



SARETI Newsletter: March 2007



2006 was undoubtedly our busiest year to date. 2006 was SARETI's fourth and final year of our first funding cycle (2003-2006). Our application for competitive renewal of funding for the next cycle (2007-2010) was submitted to the NIH/Fogarty in January 2006. We were notified of the outcome in October 2006 and we are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a full grant for the next four-year cycle of training (2007-2010).

This, our fourth newsletter, provides an overview of the activities at the end of our first cycle of funding (2005-2006) and the early phase of our second funding cycle (2007).

1. SARETI SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS

1.1. CURRENT SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS

During our second funding cycle, SARETI will focus on offering fully funded scholarships for the Masters degree (Health Research Ethics) only. We plan to enrol four sponsored Masters students annually in years 1-3, and two in year four - a total of 14 Masters graduates. Self-funded applicants may enrol for Masters degrees or SARETI stand-alone modules and complete a non-degree Fellowship programme over a period of 3-6 months. Similarly, self-funded applicants may enrol for the three modules comprising the Ethics Review Committee Training Programme (ERCTP).

Our call for applications for the 2007 academic year was sent out in October 2006. From among the 22 applications that we received for the Masters degree programme, we selected 4 scholars: 1 woman and 3 men. Our 2007 Masters scholars commenced their training at the University of Pretoria in January this year. They are

- Mr Dickens Omondi Aduda (Kenya), registered for MSocSci
- Ms Evelyn Anane-Sarpong (Ghana), registered for MPH
- Dr Asungushe Kayombo (Tanzania), registered for MPH
- Dr Kolawole Oyedeji (Nigeria), registered for MSocSci

1.2. PAST SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS

Between May and August 2005 we recruited our fourth group of SARETI Fellows. No Masters degree applications were invited or accepted as the degree programme does not run in the final year of each funding cycle. We received 28 applications from 12 African countries, as well one from Oman. Our 2006 group comprised 2 women and 4 men. Selection was merit based.

- All five of our 2006 trainees were Fellowship students, and commenced their 6-month Fellowship certificate course in health research ethics in May 2006. We also selected one scholar for our short-course Ethics Review Committee Training Programme (ERCTP), who was partially funded by SARETI.

South African Research Ethics Training Initiative SARETI

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- Our 2006 Fellows were:
 - Mr Cuthbert Butendeli (Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology, Tanzania)
 - Dr Abiodun Olubayo Fasola (Faculty of Dentistry, University of Ibadan, Nigeria)
 - Dr Olawunmi Fatusi (College of Health Sciences, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria)
 - Ms Caroline Gikonyo (KEMRI, Kenya)
 - Mr Yandisa Sikweyiya (Medical Research Council, South Africa)
 - Prof Muhsin Aboud: ERCTP scholar (Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences, Tanzania)



2006 SARETI Fellows and Executive staff at farewell supper in Pietermaritzburg, Clockwise from left: Ms Debbie Marais, Prof Nhlanhla Mkhize, Mr Cuthbert Butendeli, Ms Joyce Jakavula, Ms Caroline Gikonyo, Dr Olubayo Fasola, Prof Doug Wassenaar, Dr Olawunmi Fatusi, Prof Mariana Kruger, Mr Yandisa Sikweyiya

Overview of the past four years:

- We received a total of 157 formal applications for our programme over the four years that the SARETI programme has been active. Of these, 27 trainees (9 Masters scholars and 18 Fellows) have been awarded sponsorships.
- Applicants were from 22 different African countries. Successful applicants were from Burkino-Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Of these, only 3 were from South Africa, in line with our policy of being a programme to serve Africa, not South Africa exclusively. Most applications (60%) were for the SARETI Masters degree and 40% were for non-degree Fellowships.
- The average age of applicants was between 30 and 40. About 20% were medical practitioners and the others a variety of biological and social scientists. Law and philosophy were under-represented.
- With regard to gender, 37% of all applicants were female, 63% were male. However, 40% of trainees funded by SARETI were female. Although this is short of the desirable 50/50, every effort is made to fund promising female applicants.
- With regard to race, all funded trainees were black.
- In addition, between 2003 and 2006, 67 self-funded students have enrolled for one or more SARETI modules at the Universities of Pretoria and KwaZulu-Natal.



- Other countries from which applications were received
- Countries from which successful applications were received

- SARETI has developed 19 modules which can be taken towards MPH, MPhil, and MSocSci degrees in Health Research Ethics: 16 modules are courses varying in duration from 1-3 weeks; 1 practical module in which students attend active research ethics committee meetings; a 1-month visit to the Johns Hopkins Bioethics Institute in Baltimore (where students do 2 modules of 1 week each, and meet with the African colleagues from the programme directed by Dr Nancy Kass); and 1 module as a research paper / dissertation. SARETI covers all the costs of our scholars.
- Of the 2003 Masters (MPH) Scholars, Ms Joyce Ikingura (Tanzania) has graduated and now holds an MPH (Health Research Ethics) degree.
- Of the 2004 Masters (MPH) Scholars, Drs O Manafa (Nigeria) and A Nyika (Zimbabwe) graduated with MPH (Health Research Ethics) degrees in 2005. Ms Rose Musesengwa (Zimbabwe) has completed her data collection, and Ms Awa Keita (Mali) is completing her MPhil thesis. Dr Manafa has published an excerpt from her thesis in the *Online Journal of Health Ethics*.
- All four 2005 SARETI Fellows (Dr E Kwagala, Dr D Irabor, Dr B Olley and Ms M Ratsaka-Mothokoa) successfully completed all their SARETI coursework modules and remain in regular contact. They have either continued to serve on RECs, or work in an ethics advisory capacity, or activated research ethics training activities in their home countries (Uganda, Nigeria, and South Africa). We are in regular contact with these Fellows and those of 2003 and 2004.
- Dr Wellington Oyibo and Mr Owen Mapfumo attended the 7th Global Bioethics Forum in Karachi in February 2006.
- Our PhD student, Mr Paul Ndebele, had his PhD proposal accepted at UKZN and he is now formally registered at UKZN. He has recently been appointed to co-direct the Fogarty bioethics initiative in Malawi and serves on the advisory board of the Johns Hopkins Fogarty Bioethics unit under Dr Nancy Kass. He is now co-director of the Fogarty Training for Scholarships in Research Ethics programme in Malawi, in conjunction with Michigan State University.
- Dr Abdoulaye Diallo, one of our 2004 Fellows, has been awarded the Norwegian Quota Fellowship at the University of Bergen. The Fellowship is on international health, with a focus on clinical epidemiology.

Masters Scholars 2005-2006

- The 2005 Scholars, Mr Bornwell Sikateyo and Ms Janelisa Musaya, have completed their coursework and returned to their home countries, Zambia and Malawi respectively and are both completing their research dissertations. Mr Sikateyo has completed the first draft of his thesis; Ms Musaya has received ethical approval for her proposal.
- Two of our SARETI Scholars, Ms Janelisa Musaya and Dr Firew Wubiee, were sponsored by SARETI to attend the June 2005 summer programme in International Health Research Ethics at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, and attended the Kennedy Institute of Ethics Intensive Bioethics Programme at Georgetown University.

Mr Bornwell Sikateyo (MSocSci)

Mr Sikateyo was formerly a fellow of the Johns Hopkins Fogarty Bioethics programme, and was accepted for a SARETI MSocSci (Research Ethics) Masters programme in 2005. On completion of his coursework in October 2005, he returned home to continue with his Masters thesis research. The first draft of his thesis is now complete. He is also currently finalizing the Zambian Research Ethics Committee submission for the 2006 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey. Sponsored by SARETI, Mr Sikateyo attended and presented a paper at the Yale International AIDS Summer Institute's 'The Ethics of International AIDS Research: Contemporary Practices and Controversies' course from 5th to 10th June 2005.

Ms Janelisa Musaya (MPhil)

Ms Musaya was accepted for an MPhil degree in January 2005. She has since completed all her coursework and has returned home to Malawi to teach on the Fogarty bioethics programme at the University of Malawi School of Public Health and to resume her work as a research scientist. She is currently working on completion of her Masters dissertation. Ms Musaya attended the 7th Global Bioethics Forum in Karachi, Pakistan, 2006.

Fellows 2005

Dr David Irabor

Dr Irabor completed his SARETI Fellowship from May to September 2005. Upon his return home, he has been using his training to develop an ethics curriculum in undergraduate surgery by incorporating core bioethics and research ethics. He is likely to join the Fogarty Bioethics programme in Ibadan.

Dr Elizabeth Kwagala

Dr Kwagala enrolled for the SARETI Fellowship programme in May 2005. She completed this programme in October 2005, and has returned home to her post as Research Fellow at the Makerere Institute of Social Research. She has developed a brief proposal for training in research ethics, which will be integrated in the short courses on research methodology at the Makerere Institute. She has made contact with the National Council of Science and Technology regarding a proposed study on the monitoring of research by IRBs. Dr Kwagala is also involved in training staff at her Institute to review research proposals more comprehensively. Dr Kwagala, along with Dr Rossouw from the SARETI Executive, attended the PABIN meeting in Cameroon, 29-31 May 2006. SARETI has nominated Dr Kwagala for the Ethical, Social and Cultural (ESC) Program for the Grand Challenges in Global Health Initiative grant.

Dr Benjamin Olley

Dr Olley was accepted onto the SARETI Fellowship programme in May 2005. He completed ten of the twelve required modules towards his Fellowship. In September 2005, Dr Olley returned home to resume his work as senior lecturer at the Department of Psychology, University of Ibadan. He is using his SARETI training to develop and implement a proposal for a faculty and departmental Research Ethics Committee. He plans to organize research ethics workshops and training of fellow university staff and students. He hopes to join the Ibadan Bioethics programme faculty.

Ms Matsie Ratsaka-Mothokoa

Ms Ratsaka-Mothokoa completed her SARETI Fellowship certificate from May to October 2005. She serves as a lead person in research ethics in the South African Department of Health. She is currently revising the GCP guidelines and finalizing the report on Auditing the National REC. She is using her SARETI training to develop capacity in research ethics in Provincial Research Committees. Ms Ratsaka-Mothokoa is involved in drafting regulations on human subjects research to come out of the National Health Act of 2003.

2. SARETI PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

- SARETI has continued to contribute to research ethics library holdings at the Universities of KZN and Pretoria. Subscriptions have been taken on the *Hastings Center Report* and *IRB*, for use at SARETI Journal clubs with students.
- SARETI logistical infrastructure, with three performance sites, is now refined. At this time, the South African partners have monthly meetings, during which all students can meet the SARETI Executive; minutes are circulated to all SARETI staff on a monthly basis.
- It is clear that SARETI is becoming well known as a provider of medium and long-term research ethics training on the African continent. This is evident from the increasing numbers of events which SARETI faculty are invited to attend, and by the quality, diversity and quality of applications for SARETI funding.
- Prof Doug Wassenaar has been appointed to serve on the funding committee of the Biomedical Ethics programme of the Wellcome Trust 2005-2008.
- Prof D Wassenaar continues to serve on the advisory committees of NIH/FIC Bioethics training programmes in Malawi (PI: Drs T Tomlinson & J Mfutso-Bengo) and Ibadan, Nigeria (PI: Dr C Ademabowo).
- We have continued to update our website and resources - see <http://www.up.ac.za/sareti/sareti.htm>
- External examiners: 2005: Prof A A van Niekerk (Stellenbosch); 2006 Prof P Cleaton-Jones (Wits).

3. SARETI INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD 2007 - 2010

We sincerely thank members of our first International Advisory Board for assisting and supporting us in our first funding cycle:

- Prof Salim Abdool Karim (CAPRISA, UKZN, South Africa)
- Dr Laurence Cordier (EU, Brussels, Belgium)
- Dr Lindiwe Makubalo (National Department of Health, South Africa)
- Prof Ushma Mehta (University of Cape Town, South Africa)
- Dr Toale Mokoena (Medical Research Council, South Africa)
- Dr Pauline Mwinzi (KEMRI, Kenya)
- Dr Godfrey Tangwa (University of Yaounde, Cameroon)

We are honoured to announce the members of the SARETI International Advisory Board for our second funding cycle, including two members who were formerly SARETI Fellows:

- Prof Salim Abdool-Karim (CAPRISA, UKZN, South Africa)
- Prof Karniyus Gamaniel (University of Maidiguri, Nigeria, former SARETI Fellow, 2003)
- Dr Reidar Lie (NIH & University of Bergen, Norway)
- Prof Ushma Mehta (University of Cape Town, South Africa)
- Dr Pauline Mwinzi (KEMRI, Kenya)
- Ms Matsie Ratsaka-Mothokoa (National Department of Health, South Africa, former SARETI Fellow, 2005)
- Dr Maurizio Salvi (European Commission, Belgium)
- Dr Godfrey Tangwa (University of Yaounde, Cameroon)

4. SARETI EXECUTIVE AND LECTURING STAFF

Twenty academic staff at three universities contribute to the SARETI programme. The SARETI Executive for 2007 is:

- Prof Doug Wassenaar: Principal Investigator
 - Prof Mariana Kruger: Co-Principal Investigator (Pta)
 - Prof Nhlanhla Mkhize: Deputy Co-Principal Investigator (KZN)
 - Dr Theresa Rossouw: Deputy Co-Principal Investigator (Pta)
 - Prof Carel IJsselmuiden: Senior Executive Member (COHRED, Geneva)
 - Prof Linda Richter: Consulting Executive Member (HSRC)
 - Ms Debbie Marais: Project Administrator (KZN)
 - Ms Joyce Jakavula: Project Administrator (Pta)
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- The Executive has met at least monthly during the academically active months of the year. In the next funding cycle we plan to make greater use of video-conferencing and teleconferencing as our administrative systems are more established and SoPs are in place. This will save on travel costs and personnel time.
 - The SARETI Executive has increasingly been invited to contribute to national, African and intercontinental meetings and conferences.
 - Research ethics publications by SARETI faculty are increasing steadily, although not directly financially supported by SARETI.
 - Members of the SARETI Executive are also members of the advisory Boards of several African and international research ethics initiatives - notably in Malawi, Kenya, Nigeria and NEBRA for Francophone West Africa, and have been supportive to others (Egypt).
 - SARETI Executive members play leading roles in local and national ethics review boards.
 - In September 2005 Dr Nancy Kass did a presentation for SARETI faculty and other invitees on the UKZN campus.
 - SARETI's UKZN Project Administrator, Ms Debbie Marais was funded to attend the NIH grant and finance administrators' meetings and the FIC directors' meeting in October 2005 where she contributed actively to the meeting, met other FIC bioethics programme administrators and committed herself to assisting with the development of the FIC bioethics trainee tracking system. Ms Marais also initiated a network of Fogarty Bioethics programme administrators. Ms Marais has also been helpful to new Fogarty bioethics programmes in establishing their systems and procedures. She recently completed her Masters *Cum Laude* on the topic of: *An empirical feminist inquiry into gender and the autonomy ideal*.
 - We warmly welcomed Ms Joyce Jakavula as the UP SARETI administrator in November 2005. The previous administrator, Ms Nasreen Kahn left to take up a more senior position after two years with SARETI.
 - Profs Wassenaar and Kruger delivered presentations at the NIH Fogarty Directors Meeting in Bethesda, United States, 23-24th October 2006.

- **Prof Doug Wassenaar:**

Prof Wassenaar has given 34 invited papers in more than 9 African countries since 2001, in addition to presentations in Sri Lanka, Belgium and France. He has been appointed to serve on the funding committee of the Biomedical Ethics program of the Wellcome Trust 2005-2008 largely as a result of SARETI's African and international profile. Prof Wassenaar did an invited presentation (with Prof IJsselmuiden) at a European meeting on ethics of health research in developing countries, hosted by Foundation Merieux in France in April 2006. He also presented a case at the Global Bioethics Forum in Malawi in 2005. Prof Wassenaar attended the Global Bioethics Forum in Karachi in February 2006, and hosted the UNAIDS workshop on the inclusion of adolescents in HIV vaccine trials in Gaborone, Botswana in March 2006. He presented a case at the Fogarty IRENSA conference in Cape Town on 21-22 August 2006 and attended the ancillary care workshop with Prof Kruger at Georgetown university in October 2006. Prof Wassenaar also attended the TRREE project meeting in Basel in November 2006 as an Advisory Board member. TRREE (Training and Resources for Research Ethics in Africa see http://treee.org/site/en_treee_home.phtml) is developing an online and web-based course, with a focus on Francophone training for RECs in Africa.

- **Prof Nhlanhla Mkhize:**

Prof Mkhize was appointed the Deputy Head of the School of Psychology, UKZN in 2005. Prof Mkhize is increasingly recognized as a leading African research ethics expert, as evidenced in increasing invitations and requests for consultancies in research ethics.

- **Prof Mariana Kruger:**

Prof Kruger was invited to a Nuffield Council of Bioethics meeting regarding research ethics in developing countries (2004) and to the Brussels EFGCP consultation on Developing a European Framework for Research on Children's Medicines (2005). She attended the SAAVI Adolescent Workshop and the HAVEG Child Vaccines Meeting. She was partially sponsored by the EU to attend the core group meeting in Germany on Placebo Controlled Studies in Clinical Trials with Children (PI, Dr Wiesing, Tübingen University). In 2006, she was the invited speaker at the seventh continental meeting of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology in Africa with the title, "Cultural influence in informed consent - An African Perspective" (Morocco. 1-4 March, 2006); and the national conference for paediatrics, namely "All4Kids conference" (Sun City, September 2006) presenting papers on "Hospital charter for SA Children" and "SA guidelines and paediatric research." She also presented her research regarding off label drug use in children at both AHRES and All4Kids. She was invited to a number of pharmaceutical meetings, with an address on the "Changing world of clinical protocols: A regulatory perspective". In August 2006, Prof Kruger presented on the influence of a problem-based curriculum on medical students' preparation for ethical reasoning at the 20th European Conference on Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care in Helsinki, Finland. In October 2006, she attended the Ancillary Care Workshop with Prof Wassenaar at Georgetown University in the U.S.A. Prof Kruger has been a reviewer for Wellcome Trust grants regarding research ethics in 2006 and 2007. She has also been asked to act as peer reviewer for *Developing World Bioethics*.

- **Dr Theresa Rossouw:**

Dr Theresa Rossouw attended the Kennedy Institute of Ethics and the Johns Hopkins International Collaborative Research Ethics courses in June 2005. She also attended an International AIDS conference while she was there, and has been on a number of HIV/AIDS training courses and conferences. Dr Rossouw represented SARETI at the PABIN meeting in Yaounde, Cameroon, 29-31 May 2006. She is currently working on her doctorate in philosophy (applied ethics).

- **Prof Carel IJsselmuiden:**

Prof IJsselmuiden continues to make a valuable contribution to SARETI as both a Senior Executive Member and a module coordinator. He visits SARETI in October each year to teach his module, Ethical Issues in International Collaborative Health Research. He delivered a keynote address at the SARETI African Health Research Ethics Symposium in October 2006 in Dakar. Following the decision of the European Union to fund a core secretariat for the Global Forum on Bioethics in Research, hosted at COHRED (the Council on Health Research for Development <http://www.cohred.org>) which Prof IJsselmuiden directs, the 8th Global Forum on Bioethics in June 2007 in Vilnius, Lithuania will concentrate on building Ethical Review Capacity in transitional countries. SARETI is actively represented in the planning of this forum by Prof IJsselmuiden and Prof Wassenaar, given SARETI's longstanding work in this field.

- **Other SARETI Faculty:**

- SARETI sponsored faculty member Kitty Barrett-Grant to attend the Harvard Health and Human Rights course in June 2005. Ms Barrett-Grant coordinates SARETI's law modules on the UP campus: Introduction to Human Rights for Health Researchers and Introduction to Health Law and Health Research.
- SARETI sponsored Mr Vernon Solomon, coordinator of the Ethical Issues in Community Based Research module, to attend the Intensive Bioethics course at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University in June 2006.
- Other collaborating SARETI module staff in 2005 and 2006: Critical Issues in Informed Consent: Ms Nicola Barsdorf, Mr Doug Mansfield, Dr. Pam McLaren, Ms Cathy Slack, Adv. Ann Strode. Ethical Issues in HIV Vaccine Trials: Dr Wendy Burgers, Ms Cecilia Milford, Dr Efhya Vardas, Dr Heather Jaspan, Ms Cathy Slack. Institutionalizing Ethical Review of Health Research: Prof. Peter Cleaton-Jones & Prof. Jacques Snyman. SARETI law modules: Ms Katherine Barrett-Grant & Adv. Ann Strode. Children & Health Research: Dr Neil McKerrow, Dr Greg Wiseman, Ms Rena Rauch.

- **Publications by SARETI Executive staff:**

- Wassenaar, D.R.**, & Barsdorf, N. (2007 in press). The ethical involvement of women in HIV vaccine trials in Africa. *Women & Health, 45(1)*, in press.
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- Reynders, D., & **Kruger, M.** (2006). Outcome of children with soft tissue sarcoma treated with the MMT protocols in a single South African institution. *Pediatric Blood and Cancer, 47*, 450-451.
- Jordaan, R., **Kruger, M.**, Stewart, A.V., & Becker, P.J. (2005). The association between low back pain, gender and age in adolescents. *South African Journal of Physiotherapy, 61(3)*, 15-20.
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- Kruger M.** (2006). Chapter 4: An approach to swellings in the child. In J.H.R. Becker (Ed.), *Paediatric surgery workbook*. Pretoria: Van Schaik.
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5. African Health Research Ethics Symposium (AHRES)

At the end of the 4th year of the programme (October 2006), SARETI organized the first African Health Research Ethics Symposium (AHRES) in Dakar, Senegal, in collaboration with other African Ethics organizations and with supplementary funding from the Wellcome Trust. The aim of AHRES was to bring together all graduates of the SARETI programme, the SARETI Executive, and International Advisory Board members. It was a forum for SARETI graduates to present their research work in the field of health research ethics and demonstrate how they have implemented their SARETI training in their home countries. This forum also allowed SARETI trainees to build a collective identity and to network with trainees from similar programmes and with African experts in this area in general. AHRES showcased African research and scholarship in research ethics.

The symposium was open to trainees and faculty from other NIH funded and other ethics programmes, including the WHO. Attendance requests from other interested parties were also considered by the SARETI Executive. Towards this end, we successfully applied to the Wellcome Trust for supplemental funds to support applications from non-SARETI funded applicants to attend our meeting. The Wellcome Trust grant was used to sponsor the travel of nine non-SARETI participants to attend AHRES. Core funding for the symposium was from the US National Institutes of Health, Fogarty International Program, Grant no. 2 R25 TWO1599-05.



AHRES delegates, Dakar, Senegal, October 2006

Fifty-two participants from sixteen different countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DRC, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Netherlands, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania, Uganda, United States, Zambia and Zimbabwe) attended AHRES. We accepted forty papers for presentation from SARETI trainees, Executive staff, International Advisory Board Members, and non-SARETI participants. Presentations were grouped into six sessions during the 3-day symposium: Informed Consent; African Issues; RECs; Ethical Issues in Clinical Trials; Risks/Benefits; Social Science. Keynote speakers were Professors Salim Abdool-Karim, Godfrey Tangwa and Carel IJsselmuiden. Dr Nancy Kass was unfortunately unable to attend at the last minute because of a flight cancellation.

6. THANKS



SARETI Executive staff at an AHRES planning meeting in Pietermaritzburg in 2006. From left: Prof Carel IJsselmuiden, Prof Nhlanhla Mkhize, Dr Theresa Rossouw, Prof Doug Wassenaar, Ms Debbie Marais, Prof Mariana Kruger.

- SARETI is heavily dependent on the support and assistance of many persons.
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from
the 2007 SARETI Executive

We welcome your comments on this newsletter and any other aspect of the SARETI programme. Please direct these to maraisd@ukzn.ac.za