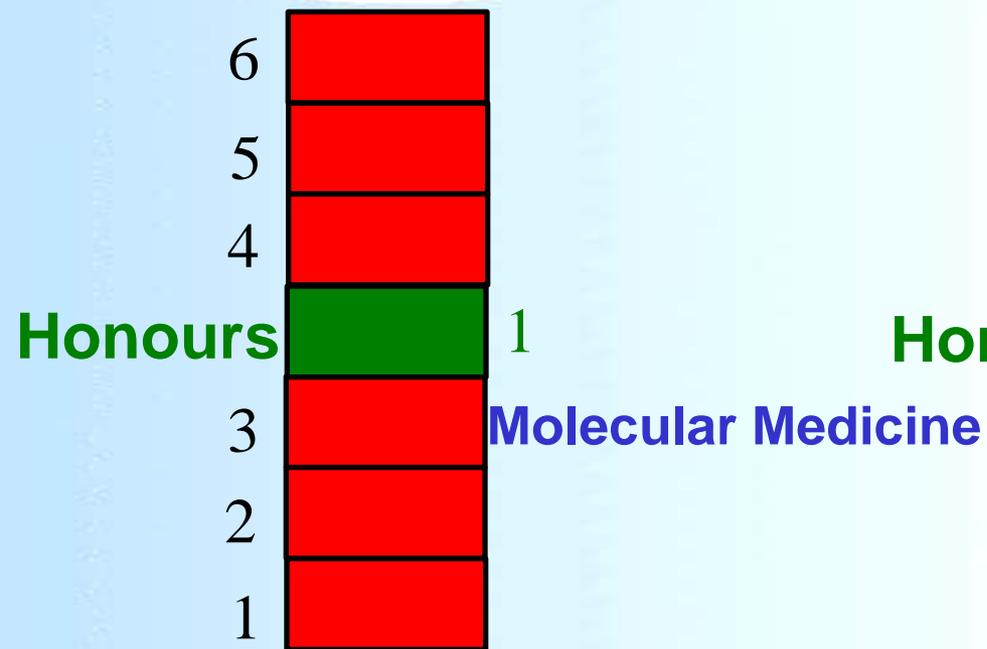**UCT**
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

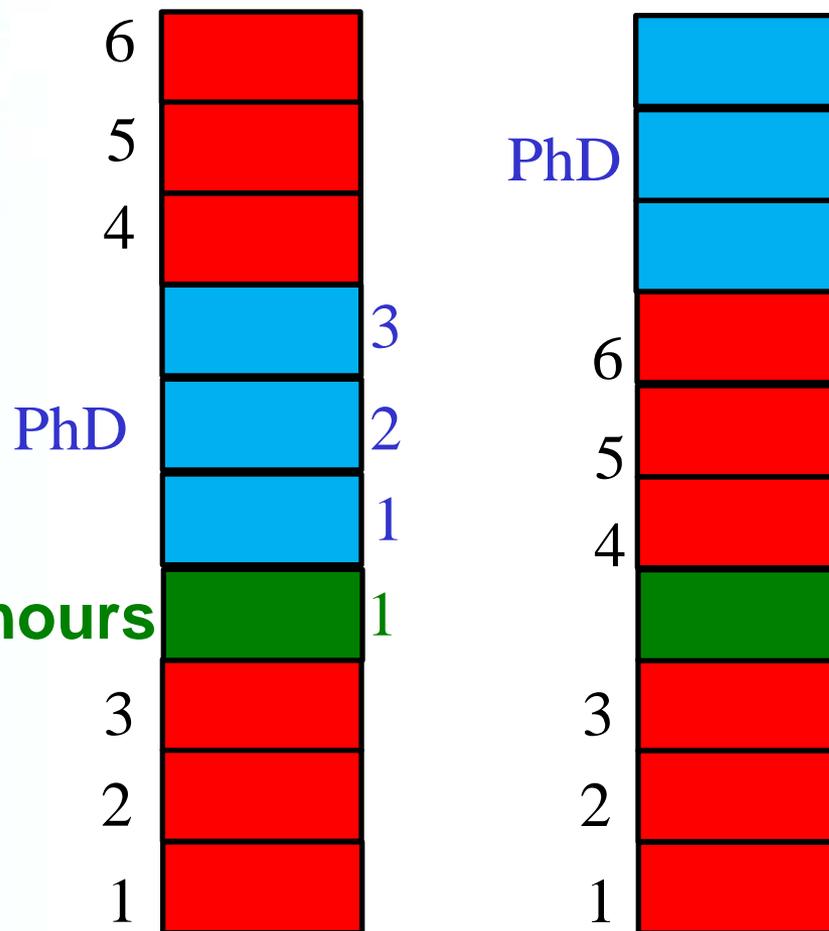**CLINICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAMME WORKSHOP**

15 July 2011

**Challenges of the implementation
of the UCT intercalated
BSc (Med)(Hons)/MBChB/PhD programme**

Intercalated BSc (Med)(Hons)/MBChB/PhD programme

MBChB/B.Sc.(Med)Hons

MBChB/PhD

MBChB/B.Sc.(Med)Hons column:
6
5
4
Honours 1
Molecular Medicine
3
2
1

MBChB/PhD middle column:
6
5
4
PhD 3
PhD 2
1
Honours 1
3
2
1

MBChB/PhD right column (PhD):
PhD
6
5
4
3
2
1

- **From student perspective: Programme requires time commitment and incurs cost**

- **Need to market programme to 2ed year MBChB**

As programme established should be easier but in early years need to promote among students and Best way is the SSM-Special Study Module -

4 week research project as a way to inspire students to embark on research degrees

Researcher must get more involved and offer laboratory/research based projects

- **Criteria for selection of students:**

Marks/Interest in becoming researchers

- **Is programme only for the top students?**
- **What is the capacity of the programme**

2 aspects:

- **Teaching capacity**
- **student funding**

Capacity of Programme

Different stages:

Molecular Medicine course in 3rd year: Many

BSc(Med)Hons: Several

PhD: Several

Molecular Medicine:

currently 5 students but number can grow

Do we keep small – less cost effective to UCT
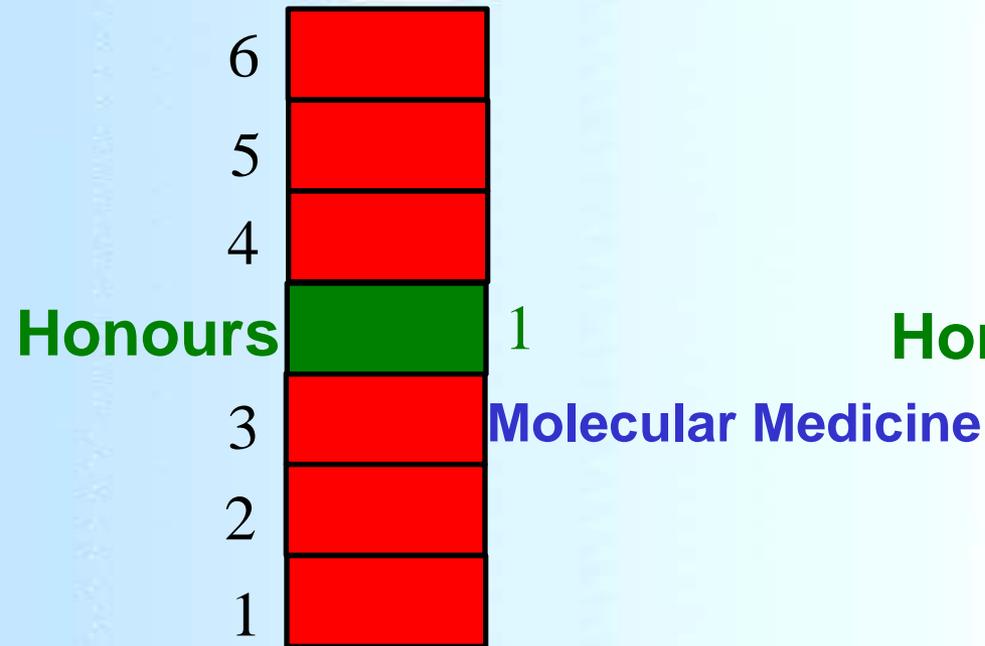**Or allow more MBChB to enroll- more cost effective**

Do we admit only student who are ear-marked for Hons

Or open to more students, they will receive thorough Knowledge and skills in Molecular Medicine but only few of them will be admitted to Honours
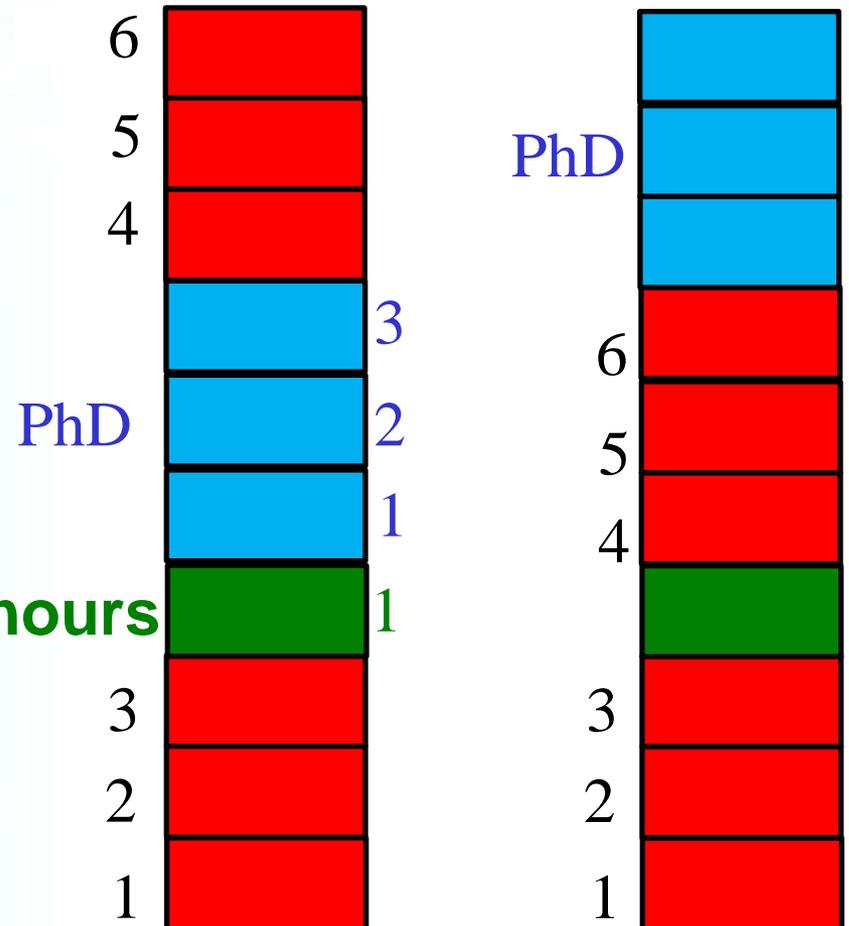
•**Tuition of course R15,650 (2011), Fellowships availability is the key**

Intercalated BSc (Med)(Hons)/MBChB/PhD programme

MBChB/B.Sc.(Med)Hons

MBChB/PhD

Intercalated BSc(Med)(Hons)/MBChB/PhD programme

In principle most sustainable and efficient route to produce clinician/scientists that are acutely needed in SA

However, Intercalated degrees require funding – Fellowships

Students commit their time
and establishment provides Fellowships

Programme requires Fellowships to cover
Molecular Medicine course tuition in year 3
B.Sc(Med)Hons tuition and stipend to cover living expenses
Ph.D, tuition and living expenses for 3 years

This route most cost effective, The value of a fellowship for a MBChB doing the entire intercalated programme will be equivalent to A SINGLE YEAR Fellowship currently awarded to a clinician doing a PhD!

•**What about the time commitment**
Recognize that clinician/scientist important and provide
Research capacity required in order to address the health
Challenges of SA

To encourage medical students taking this route can consider
1. **Reduced time of "Internship"**
2. **Instead of "Community Service" allow graduates of this**
   programme to do 1 year research or reduce
3. **Reduced time for specialization: 3 years instead of 4**

•**Experience in other academic institutions is that funding is**
key to success and growth of these training programmes.

•**UCT is currently first and is leading the way that other medica**
schools will follow.

•**This is a sustainable route to produce cadres of clinician/**
scientists who will increase research medical capacity in SA

These intercalated degrees are part of
The UCT CLINICAL SCHOLAR PROGRAMME

Plan is to extend the intercalated BSc(Med)Hons/PhD/MBChB
and draw medical students from historically black institutions
(University of Limpopo and Walter Sisulu University)
and African Universities (University of Ibadan, Nigeria and the
Kigali Health Institute in Rwanda).

Allowing Medical students to enroll into the Honours and later
PhD.

Will need to ensure that only students that have the required
knowledge and skills to be admitted to Hons will be accepted

What about research degrees to qualified clinicians?

Capitalize on MMed in order to attract registrars to undertake laboratory based research projects.

As part of CCRIT create a Laboratory Techniques course for registrars interested in undertaking laboratory based research projects and engage primarily with the IIDMM to offer and supervise MMed research projects.

This can act as spring board to undertake PhD Lead to more interaction between clinicians and basic scientists