

5. DEVELOPMENT & UPDATING OF CURRICULA OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT-RELATED PROFESSIONALS

5.1 Eighteenth Annual Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology

The 18TH Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) was held in Paris, France, from September 2 to 6, 2006, and was attended by more than 1 400 delegates. It was held jointly with the International Society of Exposure Analysis (ISEA). The conference venue was the Cite des Sciences et de L'Industrie Congress Centre. The French Agency for the Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (Afsset), its institutional partners and conference sponsors hosted the conference.

Angela Mathee and Halina Röllin, who had been on the organizing committee for the previous ISEE conference held in Johannesburg during September 2005, attended the 18th Annual ISEE conference in Paris.

5.2 Module on Environmental Health at the Wits School of Public Health

Angela Mathee coordinated a module on environmental health for students undertaking the Masters in Public Health programme at the Wits School of Public Health. The course was attended by students from the public health system (middle and senior management), the private sector, research organizations and non-governmental organizations. Two thirds of the students are South African, just under one-third are from countries elsewhere in Africa (in the current years students from Nigeria, Botswana, Kenya and Lesotho attended the course), and a small proportion

from the United States of America, the United Kingdom and other European countries.

The course is taught mainly by Centre staff, including from the MRC, UJ and the Wits SPH. An evaluation showed that the course was very well received, with several requests for expansion over a longer period.

5.3 Revised Edition of the Epidemiology Manual for South Africa

The popular Epidemiology Manual for South Africa, for which the MRC holds copyright, is to be revised for publication in 2007. Angie Mathee was invited to write the chapter on Environmental Epidemiology for the revised version, which is being edited by Drs Rodney Ehrlich and Gina Joubert.

5.4 Environmental Health Internships for Registrars from the Wits School of Public Health

The placement at the Medical Research Council, for periods of around six months, of Registrars from the Wits School of Public Health in order to gain experience in environmental health research and other initiatives, continued over the past year. This initiative was implemented in order to help meet the environmental health requirements for their specialist qualification in Public Health. Drs Roxy Jina and LeeGale Adonis worked on the HEAD study and the development of Children's Environmental Health information materials for distribution throughout Africa (section 3.1).

