



Prof Tommie Victor (right) receives his award at a ceremony held during the conference of the International Society for Infectious Diseases.

International honours for SU researcher

Prof Tommie Victor recently received the international Sanofi Pasteur award for outstanding research on multi-drug resistant tuberculosis.

Outstanding research on both multi- drug resistant tuberculosis and extremely drug-resistant tuberculosis – a disease that has claimed the lives of a large number of South Africans in recent years – has earned Prof Tommie Victor of the Faculty of Health Sciences special recognition from the International Society for Infectious Diseases.

Prof Victor was recently invited to deliver a paper at the Society's international conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. During the conference, he was awarded the Society's Sanofi Pasteur award, specifically for his outstanding research on multi-drug resistant tuberculosis and on extremely drug-resistant tuberculosis. Prof Victor had already received the Stellenbosch University (SU) Rector's award for research excellence in 2005.

Prof Victor is one of the senior research scientists in the Molecular Biology and Human Genetics Division of the SU Department of Biomedical Sciences on the Tygerberg Campus who has played a pivotal role in establishing SU as one of the foremost institutions worldwide in the field of tuberculosis research. As a result of the work done by the Division, it has also been recognised by the South African government as a TB Centre of Excellence.

Urologists first AMONG PEERS

For the past 24 years, Stellenbosch University's Urology Division has been 'first' amongst its academic peers - and 2008 was no exception. At the recent biennial congress of the SA Urological Association, the organisation's two top prizes were once again awarded to members of the Stellenbosch Division.

Although there are Urology departments at seven of the South Africa's eight medical schools, 21 of the 27 prizes awarded by the Association over the past 24 years were won by registrars and consultants attached to Stellenbosch University and Tygerberg Hospital.

The Storz prize for the most outstanding young Urologist in South Africa was awarded to **Dr André van der Merwe**, senior lecturer in the Urology Division of SU/Tygerberg Hospital, while the Bard prize for the best paper presented at the congress went to **Dr**



Drs Amir Zarrabi and André van der Merwe

Amir Zarrabi, also of SU/Tygerberg. It was awarded to Zarrabi for his paper entitled, Computer directed robotic gantry system for gaining precisely targeted needle access to the renal collecting system during percutaneous nephrolithotomy (PCNL).

The project was done in collaboration with Mr Jean-Pierre Conradie, a MSc-Ing student in the Department of Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering at Stellenbosch, who wrote the computer programme and designed the robotic gantry.



Human Nutrition

UNIQUE SERVICE FOR DIETICIANS LAUNCHED

The Division of Human Nutrition in the Faculty of Health Sciences has recently introduced a unique service that makes it possible for dietitians countrywide to formulate a diet for renal sufferers quickly and effectively.

The RenalSmart Nutritional Information System is a website where registered dietitians can formulate a diet that meets the special needs of renal patients. Other persons, such as health care staff and patients themselves, also have limited access to the program.

"RenalSmart consists of two components," explains Prof Marietjie Herselman, Acting Head of the Division of Human Nutrition, who had been the driving force behind the website. "The first component is a blog where interaction takes place between users and where, among other things, free access to educational material for patient guidance is allowed. After that, one logs on to the RenalSmart application, which is based on renal exchange lists - foods that are grouped together according to nutritional value, and that may be exchanged with each other as long as they belong to the same group. The patient's medical and clinical information is entered into the program and according to that, the program formulates an appropriate dietary prescription, meal plan and menu."

She says it is also complicated and time consuming for dietitians to formulate a renal diet, particularly if one does not work with renal patients often. In cases where such a process could take up to an hour, the RenalSmart program does it in no time at all.

- Feel free to visit the website at www.renalsmart.co.za.



Prof Marietjie de Villiers

