

## **CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS**

### ***International TB conference hosted and organised by CBTBR SU node***

The Stellenbosch University node held an international TB conference focussing on the Effect of Genetic Variation in Mtb on Vaccine Escape and the Acquisition of Drug Resistance, at Lanzerac wine estate between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2009. Twenty-four delegates from Europe, Asia, Central and South America and South Africa presented their findings on how *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* adapts to the selective pressure of antibiotics and vaccines. Ground breaking research was presented concerning the influence of vaccines on the virulence of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the possible role of DNA repair genes in the evolution of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the mechanisms whereby *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* develops mutations, extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB), novel mechanisms which define the level of drug resistance and whole genome sequencing as the future tool for molecular epidemiology. Prof Rob Warren, Prof Gey van Pittius, Prof Tommie Victor, Dr Chris McEvoy, Dr Madeleine Hanekom, Dr Elizma Streicher and Ms Kim Hoek from the SU node and Dr Digby Warner from the Wits node presented at the meeting.



*Group photo of the participants at the conference*