

South African Association for Clinical Biochemistry



February 2015



POCT in Africa Congress, Cape Town, 14-15th February, 2015

The POCT Research Network for Africa based in the department of Pathology at Stellenbosch University, Cape Town Africa organized the first ever meeting in Africa exclusively devoted to Point of Care Testing in various clinical settings. The co-chairs of the meeting were Professors R Erasmus and W Preiser. This event was held from 14 - 15 February, 2015 in Cape Town at the Hotel Verde



, an exciting new venue known as Africa's greenest hotel. The theme for the congress was 'Promoting Quality Point-of-Care Testing for Optimal Patient Care in Africa' This meeting was supported by the Fac-

ulty of Medicine and Health Sciences of Stellenbosch University, Cape Town and was a special event for pathology and laboratory medicine, in that it focused on point-of-care testing on the African continent that, arguably, has the



greatest need for it: an attractive scientific programme included several highly renowned keynote speakers from across the globe. They shared unique insights into POCT Health System Integration, POCT Quality Management System, POCT for Non-communicable Diseases, Drugs of Abuse, Infectious Diseases, Emergency Medicine Intensive Care and Connectivity.



Looking back at Unipath 2014

The Unipath 2014 conference was held at the CSIR international convention centre. This proved to be a wonderful venue for the conference with ample space for delegates and the exhibition and very good pedestrian flow. Once again, the organising company, TIME excelled in the logistics of the organising the venue, the exhibition, cocktail and the gala dinner. A total of 511 people attended the conference. Chemical Pathology made up 20% of the delegates. 92% of the delegates came from South Africa. Nigeria and the UK were the majority of the countries represented amongst the rest. All in all, a memorable time was had by the delegates.



Dr Graham Howarth, Head of Medical Services- Africa Medical Protection Society spoke on Pathologists, The law, ethics and risk management



Prof Gert Saayman with the Plenary Speakers, Prof Michael Lederman, Dr Howarth and Prof Don Cowan.



Invited SAACB speakers, Prof Joris Delanghe, Prof Anders Kallner with the SAACB Council

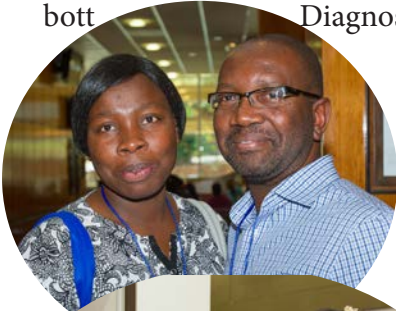


Selection of SAACB delegates at the conference



Clinical Laboratory Statistics workshop run at UP Faculty of Health Sciences by visiting Karolinska Institute Professor

Professor Anders Kallner, from the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, ran a very successful statistics workshop at the Faculty of Health Sciences on 22-23 September 2014. The workshop was attended by registrars from all over the country, including as far afield as Cape Town and Durban and from all the institutions. There were 31 attendees from institutions including UCT, Stellenbosch, Wits, Medunsa and UKZN. The workshop was convened by Prof Tahir Pillay as a satellite to the highly successful Unipath 2014 conference held at the CSIR convention centre on 19-21 September 2014. Attendees were given hands-on training in the use of clinical laboratory statistics in laboratory medicine and found the workshop very stimulating and wanted more of this kind of workshop to be held in the future. Prof Kallner's visit was funded by the IFCC (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine) Abbott Diagnostics Visiting Lecturer programme.

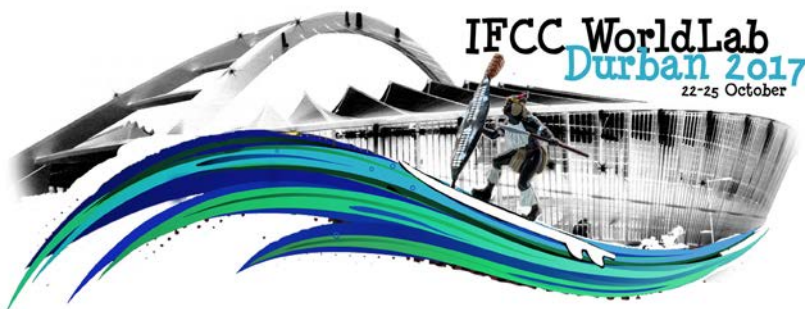


Delegates at the conference



AyeAye Khine receives best poster award from Separations

Prof AyeAye Khine is shown receiving the SAACB Separations scientific poster award for R2000 from Nicholas Queisser, Separations Managing Director for "Analysing constituents of Street Drug Nyaope by two different Mass Spectrometry Methods" co-authored by Khine AA, Mokwena KE, Huma M, Fernandes L

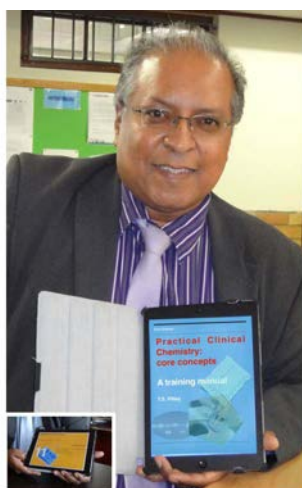


Remember the date:
WorldLab 2017 is coming to Durban

Digital learning in Clinical Chemistry

The first digital interactive scientific textbook published from South Africa for the Apple computer platform was released internationally in December 2014 in 51 countries. The textbook is the brainchild of Professor T.S. Pillay and uses the recently developed Ibooks Author platform from the Apple computer corporation.

The book project, initiated in 2009 and primarily featuring contributions from members of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town Division of Chemical Pathology, is designed for trainee specialists, scientists and medical technologists in the field of chemical pathology. The book has already received rave reviews in Europe and is featured on Youtube. Ibooks Author allows the creation of highly interactive and dynamic textbooks. "In many ways, this is a 4-dimensional medium", said Professor Pillay compared to the conventional 2-dimensional textbook. One can embed dynamic material such as videos, animated presentations, 3-D objects and photo galleries allowing a richer two-way interaction of the student with the material via the touch screen interface.



the material via the touch screen interface. In

addition, one can also embed review questions that the students can test themselves on as they work through a book. Students can also use the touch screen interface to highlight and annotate as they would using a conventional hardcopy textbook. These features allow a richer learning environment for subjects such as medicine and laboratory medicine, biochemistry and mathematics where interactivity and self-directed learning of procedures and processes are often required. One of the most powerful features of the platform is the ability to update quickly – "one can update a book, for example, on an annual or more frequent basis and the updated version will be immediately available("pushed") to users devices via the internet or the local network". This greatly simplifies the process of updating or producing a new edition of

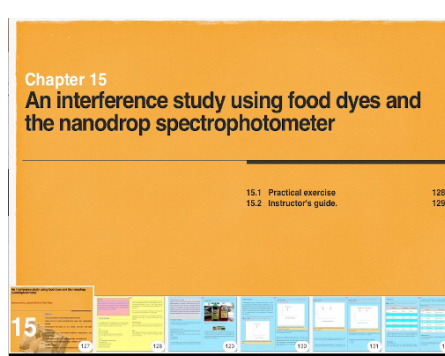
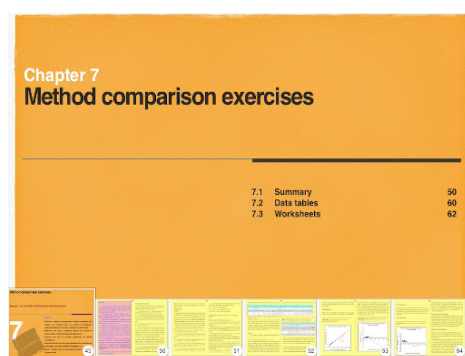
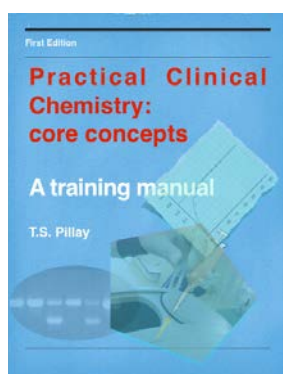
a textbook, compared to conventional publishing of a hardcopy textbook. This really is the future of publishing especially in resource and learning challenged environments. The book features 15 chapters comprising sections on basic spectrophotometry, enzyme assays, protein assays, urine tests, method comparison exercises and immunoassays. A new digital iBook book on calculations is also planned for release in the next few months.



Book review "Practical Clinical Chemistry: Core Concepts"

Barna Vasarhelyi
Department of Laboratory Medicine, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary

This fascinating book provides a well-designed and didactic way that covers almost all the major fields that are 70-100 per cent automated in our days. Chapters let a short insight into basic laboratory practices; present the difference between end-point and kinetic assays; indicate basic principles of protein assays and immunoassays etc. The readers can learn basic ideas behind immunoassays, electrophoresis of proteins. A specific chapter is also devoted to



Screenshots from an Ipad showing the iBook