

## RESEARCH

### ***Presentations at international conferences / Strength in Numbers***

The CBTBR (10 members from the SU node and 2 from the Wits node) was very prominently represented at the Keystone Symposium on Tuberculosis, held 20-25 March 2007, in Vancouver, Canada. These conferences are amongst the top scientific meetings and are attended by top experts in the field. Exposure of the staff and students of the CBTBR is vital and the networking opportunities are simply outstanding. It is pleasing to note that many of our staff and students are well-known and their work recognised to be of high standard. Many opportunities for collaboration have arisen from this meeting and others like it, illustrating the importance of attending such meetings, even if the immediate cost is high. Nine presentations were made by the CBTBR at this meeting and a number of opportunities found to meet with and discuss joint projects and matters of joint interest or concern with international collaborators and funders. Bavesh Kana from the Wits node was also invited to attend the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) Meeting in Washington, D.C. in April, where he presented a talk on the work that he, Bhavna Gordhan and other Wits node collaborators have carried out on the resuscitation-promoting factors of *M. tuberculosis*. In April, Digby Warner and Suzana Savvi attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> American Society for Microbiology Conference on Integrating Metabolism and Genomics in Montreal, Canada. Digby presented a talk on his discovery of the vitamin B<sub>12</sub> riboswitch-mediated regulation of a methionine synthase gene in *M. tuberculosis* and Suzana presented a poster on her doctoral research on another vitamin B<sub>12</sub>-dependent enzyme in *M. tuberculosis*. During her trip, Suzana also visited collaborating laboratories at the NIH and The Rockefeller University. In May, Valerie Mizrahi attended the joint 10<sup>th</sup> IUBMB Conference and 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in Salvador Brazil, where she presented an invited lecture on the Wits node's research on mutational mechanisms in mycobacteria. During June, Paul van Helden addressed the SA University "Research Directors Forum" on "Challenges and Problems with running a Centre in South Africa".

This photo shows some of the CBTBR attendees at a dinner held during the meeting.

