



The Discovery Foundation

A profile of the 2008
Discovery Foundation Awards recipients

Investing in medical education.
Creating a healthier South Africa.

A profile of the 2008 Discovery Foundation Awards recipients



Table of contents	Page
Foreword	2
Vincent Thabane Maphai, Chairperson of the Discovery Foundation	
Overview of the Discovery Foundation Awards	3
The Discovery Foundation is pleased to announce the 2008 Discovery Foundation Awards recipients	4
1. Discovery Foundation Academic Fellowship Awards	5
2. Discovery Foundation Rural Fellowship Awards	9
3. Discovery Foundation Specialist Awards	11
4. Discovery Foundation Excellence Award	13
Discretionary Grant	14

Foreword



Foreword by Vincent Maphai, Chairperson of the Discovery Foundation

Recently, the media has, rightly, focused national attention on the challenges threatening our healthcare sector. While South Africans have every right to be concerned about this precious resource, there are nevertheless many positive stories that must be told. The talent and commitment of our country's top healthcare professionals give us reason to be proud and optimistic; and yet, it is a resource that we need to protect and nurture if we want to see all South Africans enjoy the basic human right to quality healthcare.

While we realise that the greatest need in South Africa is access to primary healthcare, we should also maintain the existing world-class standard of South Africa's specialised healthcare professionals. There are many challenges in this area. Apart from the concentration of skills in urban areas, we are not training sufficient healthcare professionals. We also do not have enough skilled and experienced professionals to teach medical skills. It is critical that we start working towards solutions that will meet these challenges. The Discovery Foundation is one such solution and presents an opportunity to help continue the excellent work of South Africa's doctor-talent.

It has been a year since we introduced the first recipients of the Discovery Foundation. While we will soon celebrate the results of their hard work, we will today celebrate the achievements of a new group of talented healthcare professionals. We were again impressed by the quality of all the candidates' work. Not only will their research address the most important areas of need in South Africa, but it will also make an impact globally.

Under the Discovery Foundation Academic Fellowship Awards, research is being undertaken in diverse fields such as TB diagnostic techniques, neurodegenerative diseases, drug surveillance and adverse drug reactions, diabetes and osteoporosis, reproductive medicine, antiretroviral drugs and haemoglobin disorders, pulmonology, haemopoietic stem cell transplantation and rheumatic heart disease.

The Discovery Foundation Specialist Awards will enable four young medical students to pursue registrar training in surgery, nephrology and radiology. The recipients of the Discovery Foundation Rural Fellowship Awards are all excellent doctors who are committed to providing basic care in rural communities around South Africa. The two institutions that are receiving the Discovery Foundation Excellence Award, have shown excellence in delivering medical services to disadvantaged communities and developing human resources in healthcare.

Please join us in congratulating the 2008 recipients of the Discovery Foundation Awards. We are proud to be partnering with you and wish you well in your chosen fields.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'VT Maphai'.

Vincent Maphai,
Chairperson of the Discovery Foundation

Overview of the 2008 Discovery Foundation Awards



Awards that address areas of greatest need in South Africa's healthcare sector

The Discovery Foundation made 22 awards in four categories aimed at benefiting Academic Medicine, rural healthcare, specialist resources and healthcare service delivery, innovation and training.

The Discovery Foundation Academic Fellowship Awards

This award aims to address shortfalls in medical training in the field of Academic Medicine. It will give the recipient the opportunity to undertake a 12 to 18-month period of full-time study and research for a MMed degree (by dissertation), publish research or undertake research leading to publication, and generally enhance his or her training in a chosen field of specialisation.

During this time, the recipient may choose to spend up to six months at a leading research centre abroad. In general, the candidate will be expected to work full-time on research other than for limited clinical work in an academic setting and may not undertake other employment or private practice during the fellowship.

The Discovery Foundation Rural Fellowship Awards

The purpose of the Discovery Foundation Rural Fellowship Awards is to address the shortage of specialist medical doctors in rural areas. These awards recognise and encourage outstanding medical graduates wishing to specialise in Family Medicine and a career in a rural community.

The Discovery Foundation Specialist Awards

The purpose of the Discovery Foundation Specialist Awards is to address the shortage of black African specialist medical doctors. These awards are intended to encourage outstanding medical graduates to undertake specialist training in disciplines other than Family Medicine.

The Discovery Foundation Excellence Award

The Discovery Foundation Excellence Award aims to boost organisations that demonstrate excellence in service delivery, training and innovation for the benefit of South African healthcare, particularly if they strengthen human resources in the healthcare sector.

Recipients

The Discovery Foundation is pleased to announce the 2008 Discovery Foundation Awards recipients

Discovery Foundation Academic Fellowship Awards

In search of excellence through knowledge

Dr Shahieda Adams

Dr Kathleen Bateman

Dr Rannakoe Lehloenya

Dr Thabo Matsaseng

Dr Vineshree Mischka Moodley

Dr Yagalen Naidoo

Dr Jonathan Peter

Dr Chris Scott

Dr Hannah Motshedisi Sebitloane

Dr Jaimendra Singh

Dr Liesl Zühlke

Discovery Foundation Rural Fellowship Awards

Addressing the most pressing healthcare needs in communities

Dr Laurel Giddy

Dr Phutiane Rapatsa

Dr Yvonne Reece

Dr Johannes Schoevers

Discovery Foundation Specialist Awards

Encouraging our leading experts

Dr Bongani Mbatha

Dr Taalib Teboho Monareng

Dr Tendani Muthambi

Dr Palesa Nkosi

Dr Vincent Sithole

Discovery Foundation Excellence Awards

Service delivery, training and innovation

McCord Hospital

Wits Initiative for Rural Health Education (University of the Witwatersrand)

Discovery Foundation Academic Fellowship Awards



Dr Shahieda Adams (42)

MBChB, University of Cape Town; MFamMed, University of Stellenbosch; Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Health, University of Cape Town; MMed Occupational Medicine, University of Cape Town; Fellow of the College of Public Health Medicine (Occupational Medicine) South Africa

Dr Adams is currently the Senior Registrar in the Occupational and Environmental Health Research Unit at the School of Public Health at the University of Cape Town. She completed her masters degree in Occupational Medicine with distinction and was the first South African to complete a fellowship in Occupational Medicine through the College of Medicine in South Africa. Dr Adams has one first-author publication and will be undertaking a PhD in the public health field. Her proposed study into the early detection of TB infection in healthcare workers in a high HIV-prevalence setting, addresses an important risk factor for South African healthcare workers. Dr Adams' career aspirations are to develop into a mature clinical scientist and independent investigator. She foresees herself in a tenured academic post at a leading academic centre where she will pursue basic science and translational research while also doing consultation in Occupational Medicine.



Dr Kathleen Bateman (32)

MBChB, University of Cape Town; MRCP (UK); Fellow of the College of Neurology (SA)

Dr Bateman is currently the Senior Registrar in Neurology at the Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town. Between 2003 and 2004 she was the Senior House Officer in Respiratory Medicine at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh. Dr Bateman has a strong academic track-record that includes several academic awards and she has also published research findings in the South African Medical Journal. Her proposed research for the degree MSc in Neuroscience will focus on the neurological consequences of primary HIV infection of the brain. As part of her research, Dr Bateman will spend the first six months at the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College in London where she will gain valuable skills for clinical research into neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease and Motor Neurone Disease. She intends to complete a PhD in due course. Dr Bateman's career aspirations are to take up a specialist post as a clinical neurologist and neuroscience researcher at the University of Cape Town.



Dr Rannakoe Lehloeny (40)

BSc, University of Lesotho; MBChB, Medunsa; Fellow of the College of Dermatologists, South Africa.

Dr Lehloeny is currently a Registrar at the Division of Dermatology in the Department of Medicine at the Groote Schuur Hospital at the University of Cape Town. He has worked in private practice and was also the Principal Medical Officer and Head of Clinical Services at the Mafube-Tokollo Hospital Complex in the Free State. Dr Lehloeny is currently busy with a MMed degree and his dissertation will focus on determining whether patch testing can be used to determine causative agents of severe cutaneous adverse drug reactions in a Sub-Saharan population. His field of study is extremely important in the South African context, given the high level of use of TB drugs and other agents directed at infectious diseases. He has been invited to participate in a symposium of the European Registry of Severe Cutaneous Adverse Reactions that is devoted to drug surveillance, aspects of pharmacovigilance, pharmacoepidemiology, mortality and prognostic factors of severe cutaneous adverse drug reactions. He is also a member of the international group RegiSCAR. Dr Lehloeny will complete his PhD at the University of Cape Town where his career aspirations include heading up a research and academic unit. His doctoral research will investigate the aetiologic, pathogenic and pharmacogenomics of the South African population who develop severe cutaneous adverse drug reactions.



Dr Thabo Matsaseng (33)

MBChB, University of Natal; Fellow of the College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of South Africa

Dr Matsaseng is currently the Senior Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Lower Umfolozi District War Memorial Hospital in Empangeni. He has worked as the Registrar in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Durban and also consults privately on a limited basis. Dr Matsaseng has published research in the International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and has received several awards during his academic career. He has been accepted as a fellow in a two-year sub-specialist training programme in Reproductive Medicine at the University of Stellenbosch where he will evaluate the role of two-dimensional ultrasound versus hysteroscopy in uterine anomalies assessment.

Dr Matsaseng's career aspirations are to develop a reproductive centre servicing patients in rural KwaZulu-Natal. He will also continue training registrars on a rotational basis at the Lower Umfolozi District War Memorial Hospital and will continue contributing to Academic Medicine and research in this field. His training as a specialist in Reproductive Medicine will be invaluable in KwaZulu-Natal as there are currently no black qualified reproductive medicine specialists in this area.



Dr Vineshree Mischka Moodley (30)

MBChB Summa cum laude, University of Natal; MMed Pathology (Medical Microbiology), University of Cape Town

Dr Moodley is currently a Registrar in Medical Microbiology at the National Health Laboratory Services at the University of Cape Town. She is currently completing the MMed degree in Pathology (Medical Microbiology). During her strong academic career, Dr Moodley has received several awards and scholarships. She plans to complete a PhD where she will investigate the various novel diagnostic techniques that have been developed for tuberculosis, and apply them to an African setting to potentially develop diagnostic algorithms to improve not only the time to diagnosis, but also the sensitivity and efficacy of the tests used. The research could have a major impact in assisting clinicians in making a more rapid diagnosis and hence allow for earlier start of treatment.

Her career aspirations are to head up a unit in the field of infectious disease research and to contribute to future relevant research that will improve the morbidity and mortality caused by infectious diseases.



Dr Yagalen Naidoo (30)

MBChB, University of Transkei; Diploma in Anaesthetics, College of Medicine (South Africa)

Dr Naidoo is currently the Registrar at the Department of Haematology at the University of Pretoria. He is registered to complete the MMed degree in Haematology and a post-graduate diploma in Transfusion Medicine. He has co-published research findings on fungi in the peripheral blood as well as a case report on Niemann-Pick Disease. His research towards the MMed degree focuses on the reference range of haemoglobin A² levels in HIV-infected patients before and after treatment with HAART. His research will be beneficial in determining the effects that different regimens of HAART used in South African National Antiretroviral Guidelines have on making a diagnosis of inherited haemoglobin disorders. Dr Naidoo is keenly interested in clinical and laboratory medicine and his career aspiration is to pursue a career in research and to contribute to Academic Medicine.

Discovery Foundation Academic Fellowship Awards Continued



Dr Jonathan Peter (30)

MBChB, University of Cape Town, Training member of the College of Physicians (SA)

Dr Peter is currently a Registrar in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Cape Town. He is registered for an MMed degree at the University of Cape Town and is also working as a full-time clinician at the Groote Schuur Hospital. Dr Peter has received numerous awards and scholarships during his academic career and published his first case report in the CME SA Journal in 2007. He has done research at the University of San Francisco, California where he worked on a project researching the immunological responses to spinal cord injury and the effects of the experimental steroid DHEA. His research to obtain the MMed degree, focuses on the use of sputum induction and novel diagnostic tests in the diagnosis of tuberculosis in a tertiary care hospital in Cape Town. Dr Peter's career aspirations are to pursue sub-specialist training in pulmonology, and to be involved in translational research in the field of respiratory medicine.



Dr Chris Scott (33)

MBChB, University of Orange Free State, Fellow of College of Paediatricians, South Africa

Dr Scott is currently completing a fellowship in Paediatric Rheumatology at the University Hospital Leuven in Belgium with Prof Carine Wouters, a leader in this field. He was a Registrar in Paediatrics at the Red Cross Children's Hospital and also worked in neonatology and paediatrics in London – giving him invaluable experience in a first and third-world setting. He has also completed courses in Advanced Paediatric Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Advanced Trauma Life Support. Dr Scott has co-published several papers and presented at national and international congresses. His specific area of interest is Paediatric Rheumatology with an emphasis on Paediatric Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. Dr Scott's training in this sub-specialty will be invaluable for children suffering from these diseases in South Africa as there is a shortage of paediatric rheumatologists, with no formal training opportunities. There is an enormous development of diagnostic and therapeutic modalities in this field which requires highly specialised training. His career aspirations are to undergo world-class training that will allow him to improve the care of patients in South Africa, and to advance the knowledge base in this insufficiently studied field. Dr Scott's long-term goal is to assist in future efforts to develop the care of children with rheumatic diseases and to help to establish Paediatric Rheumatology training in South Africa.



Dr Hannah Motshedisi Sebitloane (40)

MBChB, University of Natal; Fellow of the College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of South Africa

Dr Sebitloane is currently the Principal Specialist at the King Edward VIII Hospital in Durban and is also a lecturer at the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal. She has registered for the MMed degree at the University of Natal. Dr Sebitloane has also served on the provincial PMTCT and ARV task teams and acts as a consultant on the National Guidelines for the management of HIV and pregnant women. She has also published research findings and case reports in several peer-reviewed publications. Dr Sebitloane is the principal investigator and co-investigator in several research projects on HIV and antiretroviral treatment for women. Her proposed research for the degree MMed focuses on maternal and infant outcomes to subsequent antiretroviral drugs in HIV-infected pregnant women with previous exposure to single-dose Nevirapine. The study will serve as a pilot project in South Africa and will assist policy makers in making the decision whether routine resistance testing is necessary for patients enrolled on the ARV programme. It will also assist clinicians in the choice of ARVs. Dr Sebitloane's career aspirations are to continue her career in Academic Medicine while also influencing the clinical management of HIV-infected patients with evidence-based research.



Dr Jaimendra Singh (33)

MBChB, University of Natal; Fellow of College of Physicians of South Africa; Certificate in Clinical Haematology (SA)

Dr Singh is currently the Senior Registrar at the Department of Clinical Haematology at the University of Cape Town and the bone marrow transplant coordinator at the Grootte Schuur Hospital. He has received several awards during his academic career including the Suzman Gold Medal for the best candidate in the Fellowship of College of Physicians of South Africa. He is currently registered for the MPhil degree at the University of Cape Town as part of his sub-specialist training in the field of Clinical Haematology and haemopoietic stem cell transplantation. His research project will attempt to identify treatment that could reduce the occurrence of graft-versus-host effect while maintaining the graft-versus-tumour-effect in patients who have had haemopoietic stem cell transplants, in order to improve morbidity and mortality of patients. His career aspirations are to establish a much-needed Bone Marrow Transplant Unit in Durban at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine at the University of Natal, and to continue researching novel techniques of transplantation that will put South Africa at the forefront of transplantation.



Dr Liesl Zühlke (39)

MBChB, University of Cape Town; Fellow of the College of Paediatricians of South Africa; Certificate in Paediatric Cardiology, South Africa; Diploma in Child Health, South Africa; Certificate in Cardiology (Paediatrics), South Africa.

Dr Zühlke is a qualified paediatric cardiologist and is currently a senior specialist in paediatric cardiology at the Department of Paediatric Care at the Red Cross and Tygerberg Children's hospitals. She has extensive international experience in paediatric cardiology and has presented research at several congresses and research days. Dr Zühlke is currently registered for the degree M.Phil and her research seeks to determine the prevalence of rheumatic heart disease in school children in the Vanguard Population in Cape Town, South Africa. It forms part of a surveillance component of the A.S.A.P. programme that was initiated by the Pan African Society of Cardiology. The programme concentrates on raising awareness about heart disease through improving the quality of information available on the incidence, prevalence and burden of disease through epidemiological surveillance. Dr Zühlke's career aspirations are to complete a PhD and to follow a career in Academic Medicine, thereby contributing to a broader academic network in the area of paediatric cardiology – an area of great need in South Africa with only 10 registered sub-specialists in the public sector.

Discovery Foundation Rural Fellowship Awards



Dr Laurel Giddy (40)

MBBCh, University of Witwatersrand

Dr Giddy is currently the Principal Medical Officer at the Knysna HAART (Highly Active Anti Retroviral Therapy) Clinic, the largest ARV rollout site within the Department of Health's network of clinics, in the Southern Cape. She is currently enrolled for her fourth year of study for the degree Mfam Med at the University of Stellenbosch. Her proposed thesis will focus on how the current ARV rollout programme meets the needs and expectations of employers in South Africa. She is also planning to complete a diploma in HIV/AIDS Management through the University of Stellenbosch. Dr Giddy has developed a number of presentations on HIV and AIDS and does extensive training and outreach in communities to both nurses and doctors. Her particular interests are the long-term maintenance of patients on ARVs, paediatric HIV management, the use of experienced patients for the delivery of care, the development of work-based ARV services and the development of nurse-driven services.



Dr Phutiane Rapatsa (30)

MBChB, University of Cape Town

Dr Rapatsa is currently a Principal Medical Officer at the Isilimela District Hospital in Port St Johns and he specialises in Family Medicine. He is enrolled for his fourth year for the degree MMed (Family Medicine) through the University of Pretoria. Dr Rapatsa has completed courses in Basic Surgery Skills, Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support, HIV/AIDS Clinical Management Programme and Advanced Trauma Life Support. He believes that specialisation in Family Medicine will equip him with the required knowledge and skills to provide appropriate comprehensive primary healthcare to individuals and communities. Dr Rapatsa also hopes to learn analytical skills that will enable him to help manage health systems effectively in the communities that he serves. His career aspirations are to undertake research in primary healthcare and by doing so, contribute towards the academic development of the discipline of Family Medicine and the entrenchment of its special clinical method and practice.



Dr Yvonne Reece (32)

MBChB, University of Cape Town, Diploma of Child Health (South Africa)

Dr Reece is currently a Chief Medical Officer at the Mosvold Hospital in Ingwavuma in KwaZulu-Natal. She will be doing a MMed in Family Medicine through the Nelson R Mandela medical school at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and will be based at the Mosvold Hospital. As a physician at the Mosvold Hospital that serves a rural population of 105 000 patients, she is very capable in practising general medicine; including surgery, anaesthetics, adult and paediatric medicine and obstetrics. Paediatrics is a particular field of interest to her, and during the last year she has worked at improving neonatal care at the hospital. She has developed protocols for the nursery and trains nursery staff, nurses and medical students. Dr Reece is motivated to become a better all-round healthcare provider and to improve her skills in all aspects of clinical care.



Dr Johannes Schoevers (31)

MBChB, University of Stellenbosch

Dr Schoevers is currently a Chief Medical Officer at the Manguzi Hospital in KwaZulu-Natal where he specialises in Family Medicine. His particular interest is to improve the quality of healthcare in rural communities where there is a great need for basic healthcare. After finishing university, he started an annual community project in Msinga, a rural area in KwaZulu-Natal. He focused on medical and dental care, as well as building projects, life skills programmes and income generation as a way of empowering the community. Dr Schoevers will be doing a MMed in Family Medicine to specialise as a Family Physician. This will enable him to bring quality healthcare closer to rural patients and to equip junior doctors and nurses to continue with good quality care for patients. His career aspirations are to continue serving a rural community and to implement new protocols that will benefit the public healthcare system.

Discovery Foundation Specialist Awards



Dr Bongani Mbatha (28)

MBBCh, University of Witwatersrand

Dr Mbatha is currently a junior Registrar in the Department of Surgery at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital. He was a senior Medical Officer in the Department of Surgery at the Sebokeng Hospital. His particular field of interest is surgery and he intends to specialise further in General Surgery and Trauma and has already completed a course in Basic Surgical Skills and Intermediate Laparoscopy. Dr Mbatha completed his internship at Natal Spruit Hospital and worked as a community service doctor at the Sebokeng Hospital.



Dr Taalib Teboho Monareng (37)

MBBCh, University of Witwatersrand

Dr Monareng is currently a junior Registrar in General Surgery at Wits University. He is doing a rotation in surgical Gastroenterology at Johannesburg Hospital. He has completed his Bachelor degree in dentistry at Medunsa before completing a Bachelor degree in Medicine and Surgery. Dr Monareng has also completed Part 1 of his training at the College of Surgeons (South Africa). His goal is to specialise in general surgery.



Dr Tendani Muthambi (28)

MBBCh, University of Witwatersrand

Dr Muthambi is currently a Community Service Doctor at the Helen Joseph Hospital in Gauteng where he worked in renal medicine as part of his community service rotation. He has completed the Advanced Cardiac Life Support training and Basic Medical Emergency Training. His goal is to specialise as a physician and to further pursue a career as a nephrologist physician. In future, he would like to establish a renal centre that would specialise in dialysis and the training of nursing staff to provide excellent renal patient care and education.



Dr Palesa Nkosi (32)

BSc, University of the Western Cape; BSc (Honours Physiology), University of the Western Cape, MBChB, University of Cape Town

Dr Nkosi is currently a Senior Medical Officer at the Sebokeng Hospital where she works in the Department of Surgery. She also supervises and teaches junior doctors. Dr Nkosi also completed the Advanced Trauma Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Surgical Skills and Advanced Life Support courses. Dr Nkosi was involved in a review on a modified technique of Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastostomy which was presented at the SAGES Conference in 2007. The findings of the review were published in the South African Medical Journal. Her career aspirations are to specialise further in general surgery.



Dr Nhlanhla Sithole (28)

MBBCh, University of Witwatersrand

Dr Sithole is currently a Registrar at the Department of Radiology at the Johannesburg Hospital. He completed his internship at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital and his community service at the Helen Joseph Hospital where he worked in casualty and urology, the HIV and infectious disease clinic and internal medicine. Dr Sithole will specialise further in radiology.

Discovery Foundation Excellence Award



McCord Hospital

The McCord Hospital was established in 1909 in Durban and offers subsidised medical healthcare and training of healthcare professionals. It receives an average of 14 000 outpatient visits each month and has a 187-bed capacity. Apart from offering a wide range of inpatient, outpatient and other healthcare services, the McCord Hospital is also a well-known accredited training site for nurses, doctors and midwives. It has been providing antiretroviral drugs since 1999 and was accredited as an ART-rollout site in 2006, providing a number of HIV and AIDS programmes. It is also known internationally for its innovative approach for HIV care and research, with research partners such as the Harvard Medical School and the AIDS Research Centre in Massachusetts. There are currently over 20 research projects underway at the hospital.

With increased demand for its services, and pressure on limited resources, the hospital has identified the need to expand its medical facilities, HIV and Research centre, and its medical training programmes. The hospital will also establish an educational centre. The Discovery Foundation Excellence Award will complement McCord's Investment in Excellence programme – a targeted human resource development programme aimed at equipping medical personnel with management and leadership skills to effectively manage the expansion of medical services, reduce staff turnover, improve productivity and improve patient care.

Wits Initiative for Rural Health Education (University of the Witwatersrand)



The Wits Initiative for Rural Health Education (WIRHE) is a programme launched in 2003 within the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of the Witwatersrand. Its purpose is to recruit disadvantaged students from rural areas into the health sciences and to support them towards becoming healthcare professionals. WIRHE aims to address personnel shortages in targeted areas and to provide a model for addressing the workforce shortages in rural areas. The programme particularly supports rural students from the North West province. With a population of 2,4 million people, of whom over 65% live in rural areas, the North West province has the lowest doctor-population and other health professional-population ratios in the country.

Scholarships are offered to students in collaboration with the North West Department of Health. Students are chosen by district-based committees on the basis of their human resource needs. They have to work in their districts during vacations and serve that district on completion of their studies. Key features of WIRHE include partnership with government, the establishment of local selection committees, signed contracts between students and local structures (community or health committees), an ongoing relationship between students and the hospital in the area they come from through vacation work, support of students during training, and a commitment to a year-by-year service pay-back by students.

Discretionary Grant



To strengthen Academic Medicine and specialist training

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa

The Discovery Foundation has made a discretionary grant to the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa in support of a project aimed at strengthening Academic Medicine and specialist training in South Africa. The project flows from an industry-wide forum discussion in 2007 to determine the strategic issues that affect Academic Medicine and specialist training in South Africa, and solutions to meet these challenges. Industry stakeholders all agreed that Academic Medicine in South Africa urgently requires support and increased funding to ensure that the public and private healthcare sectors can meet the healthcare needs of all South Africans. The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa agreed to facilitate the process to research and develop proposals, and to assist in the implementation of agreed deliverables.

The five-year project aims at:

- Assessing specialist needs in South Africa
- Establishing a policy forum to develop and review strategies
- Forming technical committees and task teams
- Commissioning research
- Developing and building leadership within the profession.

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa was founded in 1955 with the purpose of establishing and maintaining a national standard of competence for specialists in all branches of medicine and dentistry. The College provides examinations that test the competencies of candidates in all specialties and sub-specialties recognised by the Health Professions Council of South Africa. The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa is unique as it is the only college in the world that includes all medical and dental specialties. Its mission is to sustain and improve post-graduate medical education and training in Southern Africa, and to play a role in providing guidance on issues that affect medical standards and the structure and function of healthcare services.



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