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King Edward VIII Hospital

Visit by Namibian Medical Students



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International Students visit UKZN Medical Campus and King Edward VIII Hospital



Third and fourth year Medical Students from the University of Namibia visited the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine at UKZN and the King Edward VIII Hospital as a part of their tour of Durban, the visit happened on the 23rd April.

Dr. Green Thompson from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at King Edward VIII Hospital gave the Namibian students a tour of the Antenatal Clinic, Labour ward and post natal wards. While Ms Nontobeko Ndlela, Public Relations Practitioner gave a tour of Paediatrics department.

Green-Thompson explained the history of the hospital and the day to day activities doctors are required to conduct. Dr Green-Thompson explained to the students that 17 000 people go through the antenatal clinic during the year. He also gave some important advice to the students about the medical profession as well as some interesting facts which many of the students found insightful. King Edward VIII Hospital is a teaching hospital for students from the Nelson R. Mandela Medical School with Paediatrics and Midwifery as some of our specialties in the Nursing College.

Associate Professor, Ted Sommerville from UKZN briefly explained the MbChB curriculum to the international students, drawing attention to the problem based and self-directed learning strategies that are adopted, which differs from traditional curriculums as it incorporates 'both basic sciences and clinical medicine together instead of separating the sections.'



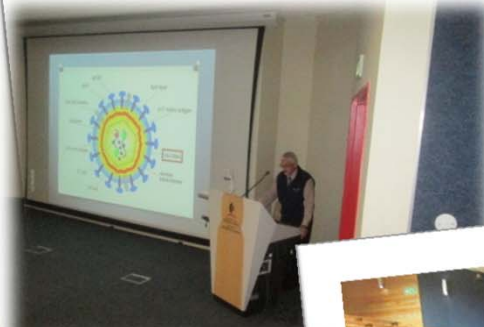
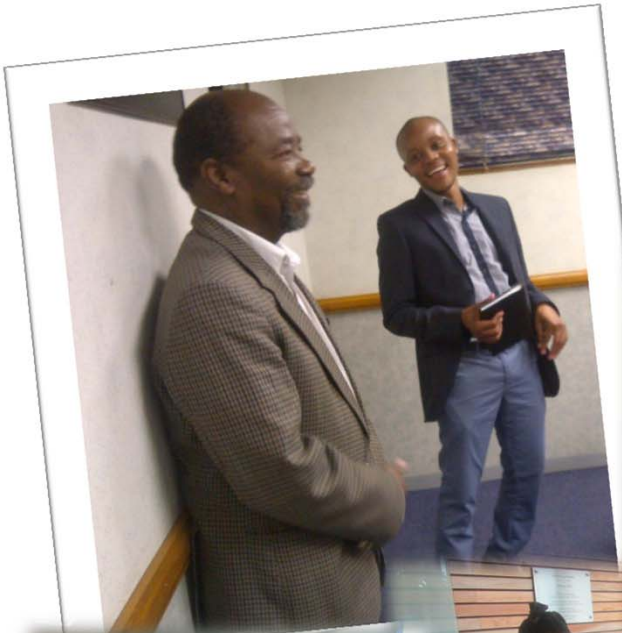
Students asked questions about the university accepting foreign students, various teaching and learning methods, as well as college life at UKZN. Sommerville said: 'It is a very competitive environment in terms of accepting students, since we only take a few hundred out of the thousands of applications that we receive. But what students need to realise is that when they are here, learning and becoming professionals, we need to work together and collaborate. You will always be working with people and you will need help from other doctors, even when in private practice. You are taught to collaborate rather than be competitive in this field.'

The Namibian Medical students were also given a talk by Professor William Daniels, the Dean and Head of School of Laboratory, Medicine and Medical Sciences. Daniels spoke about the innovative HIV research taking place at UKZN to give students an idea of the work that students and medical professionals were involved in, and explained HIV associated dementia in a talk related to HIV and how the virus affects brain function in patients.

Thato Serebolo, the Student Representative Council (SRC) President of the University of Namibia School of Medicine expressed that the tour of the hospital and visiting the university gave students the opportunity to see what medical education was like outside their home country and that as third and fourth year students, 'it provides an interesting comparison for us as medical students to see what we can take away, improve and adopt from UKZN.'

Article by: Zakia Jeewa (UKZN)

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