

AIDS research leaders visit FABI



FABIANS with researchers from CAPRISA

FABI hosted some of South Africa's most eminent research scientists in January. Director of the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) Professor Salim Abdool Karim visited with his team including Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim, Drs Nesri Padayatchi, Kogie Naidoo, Lenine Liebenberg and Carl Montague as well as Tanuja Gengiah and Cheryl Baxter. The delegation met with FABI director Prof Mike Wingfield and management committee members to discuss the successes of the two research centres of excellence. Discussions focused on common research challenges, funding models and what the two centres could learn from each other. Following lunch and a tour of FABI, Prof Salim Abdool Karim presented a seminar on CAPRISA's establishment and how it has become a world-renowned institution in HIV/AIDs research and the treatment of HIV and TB. CAPRISA was established in 2002 to undertake globally relevant and locally responsive research that contributes to understanding HIV pathogenesis, prevention and epidemiology as well as links between TB and AIDs care. It is primarily funded with a grant from the USA's National Institute for Health (NIH). Research is undertaken in mainly three fields:

- -HIV and TB treatment
- -Microbicides Prevention and epidemiology

- -Vaccine and pathogenesis

Although FABI and CAPRISA deal with tree and human health respectively, both teams found the discussions very fruitful. A team from FABI will visit CAPRISA in the future.



Prof Mike Wingfield taking CAPRISA researchers on a tour of the FABI facilities