

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Valerie Mizrahi presented the Division U – Mycobacteriology Lecture at the 110th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in San Diego in May. In her talk, entitled, “Taking Advantage of Stress: DNA Damage, Mutagenesis and the Evolution of Drug Resistance in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*”, Valerie presented an overview of research in this area of mycobacterial metabolism and physiology, which has spanned a period of 15 years. Tommie Victor and Gail Louw from the SU node presented posters entitled, “Molecular insights into the XDR-TB Epidemic in the Western and Eastern Cape Regions of South Africa” and “Activated efflux pumps define the level of Rifampicin resistance in *M. tuberculosis*”, respectively, at the conference.

Wits team member Bavesh Kana presented a plenary lecture at the 2nd SA TB Conference held in Durban in June. This talk, “From TB Pathogenesis to Drug Development,” which generated considerable interest, focused on the application and relevance of basic science in TB pathogenesis and drug discovery research using two recently completed studies of Dr. Kana’s as an illustration. Team member Bhavna Gordhan and Masters student, Anastasia Koch also presented talks at this conference. Anastasia Koch also from the Wits node won the Discovery Clinical Excellence Award (Track 1 – Basic Sciences) for her presentation. Paul van Helden and PhD student Margeretha de Vos from the SU node presented talks entitled, “Quantitative First- and Second-line Drug Susceptibility Testing (DST) on MGIT 960 Using BD EpiCenter Software” and “Rifampicin induces differential protein expression in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*”, respectively, at the conference.

In Photo: Dr. Bavesh Kana delivering a Plenary Address at the 2nd SA TB Conference in Durban in June 2010.

