

# editorial



## Introduction

This is the first issue of a newsletter for the Directorate of Informatics & Knowledge Management, to be issued three times a year. The name, 'Umyezo', is an isiXhosa word meaning 'orchard'. The symbolism of an orchard is richness and abundance, and the abundance is that of something worthy and of value. So whenever we think of this Directorate and its people we think of it as being indispensable and worthwhile as far as the activities of the MRC and the research world are concerned. If it has not yet had that kind of value for our community, then efforts such as the publication of this newsletter and others are a way of strengthening these efforts and filling in any gaps.

The objective of the Umyezo newsletter is to build a strong, positive message about the services and activities of the Informatics & Knowledge Management Directorate (IKMD). At the same time it will serve as a communication and image-building tool. Through this IKM mouthpiece we hope to contribute to building a better understanding and appreciation of the work at IKMD, including health informatics and knowledge management. This Directorate is pivotal to the health research activities of the MRC as a world-class organisation. Through Umyezo the MRC National Research Programmes will be able to utilise IKMD services and resources to their best advantage.

This first edition will lay the foundation of future issues/editions by introducing the structure of the Directorate, and formally introducing staff and the newly appointed Executive Manager, Dr Nolwazi Mbananga. Dr Mbananga shares her wisdom about informatics and knowledge management in the feature article. The various Divisions in the Directorate each give an outline of their services. We are also showcasing the new Division of Web Technologies and activities that impact a great deal on improving and strengthening the MRC research systems.

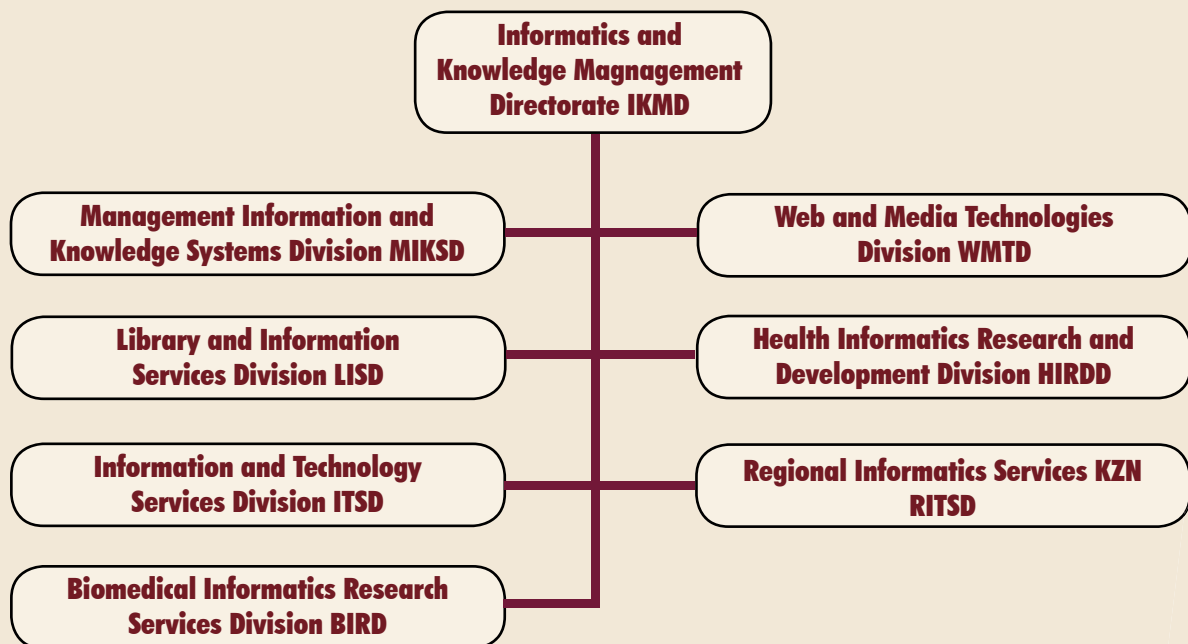
I hope that this creates some awareness in the desired/strategic areas. Of course we welcome any criticism and comments, since we believe that such inputs will help us to share holistically, and to grow from here.

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# What IS INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT (IKM)?

IKM is defined as a set of organisational processes that create and transfer information and knowledge that support the attainment of research and organisational goals.

## ORGANOGRAM OF IKMD



## IKMD GOALS

- Develop and transform the MRC into one of the world-leading knowledge-based organisations
- Disseminate scientific health information to advance the achievement of 'Building a Healthy Nation'
- Create a seamless organisation to entrench transparency, accountability and governance
- Inform policy-making within the organisation and stakeholders
- Create capacity in the area of informatics and knowledge