

INFRASTRUCTURE

New Laboratory Developments

Under the auspices of the Braamfontein Complex Renovation Project of the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), one of the biosafety level (BSL) 2 laboratories in the Wits node underwent a major refurbishment this year. The refurbished laboratory, which Wits researchers took occupancy of in August, is well equipped for molecular biological research and can accommodate up to ten people. The second component of the Wits node laboratory infrastructure project involves the construction of a new BSL3 laboratory in the James Gear Building, across the passage from the recently refurbished BSL2 laboratory. Construction work on the new laboratory commenced in November and is expected to be completed by March 2009. The new laboratory will triple the amount of BSL3 space available to the Wits node thus increasing greatly the capacity for research involving the use of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.