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## **TB Under the Spotlight Feedback Report:**

The platform that really started all of this was “TB Under the Microscope” which was initiated and led by Chloe Shain and Julia Munroe. This project really focused on the beauty of TB as seen under a microscope by scientists. The artwork was displayed at the 6 Spin Street Gallery in December 2017, and this really prompted creative public engagement ideas and collaborations between the groups.

Earlier in 2018, Stellenbosch University and the University of Cape Town arranged an African Crick Network symposia held at Spier wine farm in Stellenbosch. This presented another opportunity to display the “TB Under the Microscope” artwork. The display of the artwork at this event is what really initiated this public engagement project! At this symposia, Kelvin from the South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI) felt that more could be done, and he approached Fabian Meyer from Western Cape Department of Education to see if there was a way to expand the project and to enthuse young school learners. It was this conversion that allowed this project to be brought to life!

This project takes a slightly different approach to TB and public engagement, we had 4 stations namely: Signs and Symptoms; Diagnostics; Patient Treatment and Outcomes; and Science/Research of TB. These 4 stations we felt were the important topics for the education and engagement with school learners. Each station focuses on an important and relevant themes of TB, and I must say that the scientists, who usually thought to not be very creative, came up with truly amazing stations that allow the school learners to interact and be creative with learners of different ages, while an important message is delivered at each station.



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This project has also brought together two local academic institutes (Stellenbosch and UCT) – both of which are performing incredible research in the field of TB, local government in the form of department of health and department of education. We hope that this project will be the first many meaningful and significant projects, where we have the opportunity to make an important impact. We believe that the project will really enthuse young learners about science and destigmatize TB.

Through Fabian Worcester, Robertson and Stellenbosch were identified as towns to work in. The project began in Worcester at Stellenbosch University's rural campus on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the first day was wrapped up with a Launch event to celebrate the project which saw the South African Medical Research Council's President – Professor Glenda Gray attend and show her support to this project. The exhibition stayed in Worcester for 3 days (20<sup>th</sup>; 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March) where 7 schools (primary and secondary schools – total of 378 learners visited the exhibition) were addressed.

The exhibition then moved to Robertson for 2 days (17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April) where 4 schools were (primary and secondary schools – total of 241 learners visited the exhibition) were addressed.

Lastly the exhibition visited Stellenbosch, unfortunately this is right in the middle of the bus and taxi strike which affected most of the Cape. The scheduled dates of 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April were postponed (see below schools that didn't attend the exhibition section). Luckily we were able to arrange new dates for Stellenbosch (23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May) where 6 schools (primary and secondary schools – total of 274 learners visited the exhibition) were addressed.

This massively successful project reached a total of 893 learners from 17 different schools in three different towns.



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Schools that didn't attend the exhibition due to circumstances:

Vusisizwe Secondary School's session was due on 20<sup>th</sup> March (11h00 – 12h30), the learners were not ready when the bus arrived at the school. When Fabian Meyer contacted the school they were not aware of the exhibition even though they had been sent notice of the event on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Fabian called to confirm if they had received the information.

Robertson Primary School's session was due on 17<sup>th</sup> April (09h00 – 10h30) and Ashbury Primary School's session was due on 17<sup>th</sup> April (11h00 – 12h30), the bus company refused to collect the learners at the school because of an outstanding amount.

Khayamandi Secondary School, Khayamandi Primary School, Makupula Secondary School unfortunately missed out on the Stellenbosch exhibition due to the bus and taxi strikes which affected the Cape.

This project would not have been possible without the following people/institutes:

- Chloe Shain and Julia Munroe from UCT Social Anthropology
- Fabian Meyer from Western Cape Department of Education
- Kelvin Vollenhoven from UCTs SATVI
- Rob Warren and Michael Whitfield from SA-MRC Centre for Tuberculosis Research and Stellenbosch University
- Gerhard Walzl from Stellenbosch University and the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence for Biomedical Tuberculosis Research



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### Key people involved in making the project happen



Dr. Michael Whitfield (SU), Ms. Chloe Shain (UCT), Mr. Kelvin Vollenhoven (UCT), Prof. Rob Warren (SU), Prof. Tom Scriba (UCT)



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**The speakers at the Launch Event held in Worcester on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018**



Dr. Lizelle Phillips (Department of Health), Ms. Chloe Shain (UCT), Ms. Danielle Moore (SU), Mr. Goodman Makanda (TB Proof), Dr. Michael Whitfield (SU), Prof Glenda Gray (SA MRC), Prof. Tom Scriba (UCT), Dr. Michele Tameris (UCT)



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