

MRC RESEARCH CAPACITY BOOSTED THROUGH EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE

Univeristy of California San Francisco (UCSF) Collaboration

As part of an on-going collaboration partnership between the University of Namibia and the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), the Multidisciplinary Research Centre (MRC) received an equipment donation valued around N\$260,000. This will advance research activities. The laboratory equipment marked the end of two years of work, led by the Ministry of Health and Social Services, together with UCSF, Global Programmes for Research and Training (GPRT) Namibia - alongside partnerships with Namibia Statistics Agency and Namibia Institute of Pathology (NIP) in completing the nationwide Namibia Population-Based HIV Survey (NAMPHIA).

Speaking at the hand-over ceremony, Director of the UCSF Global Health Group's Malaria Elimination Initiative (MEI) and the UCSF's affiliate GPRT Namibia, Professor Roly Gosling, spoke fondly about "building capacity in health research in Namibia" with the donation. Professor Gosling said, "It is with great pleasure that UCSF and GPRT, through its work with the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and UNAM, is able to further cement our relationship."

Receiving the donation, MRC Director, Associate Professor Nelago Indongo, described the "ongoing collaborative research partnership" between UNAM-MRC and UCSF as going from strength to strength, since its inception in 2012. Associate

Professor Indongo said, "The MRC has research activities across the country aiming to improve the wellbeing of people's lives and contributing to building human capacity through postgraduate training." To date, under this partnership, eight Master's level students and one PhD student were trained.

"We are excited to build our laboratory capacity further and we look forward to our students, faculty and national partners making use of these fabulous resources," said an elated Associate Professor Indongo.

The equipment included centrifuges, plate washers, vortexes, incubators, as well as single and multi-channel automated pipettes.



SCHOOL OF NURSING TO HOST FIRST RESEARCH CONFERENCE

To be held for the first time, the School of Nursing Research Conference 2018 slated for the 14th of November, will provide a platform for local, regional and international researchers and clinicians to share their research output in a bid to improve the health outcome of the Namibian population and beyond.

The Research Conference, under the theme: "Trends and challenges in Nursing and healthcare practice: Towards ensuring healthy lives and promotion of well-being for all at all ages (SDG 3)", will be hosted by the School of Nursing in the Faculty of Health Sciences, at the University of Namibia.

Speaking to *Forum Weekly*, Associate Dean of the School of Nursing, Dr Louise Pretorius, accentuated the importance of the Conference: "During the Conference, nursing, public health and allied health researchers and professionals will have an opportunity to interact and foster collaborations that can strengthen their research capacity as individuals, as well as the country in general."

"Practitioners will be exposed to evidence from top class studies, that



will inform and enhance their clinical practice and improve patient outcomes," added Dr Pretorius.

Having the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Honourable Juliet Kavetuna, lined-up to deliver the keynote address, the Research Conference will also see Dr David D. Mphuthi, an outstanding researcher from the University of South Africa, as guest speaker.

The conference organising team are extending a special invitation to nurses, radiographers, public health practitioners and all health professionals locally, regionally and globally to attend and partake in the conference. Abstract submissions are due by the end of August 2018. Detailed information on the Conference will be available on the University website.

RUNDU CAMPUS DONATE TO KASOTE GIRLS DIGNITY



It was all about "girl power" at Kasote Combined School, on the outskirts of Rundu town, when 20 girls aged between 11 and 17 received a supply of sanitary pads from the UNAM Rundu Campus, as part of its community outreach efforts.

Led by the campus Student Counsellor, Ms Melissa Katupao, the Peer Educators Club and the SRC for Gender & Community Development visited the School and had an

intimate session in which they shared info pamphlets on menstruation cycles and personal hygiene.

"The drive aims to keep girls at school during their menstruation time, as some of them often miss school because they cannot afford sanitary pads," explains Ms Katupao. A natural process, taking place because of good reproductive health, disadvantages the girl child in access of education. In efforts to assist with injustices, due to poverty,

the Office of the Dean of Students gathered funds from friends and family.

A hamper with three packs of pads, toothpaste, bar of soap, bathing cloth, body spray and body lotion was packed and distributed to each girl. Members of the Peer Educators and SRC presented the information in English and in Rukwangali, as the parents of the learners also attended the session.