PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Training in medical education and research

PhD

Subspecialty training or multi-skilled physician

ACADEMIC CLINICIAN

CLINICIAN SCIENTIST

CLINICIAN
Total number of accredited and non accredited journal publications
Accredited publications in the School of Clinical Medicine

Departments

Number of publications

Anaesthetics
Internal Medicine
Neurosciences
Obstetrics
Paediatrics
Surgery
Others

2005
2006
OBSTACLES TO CLINICAL RESEARCH

- SERVICE LOADS
- RWOPS
- RESOURCES
- DEPARTMENTAL CULTURE
- INCENTIVES (lack of an attractive career trajectory)
- EXPERIENCED SUPERVISORS
INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES AND CHALLENGES

• Wits SCM is currently a major centre for post graduate specialist and subspecialist training from South Africa and other African countries
• With the current research strengths, able to establish a formal structured training programme
• Existing clinical platform of approximately 6000 beds, large patient population, vast range of clinical problems
• Large number of clinically competent clinicians
  – Primarily involved in clinical work and teaching
  – Clinicians with a PhD and involved in service, research and teaching
  – A small group of clinician scientist involved mainly in laboratory and research.
• Clinical service loads compromising the time required for academic activities
• Lack of an attractive career tract for academic clinicians.
OBJECTIVES

• Establish a Division of Academic Medicine as a vehicle for the bringing of Wits and other African clinical practitioners into a scholarly environment
  – *Formalise Academic Medicine as division within the office of the Assistant Dean for research*
  – *Appoint a senior academic as Director to provide insight and guide the development of the Carnegie research and training initiatives*
OBJECTIVES

• Increase the number of clinicians who complete a PhD and are qualified to teach and supervise research in an academic setting
  – Recruit from the pool of post graduates who had completed their specialist or subspecialist training
    • To be relieved of service responsibilities through a scholarship for a two year period
    • To participate in departmental/divisional academic programme
    • To be granted unpaid leave from the service institution.
    • To participate in a structured formal PhD programme
OBJECTIVES

• Increase the Wits School of Clinical Medicine’s training/mentoring capacity to support future generations of Academic Clinicians
  – Develop health sciences educational skills
  – Postdoctoral fellowships in key research areas to extend supervisory capacity
Carnegie Fellowship Training Programme
2011 - 2012

• **Programme Director:**
  – Professor John Pettifor

• **Courses and skills development (Year 1):**
  – Research methodology
  – Research Techniques
    • Laboratory and microscopy
  – Protocol Development
  – Statistics
  – Scientific writing
  – Research ethics
  – Reviewing scientific literature
  – Teaching skills (Lecturing; class and small group teaching; assessment)
  – Research project management
COURSES AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (YEAR 2)

- Data analysis and statistics
- Writing skills (Papers and thesis)
- Presentations and communication skills
- Teaching
- Grant writing
- Research and project management
- Personal academic development
- Academic networking
TIME LINES

• First six months
  – Completion of research protocol
  – Assesors report and post graduate committee approval
  – Ethics clearance

• End of second year
  – Completion of research and submission of thesis
  – Or Draft of thesis and final submission of thesis by the end of third year
PROGRAMME SUPERVISION AND REPORTING

• Supervisors to meet with fellows monthly
• Director to meet with each fellow and supervisor bi-monthly
• Supervisor to provide written report to director six monthly which will be submitted to Assistant Dean for research.
PROGRESS

• Selected four candidates out of a pool of 11 applicants
  – Internal medicine – Rheumatology
  – Surgery – Ophthalmology
  – General Surgery
  – Internal Medicine – Cardiology

• Programme commenced in March 2011
  – Attended courses
  – Two Fellows well into their research
  – One Fellow about to complete protocol
  – One fellow completed pilot animal studies and about to commence

• All four fellows satisfied with the programme and are optimistic about completion within the allocated time.
THANK YOU
RATIONALE

• Importance of clinical research
• Revitalise clinical research
• Develop the next generation of academic clinicians
• Regain our place as producers of high quality research on important clinical issues
• Increase supervisory capacity around existing clinicians
• Developing teaching competence
CLINICAL RESEARCH ENTITIES

- Medical Entomology and vector control
- Vaccine Preventable diseases
- Cardiovascular Pathophysiology and Genomics research unit
- Mineral metabolism unit
- Carbohydrate and lipid metabolism unit
- Pulmonary infection research unit
- Antiviral Gene therapy unit
- Bone research unit
- Rheumatic disease research unit
- Cell biology unit
- Nephrology research unit
- Ophthalmology research unit
- Reproductive health research unit
- HIV research unit
- Perinatal HIV research unit