

EDUCATION / KNOWLEDGE BROKERAGE / NETWORKING

International Visits And Exchanges

The Wits node has hosted a number of international visitors over the past few months including Dr. Deborah Hung from the Broad Institute and Harvard University (June), Drs. Eric Rubin and Sarah Fortune from the Harvard School of Public Health (July) and Dr. David Sherman from the Seattle Biomedical Research Institute (September). Dr. Rubin visited the Wits node again in December. In addition to giving lectures, which were attended by scientists from across the Gauteng area, the international visitors spent time interacting and strengthening collaborative links with staff and students in the Wits node. As a follow-up to Dr. Rubin's first visit, CBTBR Team Member, Dr. Bavesh Kana, was invited to spend two months working in Dr. Rubin's laboratory in Boston (November-December).

The Wits node also hosted two international exchange students, Susan Puckett from the USA, and Julia Staffeldt from Germany. Julia spent two months in the Wits node working under the supervision of Dr. Digby Warner. Her visit was arranged through a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) program that enables talented undergraduates from US institutions to undertake short-term working visits in the laboratories of International Research Scholars of the HHMI. Julia, who is studying towards her Masters degree in Germany, spent three months in the Wits node working under the supervision of Dr. Bavesh Kana.

In July 2008 the SU node of the CBTBR was visited by members of the Global Alliance Against TB, Dr Jerome Premmeur (CEO, second from right in photo1) and Dr Christo van Niekerk (SA Representative, first from left in photo1). Prof Andreas Diacon is involved in a close collaboration with the Global Alliance Against TB to test new TB drugs.

Photo1



In December 2008, SU node of the CBTBR was visited by Prof Erik Böttger (University of Zurich, Switzerland, 4th from right in photo2) and Dr Detlef Storm (Beckton Dickinson, Germany, 3rd from left in photo2) to discuss the existing research collaboration on drug resistant TB. Also Prof Adrie Steyn (University of Alabama, USA, 3rd from right in photo2) visited to discuss matters concerning the research collaboration on the use of the *M. tuberculosis* two-*hybrid* library.

Photo2

