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### **Report: Faculty of Dentistry Outreach to Fisantekraal -24<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

The Faculty of Dentistry held another outreach on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019 in Fisantekraal. A team of ten 5<sup>th</sup> year and three 3<sup>rd</sup> year dental students, together with four lecturers, took part.

At half past seven on the Saturday morning, there were already 150 patients waiting outside the clinic. Stickers were issued to all of them and they were informed that we would attend to them in order of the number on the sticker and that those above 100 could go and relax so long as we wouldn't see them before lunch. The vast majority returned during the day.

After unpacking all the equipment and setting up the surgeries, we were ready for our first patients, just before 09:00.



The mobile clinic in action



Our Sterilizing unit staff in action

As has been the case in the past, the Durbanville Club of Rotary International provided wonderful support. The members of Rotary Durbanville performed the patient administration for us, and organized gift toys for the children and provided our delicious lunch. This was a huge help to us. Thanks again Rotary!



At work in the consulting rooms on the portable chair

Some patients had to wait for a long time, but they were all so appreciative of our service.

Everyone, staff, students and helpers worked like a highly efficient team and kept on smiling.

In outreaches like these, we are so used to the vast majority of patients needing extractions as that is all that one can do for severely decayed teeth. However, it was so encouraging to find a few patients who requested a cleaning and/or fillings. It is obvious that Fisantekraal really needs a dental clinic – the community has grown substantially, and restorative treatment takes much longer than extractions.

Tea breaks were hardly taken and, with a staggered break for lunch, things ran smoothly all day. Such dedicated students – a pleasure to work with them!



Patients waiting patiently...

And, after packing all the portable equipment, consumables and instruments into the mobile clinic and taking a (now traditional) group photo, we left for Tygerberg at 17:45 – quite a lot later than we had planned.

We saw 141 patients, extracted 245 teeth, filled 18 teeth, scaled and polished 11 patients, and referred 9 patients to Tygerberg for procedures that we were not able to perform at the clinic. It is such a pity that so many teeth need to be extracted, but there is no other treatment option.

To the City of Cape Town staff members from the clinic, who were there to help us, a big thank you! A special word of thanks is due to my colleagues who accompanied us, Prof Neil Myburgh, Dr Dirk Smit, Dr Karen Simpson and Dr Tina Roberts, Ms Felicity Vanqa who was ably assisted by Ms Adelaide Maart in our sterilizing section, and also to our driver, Mr Malcolm Adams. Also, a big thank you to the Durbanville Rotary club– you were a huge help and support!

Thanks are also due to the University of the Western Cape for financing these outreaches – a truly Engaged University!



The Fisantekraal August 2019 Outreach Team

I keep saying it, but it is really worth repeating, UWC can really be proud of these students. It is a pleasure to work with such a friendly, enthusiastic and hard-working team!

Prof R B Barrie

Outreach Coordinator