

DISCUSSION

presentation of HEAD study findings to the local community, the Ward Councillor (Fahdiel Moosa) arranged a presentation to the responsible Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC), Councillor Matshidiso Mfikoe. She suggested, and offered to arrange, a presentation to a cross-sectoral workshop of joint meeting of multiple local government sectors. A briefing statement has been submitted to her office to support this process.

6. OTHER ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

6.1 Development Partnership for Higher Education (DeLPHE)

Thea de Wet (UJ), Angela Mathee (MRC) and Trudy Harpham (LSBU) were successful in a grant application to the United Kingdom Department for International Development's (DFID) DeLPHE programme (managed by the British Council). The application was built around the themes of capacity development (especially at doctoral level), publications (with a focus on the HEAD and Johannesburg Livelihoods studies) and research

translation (through key meeting with the City of Johannesburg). This is a three-year initiative, now in its second year. The funding will be used to ensure regular meetings of the three applicants to jointly supervise students, increase the rate of publications and conduct research translation workshops and meetings with urban health and development stakeholders in Johannesburg and elsewhere.

6.2 Professorial Appointments

During the past year Dr Angela Mathee was appointed Visiting Professor within the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand, and subsequently also as Associate Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Dr Halina Rollin was appointed as a Visiting Professor at the University of Pretoria.



7. DISCUSSION

Over the past five years, the HEAD study has continued to act as a vehicle around which to build the WHOCCUH as a strong and productive partnership. The HEAD study is now also starting to yield dividends in terms of the generation of urban environment and health data towards a more detailed, household level understanding of the needs and challenges faced in settings of poverty. Now that three years of urban environment and health data have been collected in the five study sites, the foundation has been laid for the analysis of development and health trends, and for statistical analyses of an increasingly sophisticated and in-depth nature.

Further components and tools are being added to the HEAD study portfolio, to grow the potential for more meaningful analyses and interpretation of the findings. For example GIS software, training and support has been purchased with a view to developing capacity for spatial analyses of the study findings.



DISCUSSION

The WHOCCUH has continued to provide important research capacity development opportunities for doctoral, Masters and undergraduate students.

The WHOCCUH has also started to demonstrate a higher level of success in respect of the translation of its research into policy and action. For example the participation of the Parks department of the municipalities of Johannesburg, Tshwane and Ekurhuleni in the study of the prevalence of lead-based paint in children's playgrounds, is leading to a process within the council systems that will hopefully culminate in the short term in the banning of lead paint in children's programmes in the three municipalities and elsewhere. The registration of the Riverlea Development Trust, aimed at responding directly to local issues of concern emanating from the HEAD study is a further milestone development.

The standing of the four partner organizations, as well as our growing network of contacts, is playing a key role in facilitating

direct contact with key decision makers and points of influence for the communication of WHOCCUH project and research findings. For example, through the Wits School of Public Health and the UJ Faculty of Health Sciences, the WHOCCUH is being kept abreast of developments within the Gauteng Urban Observatory, and increasing the potential for its involvement in this important initiative. Also, the rather alarming findings from the doctoral research on mercury exposure in communities living around the Inanda Dam could be communicated directly to the Minister of Health through the offices of the MRC President.

As highlighted by previous advisory panels, the publications track record of the WHOCCUH continues to require attention, in terms of both the number and sophistication of outputs. In this regard, a good start has been made with the drafting of a joint methodological publication on the lessons learned through implementation of HEAD study fieldwork. However, further opportunities need to be created, and capacity (especially

statistical and project management support) needs to be developed to enable an escalation of analyses and publications, especially more detailed and sophisticated interrogation of the growing dataset.

All WHOCCUH accomplishments since its initiation have been achieved without any dedicated staff members and with relatively small financial and in-kind contributions from its partner organizations. These factors represent the main limits to increased future productivity and relevance of the WHOCCUH at a time of key change within the Gauteng region, especially the formation of the Gauteng City Region. For example, following the past five-year period of relatively rapid growth and transformation within the WHOCCUH, outputs have now started to level off. With a review of the WHOCCUH expected to take place in 2010, the next year is an especially opportune and critical time for the WHOCCUH to reflect on the achievements and areas of weakness of the recent past, and make important decisions to guide activities over the next five years.



DISCUSSION

Most importantly the specific role of the WHOCCUH, and the scope of its activities, should be clearly defined. These issues need to be placed high on the agenda of the forthcoming strategic planning meeting of the WHOCCUH.

Any plans for further expansion or scaling up of the activities of the WHOCCUH cannot be supported by the existing human resource and funding arrangements. Such plans for growth will need to be attached to the identification of funding and other resources to support the appointment of critical staff (especially a statistician and a programme coordinator) and

key programmes. Nevertheless, discussions have been initiated, and have progressed well in respect of having the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (the boundaries of the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality and the City of Johannesburg are contiguous, and the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality is home to more than 2.5 million people) join the WHOCCUH, and adding additional sites from that area to the HEAD study. In this regard, fifteen Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality Environmental Health Practitioners participated in the training 2008 training programme, as a means of

familiarizing themselves with the fundamentals of the HEAD study, and in anticipation of their deeper involvement in the HEAD study in 2009.

In summary the WHOCCUH has reached a limiting point in terms of its ability to scale up its outputs and capacity to meaningfully inform development decisions in settings of urban impoverishment in South Africa and other developing countries. The decisions and choices made by the WHOCCUH over the next year will be critical in this regard.



ANNEXURE ONE

Advisory Panel Members

ADVISORY PANEL 2008

| NAME | INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Professor Trudy Harpham (chairperson) | London South Bank University |
| Mr Bennet Asia | National Department of Health |
| Professor Petro Terblanche | South African Medical Research Council |
| Professor Sharon Fonn | University of the Witwatersrand |
| Councillor Mfikoe | City of Johannesburg |
| Dr Tim Wilson | CIET |
| Ms Jackie Friedenthal | Department of Science and Technology |
| Dr Stella Anyangwe | WHO-South Africa |
| CEO | South African Cities Network |

ADVISORY PANEL - 2007

| NAME | INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION |
|----------------------------|--|
| Professor Trudy Harpham | London South Bank University |
| Professor Anthony Mbewu | South African Medical Research Council |
| Mr Bennet Asia | National Department of Health |
| Professor Petro Terblanche | South African Medical Research Council |
| Professor Sharon Fonn | University of the Witwatersrand |

ADVISORY PANEL - 2006

| NAME | INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION |
|-------------------------|---|
| Dr Thuthula Balfour | Development Bank of Southern Africa |
| Professor Trudy Harpham | South Bank University, London |
| Dr Ram Saloojee | Gauteng Legislature - Portfolio Committee on Health |
| Dr Tim Wilson | |



ANNEXURE TWO

– List of Publications & Outputs

De Wet T. Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Health and Well-being: The Johannesburg Livelihoods Study - Extended conference abstract in Milne R et al (2007) *Unhealthy Professional Boundaries? Working together in Health and Social Care*. Faculty of Health and Social Care at St

George's, University of London: London. ISBN: 978-0-9549890-8-8.

Feit M, Mathee A, Harpham T, Barnes B, Lyons M. Reducing Child Lead Exposure: Behavioural Interventions in Johannesburg (Draft Research Brief).

Haman T, Mathee A, Swart A, Barnes B, Mogotsi M. Low Levels of Awareness of Lead Hazards among Pregnant Women in Johannesburg (Draft Research Brief).

Mathee A, Harpham T, Barnes B, Swart A, Naidoo S, de Wet T, Becker P. Inequity in Poverty: The Challenge for Public Health in Johannesburg. Submitted to Development Southern Africa.

Mathee A, Harpham T, Naicker N, Barnes B, Plagerson S, Feit M, Swart A, Naidoo S. Overcoming Fieldwork Challenges in Urban Health Research in Developing Countries. Drafted for the International Journal of Social Research Methodology.

Mathee A, Harpham T, Swart A, Naidoo S. Alignment of Health Services with ill Health Profiles in an Increasingly Urban World: A Role for Healthy Cities/Settings in South Africa? Draft Research Brief.

Mathee A, Mogotsi M, Feit M, Spadoni R, Timothy G. The Use of

Lead-Based Paint on Playground Equipment in Public Parks – Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni and Tshwane (Draft Research Brief).

Montgomery M, Mathee A, Feit M. Investigation of Sources and Mechanisms of Exposure amongst Johannesburg School Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels. Drafted for Health South Africa.

Mathee A. The Environment and Health in the first decade of the Birth to Twenty Cohort. Draft for new BTT book.

Papu V, Mathee A, Harpham T, Röllin H, Barnes B, Lyons M, Jordaan W, Cloete M. A Study of Human Exposure to Mercury in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa.



ANNEXURE THREE

– Project Budgets & Sources of Funding

| PROJECT WORKING TITLE | APPROXIMATE COST (Rands) | SOURCE OF FUNDING/IN-KIND SUPPORT |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| The HEAD study | 300 000 | DST, MRC, UJ, Wits |
| DeLPHE | (over 3 years) 600 000 | DFID (managed by the British Council) |
| Lead Poisoning Prevention: TIPS | 10 000 | MRC |
| Mercury Exposure Study – Bloemfontein | 150 000 | DST |
| Persistent Toxic Substances study | 400 000 | University of Tromsø & Arctic Monitoring & Assessment Program |
| DDT Study | 1 100 000 | Norway-DST Bilateral Research Agreement |
| 2007 Blood Lead Survey | 600 000 | MRC/DME |
| CEH Information Materials | 80 000 | WHO-AFRO |
| TOTAL | R3 255 000 | |



ANNEXURE FOUR

– Scenes from the Field Test of CEH Materials

