Xhosa / Practical English
- End user Computing
- Ethics, Law and Professionalism
- Environmental and Social Determinants of Health
- Quality improvement and Change Management
- Critical Enquiry and Thinking
- Identity Development
- The rationale for these new outcomes is to mold socially accountable students, who go back and make a difference in the community.



The Curriculum Committee, from left: Dr Elizabeth du Toit, Dr Pumela Tabata, Gail Ehbel, Dr Richard Cooke (Wits), Dr Susan Burton, Cheryl Swanepoel, Leyli Zondi, Mariaan Buckle, Prof Diane Elkonin

Consultants have completed the 10 year Masterplan of the FHS and it has been submitted to DHET. The Masterplan lays out the planned growth in the FHS, by increasing yearly intake in all programs and introducing new programs namely the Bachelor of Clinical Medicine Practice and the Bachelor of Science (Health Sciences). These will be followed by the first class of MBCHB in 2020.

The 10 year Masterplan received approval from DHET at the end of December 2015. The Pre-Medical and Medical programmes will target learners from the Sarah Baartman (Cacadu) and Amathole Districts as seen below.



Target area for Training platform and Feeder schools

Objective 5:

Project Governance

A project Steering Committee oversees the work of the project. Meetings are convened quarterly and monthly reports are submitted to the project office of the National Skills Fund.

Verification visits from the management team are quarterly. The project has received positive feedback at the last visit.

Phase 1 of the project ends at the end of March 2016. It is hoped that all activities for Phase 1 will be completed by the end of March 2016.

The project will be proceeding to Phase 2 extending from April 2016 to 1st March 2017. The project objectives for this phase:

Objective 1 - Strengthening of 1 to 2 Partnering for Health communities in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropole.

Objective 2 - Addressing the secondary and post-school environments by increasing access to health professions education by enhancing quality and relevance.

Objective 3 - Finalize the three year curriculum transformation plan with goals, objectives, and outputs required to establish the inter professional foundation curriculum in which all FHS students will enroll in 2018.

Objective 4 - Develop new Medical Programmes at the NMMU.

Objective 5 - Finalize the project governance and management structure to include a monitoring and evaluation plan for NSF funded projects; establishment of the Health Education Unit.

During Phase 2, from July to September 2016 a pilot study of Inter professional Education is planned. 120 volunteer students will be placed in community clinics, NGO's and in family attachments. They will be accompanied by 15 supervisors from all the departments of the FHS.

Tasks to be performed will include Health Surveys, especially unraveling the Social Determinants of Health. The Missionvale Campus will be the site of the Inter professional Practice, which will coordinate the IPE Pilot. An expected outcome of this pilot is a better understanding by our Faculty and graduates of

i) Needs for inter professional education

ii) The socio-economic factors that affect the Health status of South Africans.

The project Team looks forward to the successful enrollment of students into this pilot study. More communication will follow closer to the start of July 2016.

"The project office team thanks all departments and management in making this project feasible"
Dr P Tabata