

Telemedicine Newsletter

January 2009

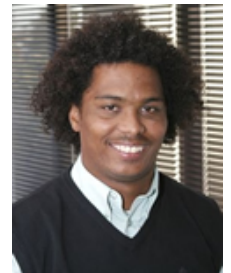
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Welcome to the new staff

Ashley Bess rejoins the Telemedicine Platform

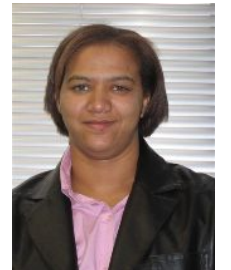
After his contract came to an end in May 2008, he moved over to HIRD to assist Lyn Hanmer with research work for 4 months until the end of September. He applied for the position of Telemedicine Research Technologist and was successful in his application and rejoined the Telemedicine Platform on the 1st October 2008.



Also joining the team is Telemedicine Research Technologist: Ms Muriel Koopman

Muriel has experience in web graphic design and web related support. Her excellent administration and finances skills are vital to the efficient research and project related functions of the Telemedicine Platform. Her role in the platform is to provide research and project support.

Muriel is a hard working person who always goes the extra mile to ensure quality and efficiency. She is ambitious and aspires to do further studies related to telemedicine.



SA / China Collaboration

Brief Introduction

The training workshop was attended by 26 International delegates from countries like South Africa, Nepal, Pakistan, Vietnam, Cambodia and Mongolia. There were 18 South African delegates presenting the Provinces of the Western Cape, North West Province, Mpumalanga, Free-State, Gauteng, Kwazulu-Natal and Limpopo, all with various expectations and experiences.



The purpose of the training was to assist the participants to master the theory and operating skills on modern Telemedicine technology and applications and to better their understanding of the new developments and achievements of implementing Telemedicine in China and abroad.

A few delegates listed their expectations of the training in a session with the MD of SUNPA Image Tel Tech CO. LTD. Mr Lui Yong: These expectations of the training included learning how to successfully setup a Telemedicine Center, What the critical elements are when planning to implement a new Telemedicine Center and also how to maintain and sustain Telemedicine equipment and where and how SUNPA will assist in the maintenance of equipment.



There were various presentations on many Telemedicine Cases, equipment and also visits to Telemedicine Centers in hospitals such as the Yunan First People's Hospital, The Dali Telemedicine Sub center at the Dali Hospital and The First Affiliated Hospital of Kunming Medical College.

The delegates also had a chance to practically test the following workstations:

The Tele-Consultations(Multi-Point), where live consultations was done connecting the classroom to the Guangzhou Sub Center, Tele-Radiology where one of the delegates performed an ultrasound on another delegate, and the class could watch it live, there was also a live demonstration done on the Tele-Dermatology.



Dr. Moretlo Molefi and Ms. Jill Fortuin both visited China and SUNPA on a more strategic level as well as SITA representatives, Deon Nel and Dr. Antonio Fernandez, whose visit was more technically related.

Conclusion

The following leaders conducted the ceremony Mr. Chung Yong Taek the Chinese Ambassador to South Africa, Mr. Xiao Yi from the Ministry of Science and Technology Department, Dr. Wang Cui from the International Communication Center of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Mr. Bruce Wells from SUNPA. Dr Azeema Fareed from Pakistan represented the delegates and delivered a closing speech on behalf of the delegates.

Telemedicine Platform

What is Telemedicine

Telemedicine is the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to provide and support healthcare activities, when distance separates the participants.

Vision of Telemedicine Platform

To become the research and development centre of excellence, providing ICT solutions for the delivery of healthcare to all.

Mission

To provide ICT solutions for healthcare delivery to all. We will achieve this mission by:

1. Performing Research and Development
2. Focusing on Primary Healthcare Telemedicine
3. Translating Telemedicine into practical applications
4. Transferring Telemedicine skills to Healthcare Practitioners
5. Disseminating and sharing of research findings
6. Forging productive and strategic partnerships
7. Marketing and changing mindsets with regards to approach to Healthcare

Telemedicine Platform Unit Profile

The Unit is headed by Jill Fortuin as Acting Director of the Unit and assisting her in two Research Assistant positions are newly joined Muriel Koopman and Ashley Bess who has also rejoined the unit since 01 October 2008. Consultants for the unit are former Director of the Telemedicine Unit Dr Moretlo Molefi and Dr Sinclair Wynchank who is also adding incredible value to the Telemedicine Platform. The unit is finally taking shape again and is full of new ideas and energy to achieve their goals by providing quality healthcare to the people in remote sites across South Africa.

A brief introduction as to where the Telemedicine Platform fits in within the MRC; it falls under the umbrella of the newly formed eHealth Research and Innovation Platform which consists of the four combined units, Web Media and Technology Division (WMTD), Health Informatics Research Division (HIRD), Bio Informatics Research Division (BIRD) and the Telemedicine Platform. The eHRIP unit is under the supervision of newly appointed Acting Director Prof Tony Bunn whom is also the Director of the Innovation Centre. All of these Divisions and Units are under the Technology and Innovation Directorate and reports to Prof Petro Terblanche.

Conferences, Courses and Training Opportunities for 2009

Home Telehealth and Remote Patient Monitoring For
Hospitals and Health Systems
Philadelphia, U.S.A.
<http://www.acius.net/>
(21.01. - 23.01.2009)

World Health Care Congress
Europe 2009
Brussels, Belgium
<Http://www.worldcongress.com/europe>
(13.05. - 14.05.2009)

3rd Intensive Balkan Telemedicine and eHealth Seminar
Skopjê, Macedonia
<http://www.iveh.org/seminars.htm>
(06.02. - 07.02.2009)

Medical Informatics and eHealth ICICIS 2009
Cairo, Egypt
<http://www.icicis.edu.eg>
(19.03. - 22.03.2009)

Med-e-Tel 2009
Luxembourg, G. D. of Luxembourg
<http://www.medetel.lu>
(01.04. - 03.04.2009)

Satcom Conference
Johannesburg, South Africa
<http://www.satcomafrika.com>
(07.04.09 – 08.04.09)

6th Annual World Health Care Congress
Washington D. C., U. S. A.
<http://www.worldcongress.com/events/hr2009>
(14.04. - 16.04.2009)

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