

Memo: UM President Mun Choi

From: Rodney Uphoff



Date: Feb 14, 2022


Re: 2021 UMSAEP Report


For the past 3 years, I have provided you a report summarizing the activities and outputs of the UMSAEP for the prior year. This report once again reflects the challenges of trying to conduct collaborative research projects during a pandemic. UM faculty were in better shape than our UWC colleagues in terms of having time to devote to research. For UWC faculty, they faced heavy and demanding teaching loads because all of their courses in 2021 were again all online. Many labs were closed for much of 2021 and few faculty were able to access campus for much of the year. International travel was restricted especially for South Africans. Other than me, only one UM faculty member traveled to UWC during 2021. But we did have 13 UWC faculty and grad students travel to Missouri in the fall. Many stalled projects finally took off. And in spite of limited travel and time challenges, many UMSAEP participants continued their collaborations and produced significant outcomes.

As noted last year, one positive development of the pandemic has been the expanded use of zoom to promote international research and teaching collaborations in a world without travel. With Ghent and UWC, we held [3 webinars exploring Domestic Extremism](#) in each country. We have seen more UM faculties exploring virtual seminars series with their UWC colleagues to the benefit of both UM and UWC students as we enhance the internationalization of our curriculum.

Last year, our trilateral partnership awarded 8 modest grants to teams of UM, UWC and Ghent professors for trilateral virtual research or teaching proposals. While 4 of these projects remain works in progress, 4 projects were successfully completed:

- UWC Prof. Vivienne Bozalek, MU Prof Candance Kuby and Ghent Prof. Geert Van Hove built upon a successful webinar series started by Profs. Bozalek and Kuby that used presentations and discussions to assist graduate students and their supervisors to incorporate novel qualitative approaches into their research projects. After adding Prof. Van Hove, they hosted even more webinars for over a 14 month period. The webinars were posted on YouTube and each session had over 1000 viewings. They have been approached by the prestigious Sage journal, *Qualitative Inquiry*, to do special double issue based on those webinars.  [Read more.](#)
- MU Profs. Haley Horstman and Rebecca Scott, UWC Prof. Athena Pedro and Ghent Prof. Peter Stevens held a joint semester virtual course on qualitative research methods.  [Read more.](#)
- UWC Professors Maria Florence and Shazly Savahl, Ghent Professor Wouter Vanderplassehn and his colleague, Dr. Jessica De Maeyer and MU Professor Mansoo Yu are working on book entitled *Florence, M., Vanderplassehn, W., Yu, M., & Savahl, S (Ed.). Addiction, recovery, and quality of life: Cross-cutting*

perspectives from around the globe, Springer. The book is an interdisciplinary look at the fields of addiction and quality of life research.  [Read more](#).

- UWC Prof. Jane Taylor and her UWC colleagues Dr. Aja Marneweck and Dr. William Ellis, Ghent Profs. Inge Brinkman and Christel Stalpaert and MU Prof Suzanne Burgoyne and her MU colleagues put together a series of 5 activity sessions which used story-telling and theatrical procedures to explore the role of “performance “ in academic research and education.  [Read more](#).

As in past years, I reached out to all 2021 UMSAEP awardees as well as past awardees and requested updates on 2021 activities with a UMSAEP collaborator. I reached out to 114 UMSAEP participants and received a response from 83. Of these respondents, 3 reported that they had retired or left either UM or UWC. So this report reflects the significant outputs of the 80 still working at UWC or for UM. It should be noted that several mentioned that either they or family members struggled with covid and the difficulty they encountered doing research during a pandemic.

Publications

UM and UWC faculty reported 1 book and 2 book chapter published in 2021 and another under review. 29 articles were published during 2021. 1 additional article has been accepted for publication and 6 were under review or revision. In addition, UMSAEP participants reported 7 manuscripts were in progress.

Conference papers/ presentations

With the ban on international and limited domestic travel still largely in place, most conferences that were held were virtual. UMSAEP participants reported 9 conference presentations.

Grants

UM and UWC faculty reported submitting several grant applications that were not funded. 3 more grant applications have been submitted and are under review. The following grants were awarded in 2021 based on their UMSAEP funded work:

MU David Mendoza-Cozatl (based on work with Marshall Keyster)

USDA- \$500,000

MU's Wilson Majee (Co- PI on grant awarded to Cape Peninsula Univ. of Technology)

NRF- R450,000

UMKC's Antonis Stylianou(with MU's Trent Guess as Co-PI)

Kansas City Consortium of Musculoskeletal Diseases- \$20,000

UWC'S Marshall Keyster(MU's David Mendoza-Cozatl and Antje Heese Co-PIs)-

National Research Foundation(NRF) -R100,000

Grain SA-(MU's David Mendoza-Cozatl and Antje Heese Co-PIs)- – R463,139

Centre of Excellence in Food Security – R390,000

UWC's Chris Arendse-

Armaments Corporation for SA (ARMSCOR) – R 300,000

UWC's Takalani Mulaudzi-Masuku –

National Research Foundation (NRF) Thuthuka Institutional Grant, 2021 - R300, 000.

UWC's Brian Van Wyk(MU's Michelle Teti is co-PI on both) –

NRF – R1,300,000

SA Medical Research council- R600, 000

UWC's Ndiko Ludidi(MU's Bob Sharp and Scott Peck Co-PIs on both)

NRF – R1,704,000(spread over 3 years)

NRF -R 810,000(spread over 3 years)

UWC's Maria Florence (MU's Mansoo Yu is Co-PI on both)

NRF-R668,000(spread over 3 years)

SA Medical Research council- R435, 000

Student Opportunities/ Capacity Building

The ban on international travel also adversely affected the ability of UWC and UM students to travel. The MU law group was the only MU study abroad program that went to South Africa in 2021. Two Henry Mitchell scholars traveled from UWC in the Fall. Sheridan Lloyd worked with MU's Greg Biedermann on a research project with Sheridan's supervisor UWC Prof. Mongi Benjeddou. Mhlahli Badiwe accompanied his supervisor Prof. Ashwil Klein to work with MU's Walter Gassmann.

UM has played a major role in helping to build capacity at UWC since the inception of this partnership. This continued in 2021. A few examples. MU's David Mendoza-Cozatl co-supervised, one of Prof Marshall Keyster's students, Arun Gokul, who did his post-doc in Prof. Mendoza-Cozatl's lab. Dr. Gokul now holds a faculty position at the University of the Free State in South Africa. MU Profs. Bob Sharp is currently co-supervising one of Prof. Ludidi's Ph.D. students, Ali Elnaeim Elbasheir Ali. He and MU's Scott Peck also serve on Ali's dissertation committee. Finally, UMKC Prof John Kevern currently has two former UWC students who he met while working on a research project at UWC who are now Ph.D. candidates in his lab.

Fulbright Awards

MU's Haley Horstman was awarded a Fulbright to go to Poland in 2021- 2022 based on the work she did with her UWC collaborator Athena Pedro. UWC's Ndiko Ludidi was awarded a Fulbright to work at MU with Bob Sharp and Scott Peck. He arrived in Columbia in November 2021 and will stay until the end of May, 2022.

Conclusion

This report highlights the major outputs of the UMSAEP in 2021. To see trip reports that describe the broad range of UMSAEP funded projects across a variety of academic disciplines, go to the UMSAEP website <https://www.umsystem.edu/president/southafrica> .

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