

## **EDUCATION / KNOWLEDGE BROKERAGE / NETWORKING**

### ***International Visits and Exchanges***

The Wits node hosted Prof. Česlovas Venclovas from the Institute of Biotechnology in Vilnius, Lithuania for a week in March. Prof. Venclovas is an International Research Scholar of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and is a renowned authority on protein structure prediction. The purpose of this visit was to further develop a collaborative study between Prof. Venclovas and members of Wits node on the structure and function of proteins involved in DNA repair and replication in mycobacteria. During his visit, Prof. Venclovas presented a seminar at the NHLS, which attracted a large audience of staff and students from the Faculties of Science and Health Sciences at Wits and from the University of Johannesburg.

### ***TB Trials Consortium (TBTC) Visit To The CBTBR SU Node***

Colleagues from George Washington University, Debra Benator, Fred Gordin and Donna Conwell visited the CBTBR SU node from 24 to 27 February 2009 to work on a joint strategy for a SU application to the CDC-sponsored TB Trials Consortium (TBTC). Professor Benator the director at the Infectious Diseases Clinic at the VA, gave an overview of TBTC trial experiences gained during the past 10 years on 27<sup>th</sup> February; the lecture was well attended by a broad spectrum of clinicians and researchers.

The TBTC visit was hosted by the CBTBR and the Desmond Tutu TB Centre. This collaborative effort brings together a strong group of adult and paediatric TB and HIV researchers at the faculty in a joint consortium called TB SUN. TB SUN will aim to join larger collaborative TBTC international activities to implement trials of new TB therapies where most needed, including in children.

In the picture from right to left: Professor Andreas Diacon (CBTBR), Dr. Sven Friedrich, Professor Gerhard Walzl (CBTBR), Professor Paul van Helden (CBTBR), Donna Conwell (study coordinator TBTC consortium), Dr. Anneke Hesseling, Professor Debra Benator and Dr. Fred Gordin.

