



## GROOTE SCHUUR RECEIVES STATE OF THE ART SKIN LASER MACHINE

Groote Schuur hospital has received a donation of a skin laser machine and the refurbishment of the hospital's Dermatology Unit. This was made possible with funds from the Oasis Crescent Fund Trust. The machine is the third of its kind in the country but the first that's publically available.

This project was undertaken at the behest of the Red Cross Children's Hospital and the necessary donation was made on behalf of investors in the Oasis Crescent range of ethical investment products. After discussions between the Trust, the Red Cross and Groote Schuur Hospitals, it was agreed that the facility be based at Groote Schuur because of a shortage of space at Red Cross.



From left: Sister Hilary Lochner, Dr Samantha Eisman, Sessional Consultant in Dermatology at Groote Schuur Hospital and Mr Shaheen Ebrahim, Chairman of Oasis Group Holdings at the Skin Laser Unit

Theuns Botha, Western Cape Minister of Health, said: "Thank you to Oasis for this generous sponsorship. With donations like these the Western Cape provincial government is able to provide much improved services to our patients and improve our patient's experience. We do not have the budget to extend our



From left: Mrs Maureen Ross, Head of Nursing at Groote Schuur Hospital; Mr Adam Ebrahim, CEO of Oasis Group Holdings; Ms Amina Philander and Mr Saleh Adams

services so far, but with the help of the private sector, we are in a much better position to create a healthier community."

It was further agreed that the facility be made available to both hospitals for the treatment of port wine/strawberry stains. Until now this service was only available in private hospitals and came at a very high cost to the public. The laser unit makes it possible for patients in need to get the necessary treatment at a cheaper rate compared to the private hospitals. The refurbishment of the Dermatology Unit further turns this service into a world-class facility.

In response to the donation, the Dermatology Unit's head, Prof. Gail Todd, thanked Oasis for the generous sponsorship. Prof Todd said that with the donation of the machine, the hospital wants to further expand their services. She said an example of this was the pulsed dye laser used primarily for disfiguring congenital vascular disorders such as port wine stains and haemangiomas. Prof Todd said presently there are no laser machines at any academic dermatology unit in the country.

## MINISTERS LETTER



**Picture left:** Minister Botha and Dr Ivan Meyer, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, visited EMS to inspect the vehicles and equipment for the Cape Argus Cycle Tour. Minister Botha complimented the EMS personnel on their excellent track records and performance. "We have some of the best equipment and human capital in the world."

### **MONEY CANNOT BUY A SMILE**

It is your helpful approach and positive attitude that adds to our patients' experience and in the larger context, their wellness and the wellness of our communities. Your smile, a friendly word asking whether you can assist, a helping hand when someone is in pain – that is what care is about.

### **I LOOK FORWARD TO MEET YOU**

On one of my recent visits to meet the people of the Western Cape Department of Health,

I visited the laundry at Tygerberg Hospital. I was astounded at the huge machinery and advanced technology, but at the same time I felt a deep gratitude for the employees of the Department who work in conditions with no air-conditioning in summer, and little comfort in winter. Then there's the sewers who sat bent over sewing machines and carefully stitching torn linen and clothes. Every employee in that laundry has an important job to do, and I was proud to see you hard at work.

I look forward to visiting some more of our facilities in the next few weeks. Feel free to come and greet me. It is my pleasure to meet the wonderful people in the Department of Health.

THEUNS BOTHA

MINISTER OF HEALTH: WESTERN CAPE



Pictured above Minister Theuns Botha with some of the Tygerberg Hospital laundry staff.

### **STRETCHING THE HEALTH RAND**

In the legislature this time of year is dominated by the presentation and approval of budgets. Our Department is a top performer in this regard, and in comparison with Health Departments in other provinces, we are outperforming other provinces with strict financial management and discipline. The Western Cape Minister of Economic Development, Finance and Tourism, Alan Winde, has announced that the largest part of the provincial budget have been allocated to health services.

The Western Cape Department of Health is at present developing a vision for health services towards 2020. The technical work is still in progress, but the focal points will be the improvement of the patient experience and quality of care.

In addition, 2011 is the year we will begin to shift our focus from disease to wellness. The Premier will convene a Wellness Summit in the province this year to which all relevant stakeholders will be invited to participate.

However, we can offer advanced budgets, but there are things that no budget can allow for and that is your attitude and approach to your work. As a department we can budget for infrastructure, facilities, equipment and service providers, but we cannot budget and pay for attitude.

# From the Desk of the HOD



Professor Househam together with Top Management at the Langebaan management retreat.

2011 has raced almost to the end of the first quarter before we have had a chance to catch our breath. The same can be said for the summer with the sun rising later in the mornings and the temperature, thankfully, beginning to ease from the extremely hot weather that we have experienced since January.

However, the “heat” in the pressure cooker that is the provincial health services has not decreased during the same period! In the wide spectrum of health services provided by the Department of Health from the emergency medical services to home-based care the health services have continued to stand up to the plate to meet the need for health care in the Western Cape.

Last year I spent time visiting health facilities in the Cape Town Metro district sub-structures and my experiences revealed the very good, the good, the average and in some instances the not very good aspects of our services. This year, I will be visiting health facilities on “road trips” along the various arterial roads that run through our province. By the time you read this message I will have visited facilities along the R62 from Robertson to Oudtshoorn. During the year, I will be traveling the N2, N1, N7 and the R27 and visiting towns to meet health workers and clients and listen to the issues and hear about the challenges that are faced daily in health facilities across the province. And yes, I will be branching off the main roads

making detours to visit towns which are off these main routes! I am encouraging health workers and communities to tell me honestly, what they and how they experience our services as I am not interested in window dressing for the boss!

Overall, what I experience as good about our services and equally what is bad about our services are the people who work as health workers and administrators in the Western Cape Department of Health. The buildings and equipment are important but when clients, and indeed staff, complain or compliment the department, it is the “people factor” that outweighs all the other factors. I have spoken to people from home-based carers to doctors employed by the department and people who are patients or from community organisations and across the full spectrum good people who do good work are acknowledged. However, there are those who unfortunately, treat clients be they internal to the department such as administrative staff who manage human resource and financial matters or external to the department such as patients and contractors, in a manner that is unacceptable. These people damage the reputation of the department and reinforce the unfortunate stereotype of public servants as uncaring, rude and self-absorbed. These people are a small minority but they harm the department and more importantly treat others in an unacceptable manner. *My challenge, which I have raised before in Jonga, is how do we change this?*

Management of the department recently reflected on the values that form part of our own lives and those that we would wish to see reflected as the organisational culture the department. The provincial government has adopted five core values which are “**Caring, Competence, Accountability, Integrity and Responsiveness**” and these should inform our approach to the developing a “values-based” culture for the Department of Health. If we adopt the five core values and live those within the department, I am sure we will see a change in the attitude of every employee in this department and a change in the view that every client now holds of this department. Management and I trust all of you are committed to making the change! So let us all do it!

**Professor Craig Househam**  
**HOD: Western Cape Department of Health**

# HCT MOBILE LABORATORY READY TO ROCK N' ROLL INTO PROVINCE'S RURAL REGIONS

Extended negotiations between the Western Cape Department of Health, University of Stellenbosch, National Health Laboratory Service and the Fraunhofer Institute for Biomedical Engineering (IBMT), Germany, has borne fruit with the official handover ceremony of the Province's new mobile diagnostic laboratory with bio safety level (BSL-3).

Premier Helen Zille, officially received the mobile unit this morning at an official handover ceremony at Lentegeur Hospital, Mitchell's Plain.

"On behalf of the Western Cape Government, I wish to express our gratitude to the Fraunhofer Institute and the German Government for the support they have given us in the fight against HIV/Aids in the province. This mobile unit will assist our government in increasing access to HIV testing and counselling and ARV treatment to as many people as possible over the next few years. The mobile laboratory will also make a major contribution to global HIV/Aids research which will not only benefit our province but South Africa and the rest of the African continent." said Premier Helen Zille.

The handover follows the visit of the Western Cape Minister of Health, Theuns Botha, in July 2010 to the Fraunhofer IBMT in Sulzbach/Saarland, Germany, while at the International AIDS Conference in Vienna, to get a first impression of the efficiency of the mobile laboratory. The mobile laboratory will shortly begin operations in the rural regions of the Western Cape functioning as a mobile diagnostic and therapy unit in support of patients with infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

Theuns Botha, Western Cape Minister of Health, said: "The mobile laboratory will finally give our people in rural areas, especially those working in agriculture, access to a facility that up till now they had to travel to Cape Town for. Beneficiaries will be now tested in their region, receive the results on the same day and be referred for treatment. In the long term, this also means that up-to-date statistics on the status of the people of the Western Cape will be at our fingertips. This mobile unit, together with the world-class equipment that we have in Health Services, will



The Premier of the Western Cape Helen Zille together with Minister Botha, Professor Househam and sponsor's in front of the new Mobile lab which will soon be in a area near you.

also be able to assist in cases of outbreaks such as H1N1."

Minister Botha thanked the Fraunhofer delegates for their interest in the Western Cape through this donation, valued at more than R15 million.

Supported by the German Consulate in Cape Town, the project is based on a Public-Private-Partnership between the following partners:

- Western Cape Department of Health
- University of Stellenbosch
- National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS)
- Fraunhofer Institute for Biomedical Engineering (IBMT), Saarland, Germany

Within the next two weeks the mobile laboratory will be deployed into the Overberg for at least three months.



## HEALTH STAFF EXCEL AT AWARD CEREMONY

Craig Knight and Robinetta Ryne of Records Management for the Western Cap Department of Health has been a shining example of improving patient experience at hospitals.

Due to their hard work and dedication, their work in records management has enabled many institutions to upgrade their systems to the desired levels. Traveling from the east to the west of the province, these individuals imparted their skills and experience to many in the Department.

For their hard work and dedication they have won the Best performing governmental body in record management.

Congratulations and thank you for your dedication and achievement. Keep it up and inspire us!



*Accepting the award: Robinetta Ryne, Dr Ivan Meyer (MEC Cultural Affairs, Sport & Recreation) and Craig Knight*

## THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHOWS ITS PRESENCE AT THE INTERNATIONAL RUGBY BOARD SEVENS TOURNAMENT

The IRB Sevens Rugby World Series held in George on the 9-10th December 2010 created an excellent opportunity to take HIV counselling and testing services to the masses. As part of all the activities and the great vibe at the rugby event, TESTA, the mascot, was also introduced to the rugby fans.

With the festive atmosphere in George, various partners such as SARU, Brothers for Life and Western Cape Department of Health utilised the opportunity to make people aware of the HIV counselling and testing campaign. It was also an opportunity for the IRB sevens rugby players to test and get to know their own HIV status.

Leading up to the George tournament more than 10 000 people in George were tested and now know their HIV status.

Six community volunteers in the George district braved the elements and donned the NEW HCT Mascot called TESTA and entered the best dress competition in a bid to create more awareness for the HCT campaign and getting people to test for HIV.

The HIV epidemic in the Western Cape received priority focus with the launch of the HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) campaign in May 2010. Various activities were held throughout the province to create awareness and to have people tested freely at shopping centres, police stations, door to door visits in communities including communities on farms and public health facilities. These activities are planned to continue throughout the duration of the HCT Campaign, and beyond. Active case finding will assist in curbing & controlling the spread of the disease. All relevant stakeholders including NPOs, the private sector and other government sectors have been part of this effort of responding to the HIV epidemic in the Western Cape.

The HCT campaign aim's to encourage people to get tested and get to know their HIV status. The theme for HCT is, 'I am responsible; we are responsible and South Africa is taking responsibility'. The Western Cape Department of Health aims to test 1.1 million people by the end of June 2011. From April to September 2010 more than 366 000 people were already tested.

All HIV testing is free and anyone above the age of 12 can go for a test. This can be done at primary health care clinics, hospitals, Clicks pharmacy stores and also other non medical sites.

## Babies at Mowbray Maternity Hospital sleeps a little bit warmer

Each year, 21 000 newborn babies die in South Africa. This amounts to 57 deaths each day. Many of these babies are born prematurely.

Premature babies are unable to regulate their temperatures and require additional care to keep them warm, such as wearing a cap and Kangaroo Mother Care. More than half of these newborn lives could be saved if well-known solutions such as keeping small babies warm and infection-free measures are implemented.

Mowbray Maternity Hospital received a generous donation of hand-knitted baby caps and blankets which have been knitted by concerned German citizens for distribution to South African hospitals in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Limpopo and the Western Cape. Each cap is labeled with a German message: "eine mütze voll leben", meaning "a hat full of life".

The "Knit one, save one" campaign was launched in the United States of America, United Kingdom, Korea and Germany, resulting in hundreds of thousands of baby caps being distributed world wide.

The Western Cape Minister of Health, Theuns Botha, expressed his appreciation for the contribution made to Mowbray Maternity Hospital. "We are extremely

thankful for the generous donation made to the mothers and babies born at this facility. We will ensure that these gifts are distributed to less fortunate mothers and babies who are in need of blankets and knitted caps.



## Health employee represents South Africa at International Pool tournament

Clinton Marks 30 from Portlands, Mitchells Plain, a renowned sportsman in his own right, was selected to take part in the 2010 World Blackball Championships pool tournament in France from 08-13 November last year.

Marks and his team mate were selected from a round robin group, where each player plays all teams from different provinces and plays five frames in each

match. Whoever loses the least frames will be ranked respectively. Marks was ranked fourth to represent the Proteas. During the pool tournament, there were 16 countries represented.

Marks was selected with one team mate in his category from Western Cape to represent South Africa in the tournament in France.

Each of the 16 teams consisted of 5 players and a manager. South Africa had a team in the following categories

Under 18: came third overall

Under 23: came second overall

Ladies: won the World Title in the event

Seniors (where Clinton was) came second overall . They lost against Scotland in the final. However, Marks team mate, Paul Bennett was ranked no one after team events. The team received gold medals for their participation and sportsmanship.



**Left: Clinton Marks taking a break from the Pool tournament**

## The Western Cape Province fight against BREAST CANCER

The Western Cape Department of Health and Cause Marketing Fundraisers (CMF) have formed a strategic partnership to make Breast Cancer screenings more freely accessible to women. This initiative will empower women to take responsibility for their health and drive home the message that early detection saves lives.

This collaborative partnership offers women free mammograms and breast health education through the **PinkDrive** project. An initiative of CMF, the **PinkDrive** currently runs two mobile breast check units. The educational unit is based in Gauteng and travels to corporate and semi-urban areas with the aim of making mammography education and clinical examinations accessible to various disadvantaged communities. The mobile mammography screening unit will operate through local clinics, within the Metro Eastern Sub District in the Western Cape.

"A high proportion of South African women present with stage three and four cancer, which can be very difficult to manage. The **PinkDrive** aims to find cancers in stages one and two and thus increasing life expectancy," said Noelene Kotschan from the **PinkDrive**.

"We are excited about the launch and the opportunity to bring our services to the people of the Western Cape. The shocking statistics that one in every 24 women are diagnosed with breast cancer a year fuels our mission to make breast health accessible to all women." concluded Kotschan.

The **PinkDrive** is the only NGO in Sub Sahara Africa that does mobile mammography screening. It can screen up to 30 women a day, providing a service to the community valued up to R30 000 a day.

As of Monday the 21 February 2011, the **PinkDrive** mobile mammography unit will paint Macassar, Kleinvlei and Gustrow pink as it visits these communities on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays respectively. This public private partnership enables women to undergo mammograms and be screened for breast cancer in a state of the art mobile unit. The mobile mammography unit will screen for early signs of cancer offering patients the opportunity of different treatment options. Prior to the start of the service,

site inspections commenced which also coincided with the awareness campaign of the trucks arrival at the relevant Community Health Centres. The Western Cape Department of Health has identified breast cancer programmes to form part of the core elements to reduce both mortality and morbidity and increase life expectancy in women.

Breast Cancer is the biggest killer of women in South African and is becoming more common in younger and younger patients. The **PinkDrive** project strives to assist in providing healthcare and education for all and in doing so empowering the public and their loved ones.

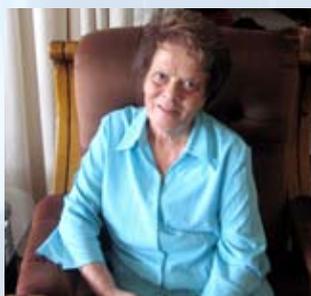
Western Cape Minister of Health, Theuns Botha says: "This strategic partnership will offer people who cannot afford health services, improved access to health services and will assist the Western Cape government to take services closer to the people. Our aim is to have a health facility within distance from your home."

The strategic partnership with **PinkDrive** fulfills the vision of this provincial government to improve wellness and to give equal access to better health. In this way we can move closer to our goal of wellness."

### BREAST CANCER IN THE WESTERN CAPE

Breast cancer is rising dramatically in the developing world. Unfortunately the Western Cape is showing very high rates of breast cancer. Of the estimated 8000 new cases of breast cancer each year in South Africa, about 1500 are diagnosed in this Province and, sadly, the most common cause of death of women.

The theatres and radiation equipment are expensive to build and maintain. The end result is that 70 – 80% of women diagnosed with advanced breast cancer will die of the disease. It makes sense to diagnose breast cancer before the woman can feel the lump. At this point, the patient can be restored to a normal, productive life. It is for this reason that internationally this year's breast cancer message is: "Early detection saves lives".



## HEALTH WATCH

**Groote Schuur Hospital is proud to celebrate Mrs Jean Andrew, who had a kidney transplant 40 years ago. The operation took place on 10th February 1971 at Groote Schuur Hospital.**

**And today she is one of the longest survivors from a cadaver kidney transplant in the world. Encouragement from Mrs Andrews," I encourage people out there to become donors for transplants. Look what it has done for me."**

# DAILY DOSE

This section has been created just for you. In the coming weeks and months we will share interesting stories, lessons and puzzles with you. If you look below, we challenge all non speaking Xhosa people to learn

these simple words below. If it improves your work or life let us know. The first Xhosa lesson is brought to you by Fiki Magqashe-la, Head of the Language unit within the Communications Directorate.

**Molweni nonke! ( Hi to you all) Hi!**

## GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH XHOSA

### Terms and phrases to be remembered:

Molo	Hallo/Hi
Ewe	Hi/Hallo
Kunjani?	How are you?
Igama	Name
Ungubani igama lakho	What is your name?
NdinguDorah....	I am Dorah
Ifani	Surname
Ifani yakho	Your surname
Phi?	Where?
hlala	stay
Uhlala phi?	Where do you stay?
sebenza	Work
Usebenza phi?	Where do you work?
Mna	I/ me
NdinguPat mna	I am Pat
Enkosi	Thank you/ thanks
-ya	Going
Ngoku	Now
Uya phi ngoku?	Where are you going now?
Sikhona	We are well
Sala	Remain

### Conversation between two people:

UPAT:	Molo!	Hallo!
UDORA:	Ewe.	Hi! Yes!
UPAT:	Kunjani?	How are you?
UDORA:	Sikhona, enkosi. Kunjani kuwe?	Fine, thank you and how are you?
UPAT:	Sikhona nathi, enkosi. NdinguPat mna.	Fine too, thanks. I am Pat
UDORA:	NdinguDora mna. Ndiyavuya ukukwazi.	I am Dora. Please to meet you.
UPAT:	Uhlala phi?	Where do you stay?
UDORA:	Ndihlala eMontana	I stay at Montana.
UPAT:	Uya phi ngoku?	Where are you going now?
UDORA:	Ndiyagoduka.	I am going home.
UPAT:	Uhambe kakuhle, Dora.	(Go well Dora) Goodbye Dora.
UDORA:	Usale kakuhle,Pat.	(Remain well Pat) Good bye Pat.

I hope you enjoyed the first lesson my friend. Next time, we are going to learn how some words are pronounced. Thank you / Enkosi!, Sakubonana!