

Bone skills course increasingly popular

The 13th Temporal Bone course was recently hosted by Prof James Loock and the SU Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) division.

When it first started in 2001, the course only attracted South African specialists, but it soon became popular internationally and has since had participants from all over Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

According to Loock, head of the ENT division, the motivation for running the course is skills sharing with ENT specialists, both local and foreign. Training specialists from other African countries is an important aspect of the course and sponsorships are usually available for these participants.

The reason the course is so popular is a combination of factors: the quality of the teaching, i.e. Loock is assisted by three highly respected colleagues from abroad; the excellent cadaveric temporal bones provided by the Division of Anatomy and Histology, and the state-of-the-art equipment kindly provided by companies which sponsor the course.

According to Loock, the course is aimed at developing young trainees' understanding of anatomy, and for honing the skills of practicing doctors. It is important that ENT surgeons are well-trained in this particular area due to the complex anatomy of the petrous temporal bone where several important soft tissue structures, such as the ear, the facial nerve, the

Ear, nose and throat specialists from around the world again attended the annual workshop on temporal bone surgery presented by the ENT division of the SU Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

sigmoid sinus and the carotid artery course through the hard bone.

This year for the first time Loock and his team also used e-learning in the workshop. A dissection by Dr David Pothier in Toronto,



Prof James Loock (at the back), head of the ENT division, assisting a student during the recent Temporal Bone Course.

Canada, was broadcast live via Skype during a lecture.

As in the past, Prof George Browning of Glasgow jointly presented the course demonstrations and lectures with Loock. The Division has also been greatly assisted by Prof Ben Page from the Division of Anatomy and Histology in the preparation of high-quality cadaveric temporal bones.

NURSING -

The backbone of health in Africa



The New Partnership for Africa's Development, commonly known as NEPAD, recently approached Stellenbosch University's Nursing division for assistance with the development and implementation of a two-year Master's Programme for nurses and midwives in Cameroon.

According to Prof Mzoba Mboya, Education and Training advisor for NEPAD, nursing forms the backbone of health systems in Africa and development in this profession will be to the benefit of health on the continent.

The programme will be specifically developed according to the needs of the country and is envisioned to be rolled out by the end of the year.

Similar programmes have been implemented in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique.

Pictured on the left are Prof Anita van der Merwe, professor of Nursing and consultant to SU on strategic matters; Prof Mzoba Mboya and Dr Ethelwynn Stellenberg, acting head of the SU Nursing division.