



## Summary of MEPI-UKZN Research Methodology (REMETH) PhD candidates 2011 – 2015

### 2011

1. Early versus Delayed HAART in HIV-infected malnourished children: Dr Moherndran Archary joined REMETH in 2011 and has received UKZN, KZN Department of Health and Hospital IRB approvals for his study. Currently he is still involved with patient recruitment and has employed a research assistant to assist with the laboratory work (PKA's). Professor Phil LaRussa from Columbia University provides him with additional mentorship and support. He is currently following up the patients enrolled in his study, the last follow will be concluded in December 2015. He plans to submit his PhD in early 2016.
2. Clinical and Histopathological Profile of Arterial aneurysms and Macrovascular Disease in HIV-infected patients: Dr Bala Pillay joined REMETH in 2011 and has received approval from UKZN IRB for his protocol. His PhD is largely descriptive since this area is poorly studied. He has completed one journal article and has submitted the second article for review.
3. Cosmetic, Ethnic skin and hair disorders in African and Indian patients: Dr Ncoza Dlova joined REMETH in 2011 and has graduated with her PhD in April 2015.
4. Role of HIV-1 nef sequence heterogeneity in pathogenesis of TB/HIV co-infection: Ms Dolly Seipone joined REMETH in 2011 and has received full IRB approval for her study. She has commenced with her data collection and data analysis is ongoing. She plans to complete her PhD by December 2015.
5. Developing a cross-cultural model in providing palliative care in Durban: Ms Dorien Wenzel joined REMETH in 2011 and she has faced many challenges with her PhD some of which has been administrative challenges, teaching commitments and selection of an appropriate

supervisor. Her protocol has received provisional UKZN IRB approval and is pending gate keeper permissions to the Department of Health sites that will be used in her study.

6. Immunoregulatory mechanisms in pregnant women with pre-eclampsia (HIV positive and negative): Dr Niren Ray Maharaj joined REMETH in 2011 and has received UKZN, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health and Hospital IRB approvals. He is almost at the end of the data analysis phase of his study and plans to submit his thesis at the end of 2015.
7. Arthritis associated with HIV-clinical spectrum, radiologic manifestations, pathogenesis, treatment and outcome: Dr Neeta Patel joined REMETH in 2011 and has experienced a delay in the submission of her protocol to UKZN IRB because of her increased clinical workload due to a lack of human resources. She has registered for her PhD and is will be submitting her protocol for approval soon.
8. Assessing the effects and effectiveness of small group tutorials in undergraduate students: Dr Chauntelle Bagwandeem joined REMETH in 2011 and has registered for her PhD with UKZN. She has full UKZN IRB approval. She has one publication already and will be submitting her thesis by November 2015.
9. A study of the cognitive factors which lead to the development of appropriate, clinically useful schemas and sound clinical performance in undergraduate medical students in the discipline of Internal Medicine: Ms Maud Donda joined REMETH in 2011 and is at the data analysis phase of her PhD study.
10. A study of renal replacement options and associated complications in the treatment of HIV sero-positive renal failure: Dr Kwazi Ndlovu joined REMETH in 2011 and has received UKZN IRB approval. He has begun his study and has used MEPI money to employ a research assistant for three months to assist him with recruitment. The recruitment is still on going and an amendment to the UKZN's IRB office to include additional sites for patient recruitment was approved in 2013. Data analysis is currently ongoing.

## **2012**

11. The Radiologic Evaluation of Breast Disorders related to Tuberculosis among women in KZN: Dr Dibuseng Ramaema joined REMETH in 2012, has full UKZN's IRB approval. She has

completed her data analysis and has submitted her intention to submit her PhD by the end of 2015.

12. Application of speckle tracking echocardiographic technology to assess ventricular function: Dr Rossy Matshela joined REMETH in 2012 and has received full UKZN IRB approval. She has progressed well with her research and has completed her write up. She will be defending her work in the second half of 2014 at the Mayo clinic where she is currently based. She has submitted her thesis for review and is awaiting feedback.
13. Analysis and development of a framework in dealing with children from child-headed household families: Mrs Emelda Gumede joined REMETH in 2012 and has graduated with her PhD in April 2015.
14. Managing policy change in the context of HIV/AIDS: A framework for the health workforce in Ethekeweni Sub- District, KwaZulu-Natal: Mrs Wilbroda Hloli Ngidi joined REMETH in 2012. She has finalised her protocol and submitted to the UKZN IRB in February 2014 and received full IRB approval in June 2015. She is in the implementation stage of her study.
15. Metabolic Syndrome and Severe Mental Illness in the Ethekeweni district of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: Dr Shamima Saloojee joined REMETH in 2012 and has already received UKZN, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health and Hospital IRB approvals. She has published her first article in the BMJ and is currently drafting her second article. She plans to submit her thesis in March 2016.
16. Genital tract Tuberculosis in pregnant, HIV infected women: Dr Motshedisi Sebitloane joined REMETH in 2012 and is currently writing up her protocol for her research. She faced a few challenges with her PhD mainly due to her clinical and administrative duties. However she has since received IRB approval for her study and is progressing well.
17. A descriptive study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) populations' sexual and social practice with the aim to design appropriate responses in the province of KwaZulu-Natal: Mrs Zamazoni Luvuno joined REMETH in 2012 and has registered for her PhD. She has been granted full IRB approval for her study and has commenced with the data collection.
18. Family History and Substance Use in Adolescent First Episode Pyschosis in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa: Dr Saeeda Paruk joined REMETH in 2012 and has received full UKZN IRB approval for her study. She is currently in the data collection and data analysis phases of her study. She has presented her work at two conferences and has submitted one manuscript for review. She intends to submit her thesis in December 2015.

19. Healthcare Associated infections in Public Sector Intensive Care Units in KwaZulu-Natal: Dr Saajida Mahomed joined REMETH in 2012. She has received approval from the UKZN's IRB office and the KZN Department of Health approval. She is currently in the data collection stage of her study with ongoing descriptive analysis.
20. The Impact of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and Genital Tract Inflammation on HIV-1 Acquisition and HIV Disease progression with or without HAART in a high risk cohort of women: Professor Koleka Mlisana joined REMETH in 2012. She is the Head of the Department of Microbiology at UKZN. She graduated with her PhD in April 2015.
21. A prospective cohort study evaluating the immune responses to revaccination of children on HAART in South Africa: Dr Kimesh Naidoo joined REMETH in 2012 and he has decided to change the concept of his PhD to one focused on medical education as it has been well researched. The current title of his protocol is "Working is learning: An Exploration of Work-based learning amongst Paediatric Interns in Kwa Zulu Natal. A mixed methods study on work-based learning amongst junior Doctors in a high disease burden context". He has received full IRB approval for his study and is currently at the implementation phase of his study.
22. An investigation into the availability of priority medicines for mothers and children in South Africa: Ms Velisha Perumal joined REMETH in 2012 and has received the UKZN's IRB approval for her study. She is currently in the data collection phase and has submitted her first publication for review. She has presented her work at conferences both locally and internationally. She plans to hand in her PhD thesis in 2016.

## 2013

23. Snake Bites: Dr Darryl Wood joined REMETH In 2013 and has registered for his PhD. Dr Wood heads the new Discipline of Emergency Medicine at UKZN Medical School and is the chief Emergency Medicine specialist at the KZN Department of Health. He intends submitting his PhD thesis by the end of 2015.
24. Implementation of an integrated chronic disease management model at primary healthcare level in South Africa: Dr Ozayr Mahomed joined REMETH in 2013. He has full UKN IRB approval and has already completed one journal article towards his thesis and a second article has been submitted. He plans to submit his thesis in October 2015.
25. The role of lymphangiogenesis in the placenta and placental bed of HIV associated pre-eclampsia: Dr Onankoy Atshakala Onyangunga joined REMETH in 2013, he received full UKZN IRB approval. He is completing the write up for his study and intending to submit his thesis by the end of 2015.

26. Pharmacokinetic Issues with use Moxifloxacin in a Tuberculosis Re-treatment regimen-Improving Retreatment Success IMPRESS PK-PD sub-study: Ms Anushka Naidoo joined REMETH in 2013 and is a Senior Research Pharmacist and Co-Principal Investigator at the Center for the AIDS program of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA-UKZN). She has full UKZN IRB approval. Data analysis of her study has commenced.
27. Evolution of humoral immune responses in acute and early Human Immunodeficiency Virus-type 1 (HIV-1) subtype C infection: Ms Bongiwane Ndlovu joined REMETH in 2013 and has registered for her PhD. She had full UKZN IRB approval and is currently in the data collection and data analysis phases. She has presented her work at an HIV prevention conference.
28. A novel standardized approach to the treatment and management of significant Acinetobacter species infection in KwaZulu-Natal: Dr Khine Han joined REMETH in 2013 and is a senior pathologist at the National Health Laboratory Service and a senior lecturer at UKZN. She has full UKZN IRB approval, is in the data analysis phase and is drafting her first manuscript.
29. The role of adiponectin, TNF, resistin, leptin in HIV associated pre-eclampsia: Dr Vineshree Govender joined REMETH in 2013 and has graduated with her PhD in April 2015.
30. Improving obstetric surgical safety in KZN: Dr Mergan Naidoo joined REMETH in 2013 and is a lecturer in the Discipline of Family Medicine. He graduated with his PhD in April 2015.
31. Using the ethical framework to assess the quality of responses given by IRBs to researchers conducting clinical trials in developing countries: Mr Blessing Silaigwana joined REMETH in 2013. He is currently registered for his PhD and is in the data analysis stage. He has one manuscript accepted for publication, is in the process of drafting a second manuscript and has presented his work at the UKZN college research day. He intends submitting his thesis early in 2016.
32. Factors effecting short term outcome of patients presenting with significant congenital heart disease to a tertiary referral centre in KZN, SA: Dr Ebrahim Hoosen joined REMETH in 2013. He has registered for his PhD, has UKZN IRB approval and is in the data collection phase.
33. Barriers to completion amongst Post Grad students in Public Health: Ms Thembelihle Dlungwane joined REMETH in 2013. She has registered for her PhD and has full UKZN IRB approval. She is currently in the data analysis phase of her study.
34. Assessing Health Care Information systems in the DOH to manage the Pharmaceutical Aspect of the HIV/AIDS Programme: Ms Nirupa Misra joined REMETH in 2013. She is registered for her PhD, has received UKZN IRB approval and is in the data collection phase.
35. Health Systems Performance in relation to perinatal care in district hospitals: Ms Ntombifikile Moureen Nkwanane joined REMETH in 2013 and has registered for her PhD. She has received full UKZN IRB approval and is currently at the data collection phase.
36. Phase II study to assess the impact of intermittent 1% Tenofovir Gel on Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection: Ms Cheryl Baxter joined REMETH in 2013. She is a Research Associate at the Center

for the AIDS program of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA-UKZN). She graduated with her PhD in April 2015.

## 2014

37. Project CARE: Risk and resilience in Durban youth: A longitudinal collaborative study between UKZN and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU): Ms Thiroshini Govender joined REMETH in 2014. She has received full UKZN IRB approval for her study and is currently in the data analysis stage.
38. Tracking Professional and Academic Career paths and Destinations of occupational therapists from the University of KwaZulu-Natal: Ms Deshini Naidoo joined REMETH in 2014. She has received full IRB approval and is currently in her data analysis phase and intends submitting her thesis early in 2016.
39. The role of peripheral natural killer cells in immunocompromised pre-eclampsia and normotensive pregnant Black South Africans: Anushka Ajith joined REMETH in 2014. She has registered for her PhD, has received full UKZN IRB approval for her study. She will be submitting her PhD thesis by the end of 2015.
40. The phenotypic effect of mutations in the connection and RNase H domains of HIV-1 subtype C on reverse transcriptase inhibitors: Ms Nomphumelelo Prudence Mkhwanazi joined REMETH in 2014. She has registered for her PhD and has full UKZN IRB approval. She is currently in the data analysis phase of her study.
41. To determine the prevalence of Hepatitis A and B in patients initiated on ARV treatment: Dr Selvandran Rangiah joined REMETH in 2014. He has registered for his PhD and has submitted his protocol for UKZN IRB approval.
42. Avoidable factors associated with pregnant women admitted to two intensive care units in South Africa: Dr Nnabuike Ngene joined REMETH in 2014 and has received full IRB approval. He has commenced data collection.
43. Improving retreatment success (IMPRESS): Ms Fortunate Yende-Zuma joined REMETH in 2014, submitted a proposal for ethics approval and is currently in the data analysis stage.
44. Paediatric HIV and communication disorders: Ms Urisha Naidoo joined REMETH in 2014 and is at the protocol development stage. She has received provisional IRB approval and will receive her full ethics approval soon.
45. Describe patterns of blood pressure control: Mr Boikhutso Tlou joined REMETH in 2014 and has received full IRB approval and is at the implementation stage of his study.

46. Gene polymorphisms of the Renin-Angiotensin system, AT1, AT2 and AT4 gene expressions in placenta and circulating Angiotensin II antibodies in pre-eclamptic African Women: Dr Myint Aung joined REMETH in 2014. He has full UKZN IRB approval and is in the data analysis stage of his study.
47. HIV and Aging: Dr Halima Dawood joined REMETH in 2014. She has registered for her PhD and has full UKZN IRB approval. She is currently in the data collection phase of her study.
48. A qualitative Study to understand the experiences and coping processes of primary caregivers of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Ms Thavanesi Gurayah joined REMETH in 2014. She has registered for PhD, has full UKZN IRB approval and is currently finishing her PhD. She plans to submit early 2016.
49. Prevalence of inhA Promoter Mutations in Patients with Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: Dr Abraham Johannes Niehaus joined REMETH in 2014. He has registered for PhD, has full UKZN IRB approval and has commenced data collection.
50. Clinical Algorithm for the Assessment of Hypotonia in Children: Ms Pragashnie Naidoo joined REMETH in 2014. She has registered for her PhD, has full UKZN IRB approval. She intends submitting her thesis by the end of 2015.