

## **AWARDS/HONOURS**

### ***Co-Director of CBTBR appointed to Council of Scientific Advisors of the ICGEB***

Valerie Mizrahi has been elected to the Council of Scientific Advisors of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), which advises the Board of the ICGEB. Her appointment to this Council commenced in January, 2008.

The ICGEB conducts innovative research in life sciences for the benefit of developing countries. It strengthens the research capability of its Members through training and funding programmes and advisory services and represents a comprehensive approach to promoting biotechnology internationally. The Centre is dedicated to advanced research and training in molecular biology and biotechnology and holds out the prospect of advancing knowledge and applying the latest techniques in the fields of biomedicine; crop improvement; environmental protection/remediation; biopharmaceuticals and biopesticide production.

The ICGEB provides a scientific and educational environment of the highest standard. It brings biotechnology to developing countries by strengthening their research capabilities, developing state-of-the-art research and training scientists to the benefit of its Member States. The ICGEB recently established a Component in Africa, which is located at the University of Cape Town. For further information, go to <http://www.icgeb.trieste.it/RESEARCH/CapeTown.htm>.

### ***CBTBR researchers attend and win awards at the Bio-08 conference in Grahamstown***

In January, Team members Bhavna Gordhan, Bavesh Kana and Digby Warner, and postgraduate students Bintou Ahmadou Ahidjo and Vivianne Goosens traveled to Grahamstown to attend the Bio-08 conference, where they presented a number of talks and posters. Bintou received a SASM best speaker prize from CLCBio/Inqaba and Digby received the SASBMB prize for the best poster talk.

### ***CBTBR student receives award at the 9<sup>th</sup> AstraZeneca Medical Research Day – 14 February 2008***

Miss Kim Hoek received a Highly Commended award for her talk at the AstraZeneca day on 14 February 2008. The UCT Faculty of Health Sciences hosted the day in the New Groote Schuur Hospital. The programme was organised and convened by the UCT Dept. of Medicine and provided access for MSc, PhD and early postdoctoral researchers from basic medical science fields, and their equivalents from clinical research fields (e.g. MMed /MPhil registrars, junior consultants). The aim was to have a 50:50 split in the programme between clinical and lab-based research and to showcase the best of the Western Cape young investigators.

### ***Co-Director of CBTBR featured on SABC TV's "Special Assignment" documentary***

Prof Paul van Helden was interviewed for a "Special Assignment" documentary (entitled 'Breathing in Captivity') on TB and drug resistance that was screened on SABC3 TV on 04 March 2008.