



COVID-19 Response

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DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL HEALTH Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Stellenbosch University

Over the past few weeks staff in the Department has been responding to the pandemic in many different ways: modifications and enhancements to teaching and learning to continue our academic offering, ongoing mentorship and support for postgraduate research, new research to inform the COVID-19 response, promoting the use research evidence, media responses, case and contact tracing, and developing and driving practice guidance.

The information in this presentation is just a snapshot of ongoing activities.

Date: 8 May 2020

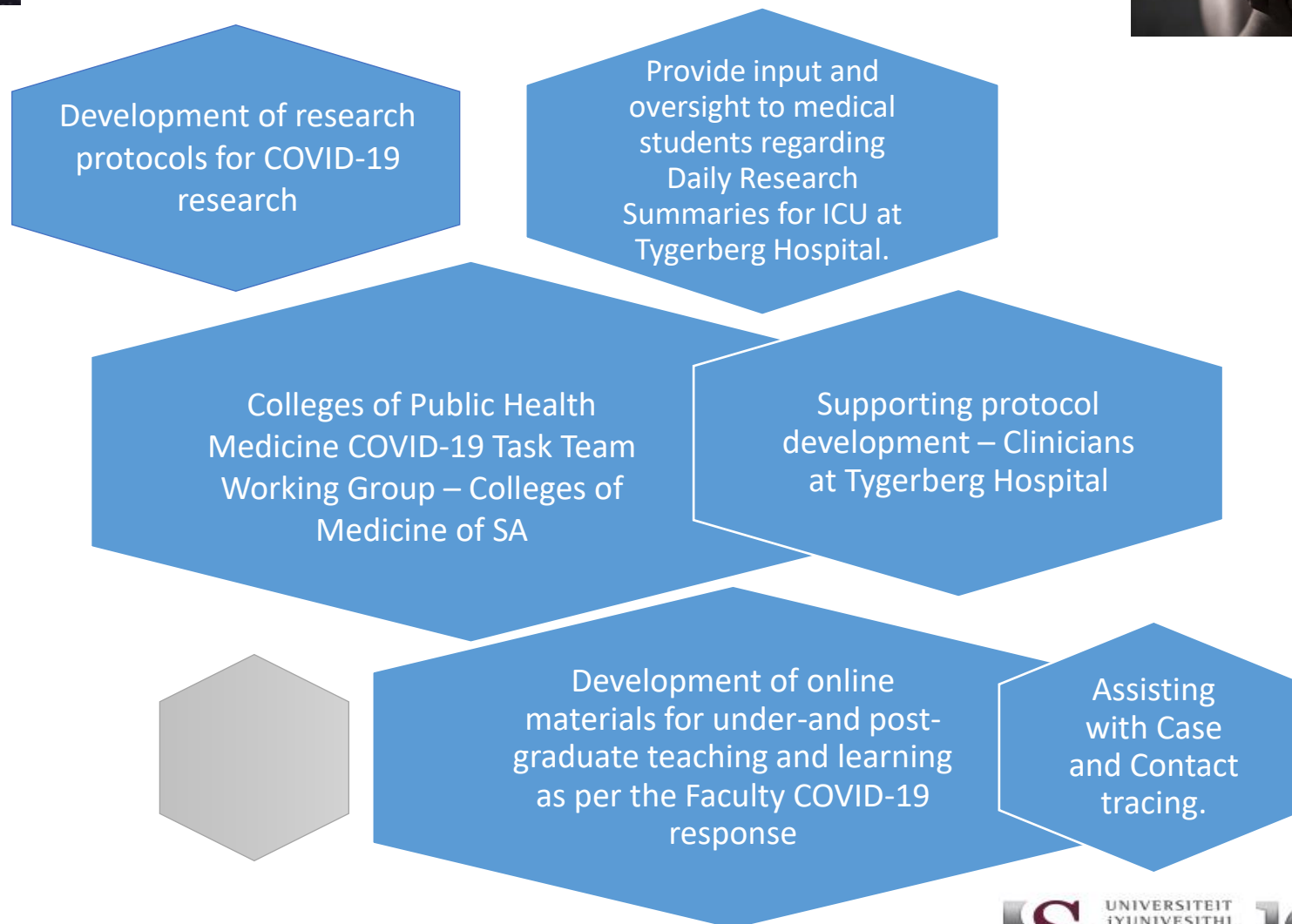


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Prof René English
Division of Health Systems
and Public Health



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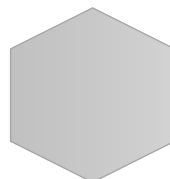


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Prof Kathryn Chu, Centre
for Global Surgery



As a board member, informing MSF on new operations during COVID in South Africa

Volunteer at the provincial disaster management COVID19 call centre

Interview on COVID preparedness in South Africa to LifeBox, an NGO to improve surgical care in LMICs



Implementation of a prospective multi-centre international study on COVID19 positive patients undergoing surgery (COVID-SURG)



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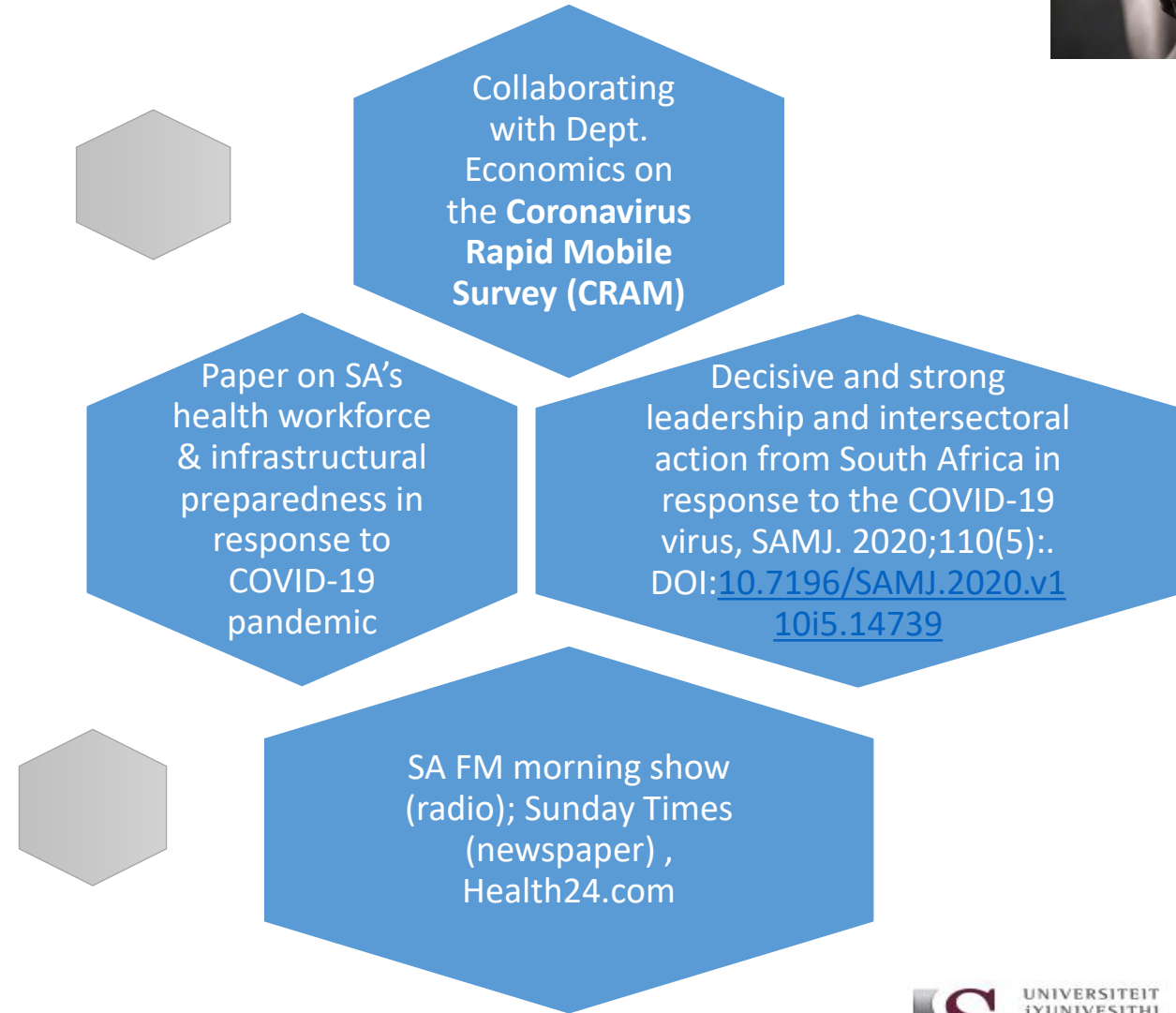


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Dr Lungiswa Nkonki, Division
Health Systems & Public
Health



Collaborating
with Dept.
Economics on
the **Coronavirus
Rapid Mobile
Survey (CRAM)**

Paper on SA's
health workforce
& infrastructural
preparedness in
response to
COVID-19
pandemic

Decisive and strong
leadership and intersectoral
action from South Africa in
response to the COVID-19
virus, SAMJ. 2020;110(5):.
DOI:[10.7196/SAMJ.2020.v1
10i5.14739](https://doi.org/10.7196/SAMJ.2020.v110i5.14739)

SA FM morning show
(radio); Sunday Times
(newspaper) ,
Health24.com



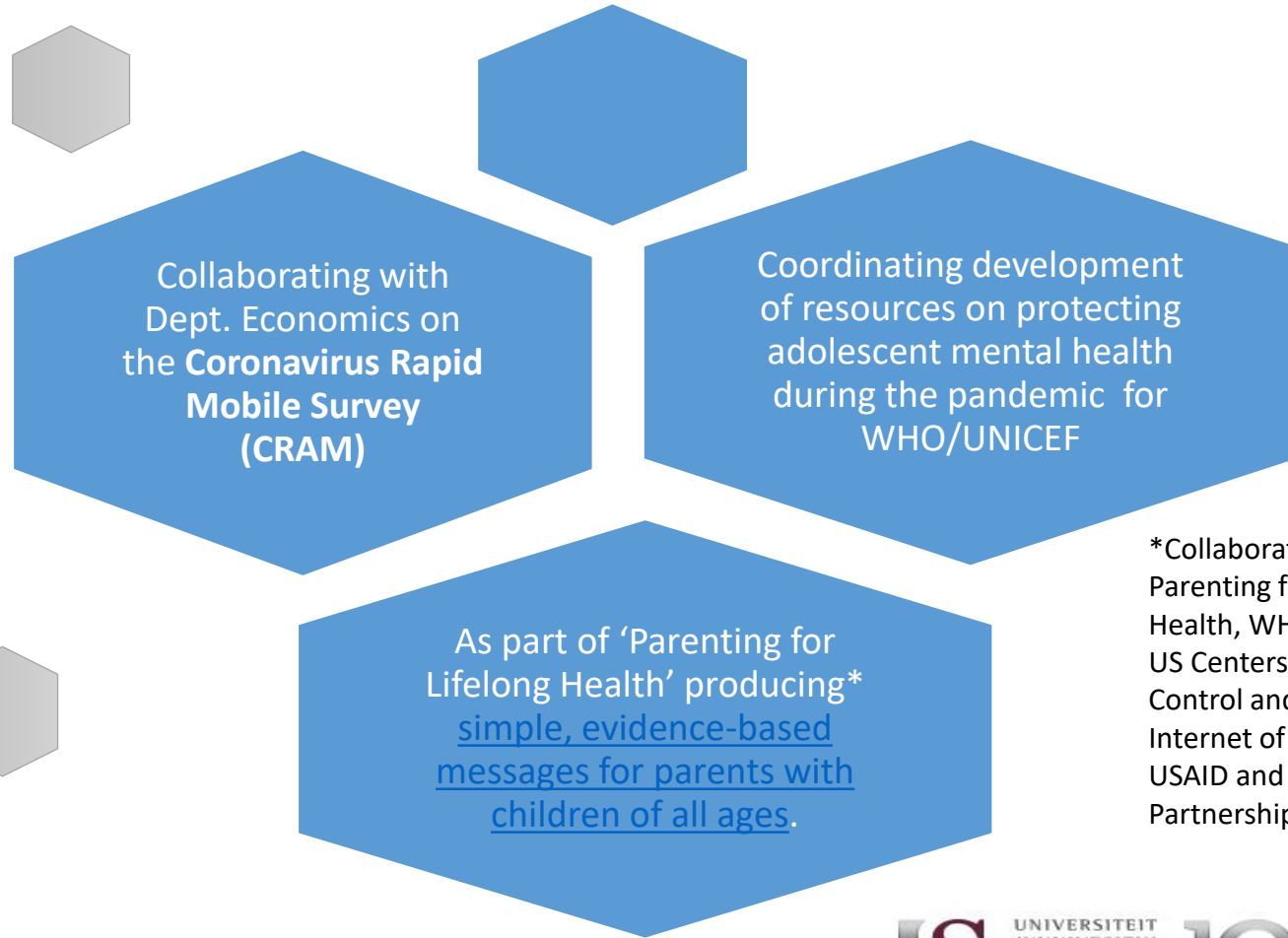
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Profs Mark Tomlinson and Sarah Skeen, Institute for Life Course Health Research



*Collaboration between Parenting for Lifelong Health, WHO, UNICEF, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Internet of Good Things, USAID and the End Violence Partnership.



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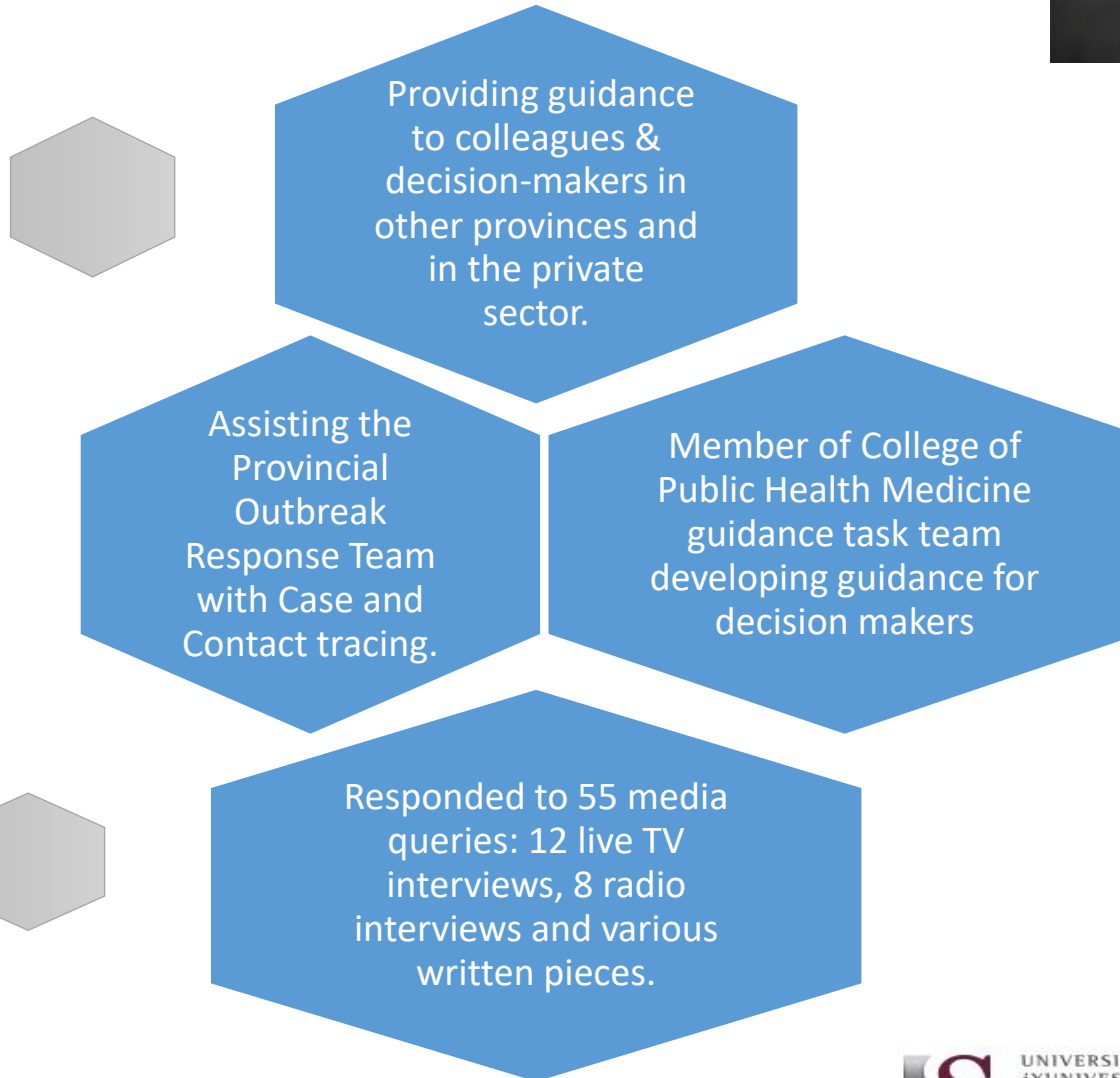


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Dr Kerrin Begg, Division
Health Systems & Public
Health



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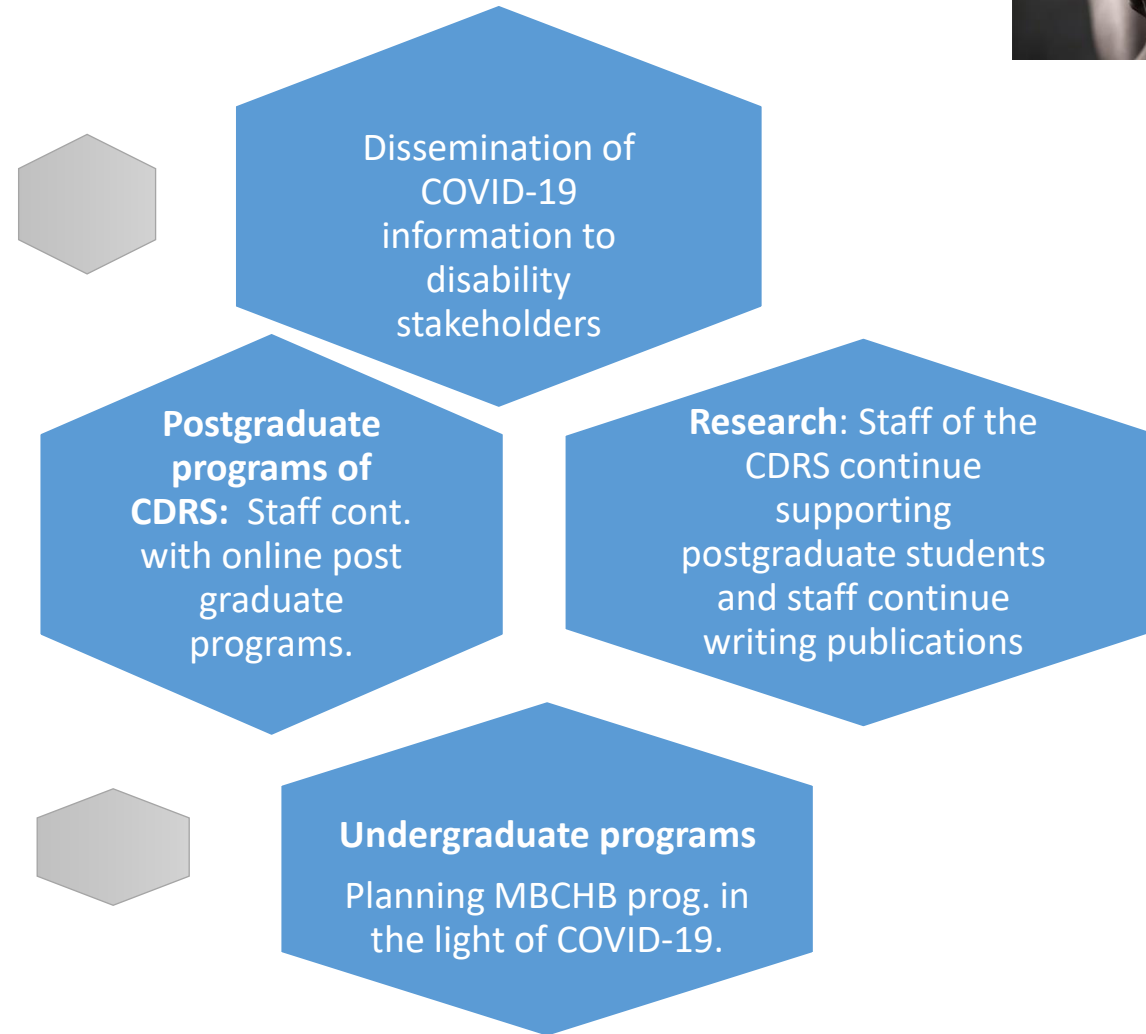


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Prof Gubela Mji
Centre for Disability and
Rehabilitation Studies
(CDRS)



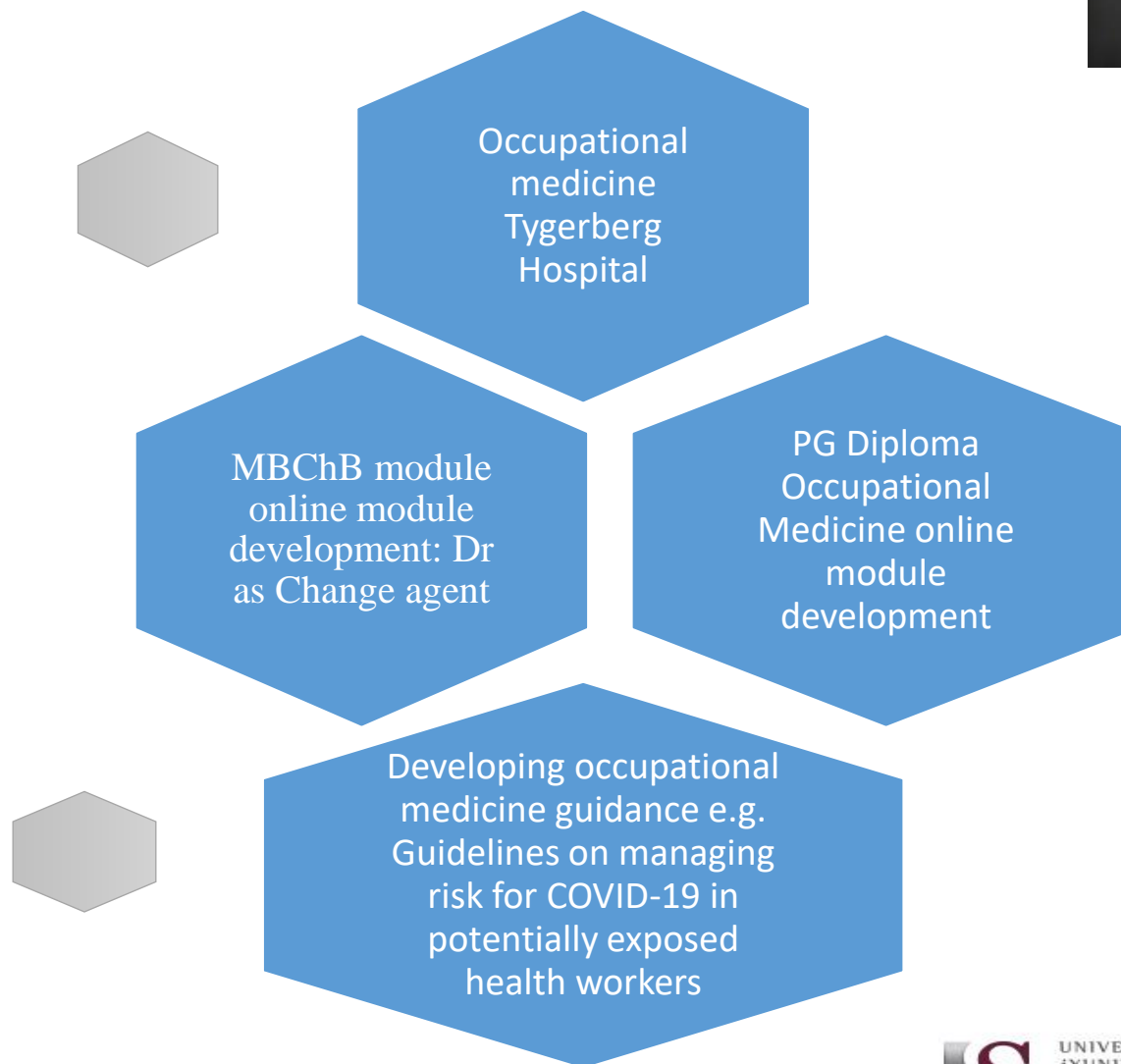
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Dr Jack Meintjies and Dr Sydney Carstens, Division Health Systems & Public Health



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4 Ukwanda staff supporting Covid-19 case and contact tracing by Tygerberg pod. Possibility of opening Worcester pod being discussed.

Research Forum: Q&A on Covid-19 for staff

Adjusting programmes & supporting students in the Rural Clinical School, particularly MBChB (Worcester, LIM, Upington)

Provision of ongoing service at the Avian Park Service learning Centre

As part of SUNSTRIPE, successfully piloted a new COVID-19 module to be offered to health workers in Africa through AFREHealth, to rural health workers in SA and to students.

Dr Amy Slogrove. with 2 NRF interns and Moleen Zunza. is supporting Angela Dramowski in conducting a rapid review of COVID19 infection and mortality risk in healthcare workers



Prof Ian Couper & team,
Ukwanda Centre for
Rural Health



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**Dr Frederick Weinand, Dr
Martin Muller, Dr Inneke
Laenen and Dr Masudah
Paleker**
Registrars: Division of
Health Systems and Public
Health

Supporting
Occupational Health
clinic

Completed guidance
document for medical
treatment of
supernumerary
Registrars in relation to
COVID-19

Working with Occ Health team to complete a
document on risk assessment and risk
classification of health care workers for
COVID-19 in relation to exposure and risk

Completed synopsis
for Circular
instructions for
compensation of
COVID-19

-Amendments/additions to Provincial PPE plan
according to feedback and queries
-Support for ongoing revision of Provincial
Service Preparedness plan

Contact tracing and data
management with COVID-19
response



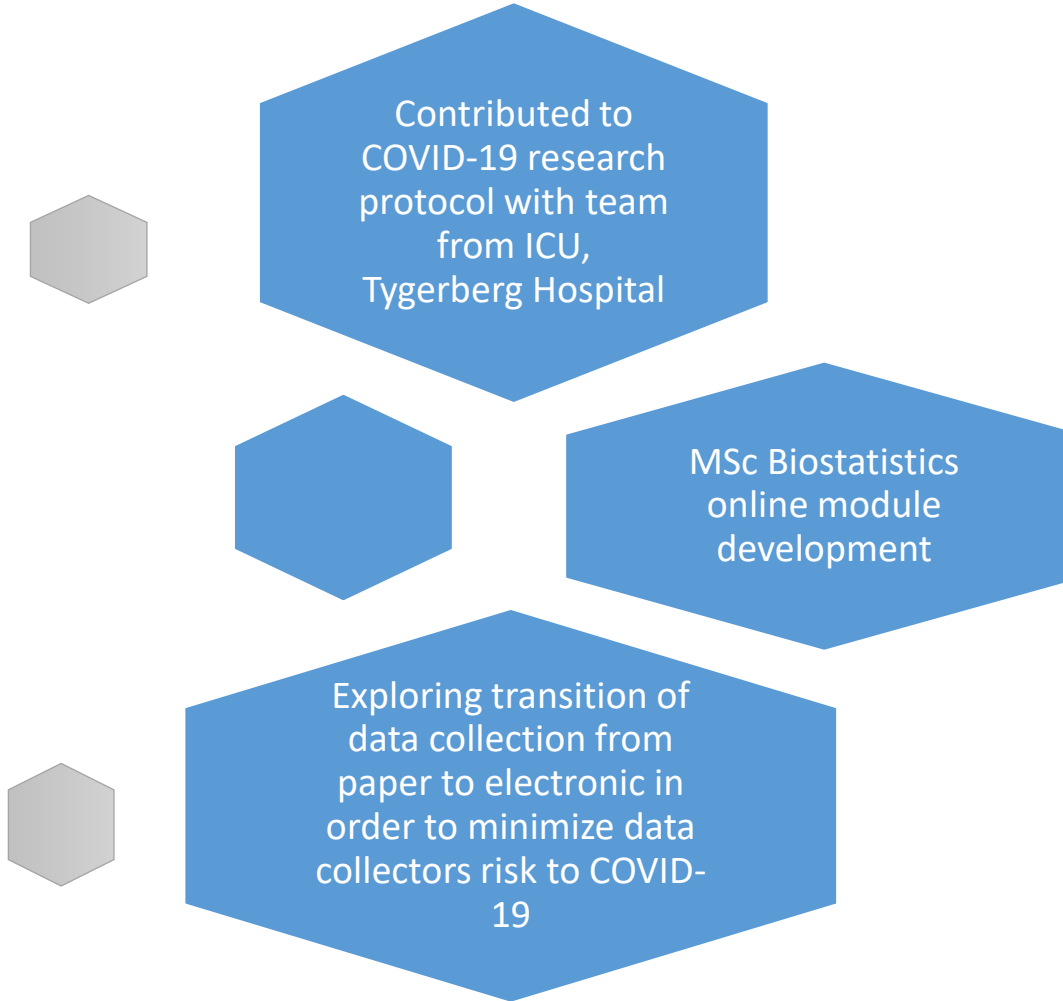
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Dr Birhanu Ayele,
Division of Epidemiology
and Biostatistics



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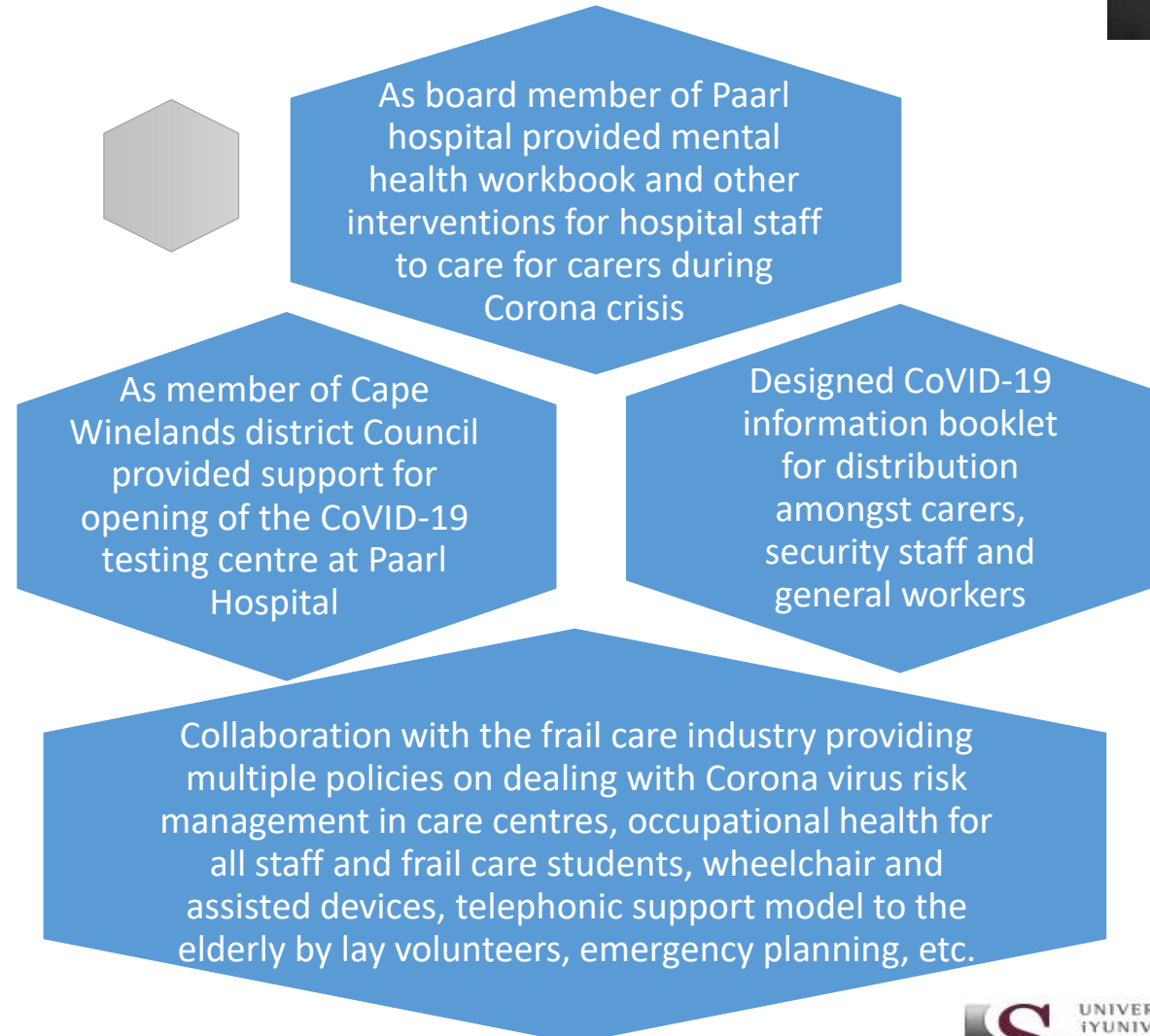


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Dr Guin Lourens,
Ukwanda Centre for
Rural Health



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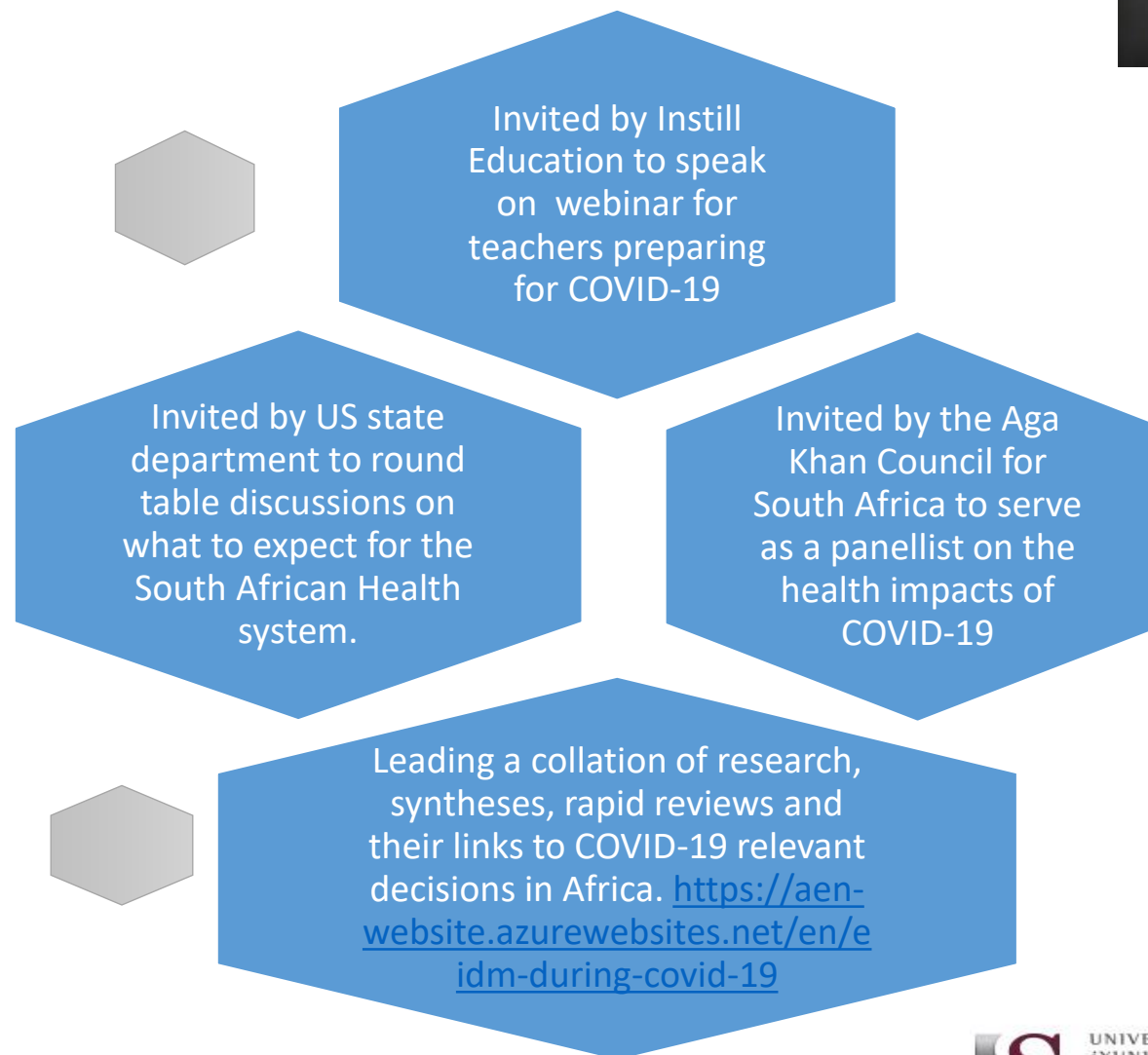


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Dr Nasreen Jessani, Centre for
Evidence-based Health Care



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Prof Xikombiso Mbhenyane,
Division of Human Nutrition

Undergraduate activities:
Preparation of modules for online
tuition, weekly meetings of UG
Committee chaired by Dr van
Niekerk using online, KNO report
on modifications to the BSc Diet
submitted

PG: All our modules
continuing. June
Examination could be
adjusted at the request of
the Facilitators

Research
Continues inline with
University embargo and
between Study Leader
and Student

Service: Four staff
have permits to
working TBH or
BLCHC during the
lockdown

NICUS – Radio (RSG,
Radio Pretoria) on COVID
Immunity and Diet ; Lay
publications in e.g.
Weekend Argus,
Huisgenoot



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Prof Vikash Sewram,
African Cancer Institute

Evidence synthesis on pre-exposure prophylaxis for health care workers

MPhil (Cancer Science)
Students assisted in the provision of Daily Research Summaries for ICU at Tygerberg Hospital.

Providing guidance to private sector health care providers in respect of evidence interpretation

Transition of modules to hybrid models to continue learning and teaching activities to postgraduate students

Provision of information and resources on impact of COVID 19 on cancer patients



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Prof L du Plessis, Dr L Daniels, Ms T Dhlamini, Mrs R Beukes, Mrs C Owens, Mrs I Gierdien, Mrs L Koornhof, Division of Human Nutrition

Supported the Western Cape DoH: Nutrition Programme with documentation and evidence on feeding during emergencies

Supported NGO's on request about outreach activities relating to the contents of food parcels and economical meals



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Prof Taryn Young

Linking with global evidence synthesis groups to streamline response
<https://www.mcmasterforum.org/networks/covidend>

Offered training on making sense of research to students preparing daily COVID research briefs to clinicians

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-05-15-behavioural-science-and-its-potential-to-guide-our-response-to-covid-19/>

With Anel Schoonees and McMaster colleagues conducted a rapid review of evidence on interventions to reduce risk of spread in public transport
<http://www.samj.org.za/index.php/samj/article/view/12943>

With Cochrane Africa & Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative conducted LMIC survey to gather information on ongoing and planned COVID research
<http://www.cebhc.co.za/research-key-outputs/cochrane-africa/>

Mobilizing teams to conduct rapid reviews

Oversight for development and implementation of under- and post-graduate online teaching and learning in Epidemiology and biostatistics

Sharing COVID research evidence and resources with DoH



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CEBHC Research summary

Team member	Topic	Progress
Michael McCaul (co-author)	Rapid review methods even more challenging during COVID-19: Commentary	In peer review – Journal Clinical Epidemiology
Tonya Esterhuizen (co-author)	Primary health care nurses' preparedness for COVID-19 & its influence on primary health care services, Western Cape	Ethics approval obtained
Peter Nyasulu, Birhanu Ayele, Rene English	Implications of Severe COVID-19 at Tygerberg Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa	Ethics approval obtained
Michael McCaul, Amanda Brand	Conducting rapid reviews to inform National DoH guidance	Rapid review completed
Celeste Naude, Anel Schoonees	Obesity as an independent risk factor for COVID-19 severity	Rapid review in progress
Moleen Zunza	South African healthcare workers and COVID-19: A shared responsibility to protect a precious and limited resource	http://www.samj.org.za/index.php/samj/article/view/12977/9279
Anel, Schoonees, Taryn Young	COVID-19 and diabetes, hypertension, asthma, occupational lung diseases, coronary heart disease, heart failure & stroke	Rapid review in progress
Amanda Brand, Marianne Visser, Anel Schoonees	Community-level interventions to increase access to food in LMICs	Cochrane review, in peer review
Anel Schoonees, Taryn Young	Interventions to reduce risk of spread in public transport	http://www.samj.org.za/index.php/samj/article/view/12943



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The Department of Global Health <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/healthsciences/global-health/Pages/default.aspx> collaborates across disciplines and sectors to address complex health problems. This presentation shares a snapshot of ongoing activities in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Heartfelt appreciation to everyone for their efforts during this difficult time.
A special recognition for all staff in health care services.

8/05/2020



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