

## MEDICAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION BRANCH OPENED AT UKZN



**SAMSA branch members (from left, standing) Mr Lwazi Mjadu, Ms Shi-Hsia Hwa, Mr Sihle Nyawose, Mr Bahle Tshoba, Ms. Jessica Hunter, Dr Leila Mansoor, Ms. Isabel Khan, and Mr Vikaar Singh; and (sitting) Ms Mathapelo Mpotoane and Mr Kumeren Govender.**

A new branch of the South African Medical Students Association (SAMSA) has opened at UKZN's Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine (NRMSM).

SAMSA, an organisation run by medical students for medical students and the greater community, was established to facilitate medical representation, training, networking and outreach programmes. It aims to provide a platform that enables medical students to be a force for positive change at national, African and global levels.

The new SAMSA branch at UKZN celebrated its first event during Mandela Week, culminating in four days of engagement, each day devoted to a special cause.

The event started at Durban's ICC where SAMSA members partnered with the Stop Hunger Now Foundation to package meals for the underprivileged and this was followed by an HIV and TB awareness day at the Medical School aimed at building research capacity in future clinicians.

Representatives from two world-renowned research organisations - the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) and the KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (K-RITH) - mingled with medical students.

The third day was dedicated to blood donations in partnership with the South African National Blood Service (SANBSO), while the final day was celebrated with fun-filled activities such as hair spraying to raise funds for cancer in partnership with the UKZN-Golden Key society.

President and founder of SAMSA-UKZN, fourth year medical student, Mr Kumeren Nadaraj Govender, said: 'A function of this nature run by students is no easy task but credit goes to

my team who have given their time and energy to ensure this organisation is a success. It is important that students engage with the community at an early age to be active members of society who make a difference.'

Mr Lwazi Mjadu of the SAMSA committee said: 'Nelson Mandela would not only be proud that our campus is named in his honour but also that students are a driving force of positive change in society.'