

FABI RESEARCHERS ELECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GENETICS SOCIETY

The joint congress of the South African Society for Bioinformatics (SASBi) and the South African Genetics Society (SAGS) was held at the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal from 20 to 23 September. The biennial SASBi and SAGS congresses are the premier national scientific meetings uniting scientists working in the overlapping disciplines of bioinformatics and genetics in South Africa. The congress theme was “Bridging the Gap” with an emphasis on decoding genetics for integration and application, to understand the function and evolution of biological systems from a single gene to a whole genome level.



The congress was attended by researchers from institutions across the country and provided an ideal platform for postgraduate students to present their research. Several FABIans presented talks and posters at the congress (Prof Lucy Moleleki, Dr Nanette Christie as well as Robert Backer, Yves du Toit, Stefan Engelbrecht, Arista Fourie, Bianca Rodrigues Jardim, Matt Laubscher, Lorraine Mhoswa, Dora Mkabili, Buyani Ndlovu, Alisa Postma-Smit, Liezel

Potgieter, Danielle Roodt, Ariska van der Nest, Stephanie van Wyk, and Andrea Wilson. Prof. Zander delivered the plenary lecture.

Drs Riaan Swanepoel, Sanushka Naidoo, Albé van der Merwe and Irene Barnes were elected to the executive of the SAGS council with Dr. Naidoo as president of the society, Dr Barnes as secretary and Dr van der Merwe as website manager. Dr. Steven Hussey was also elected as an additional member. The next joint congress will take place in 2018 in Bloemfontein and will be hosted by the University of the Free State.