

**RESEARCH PROJECT(2010 – 2011): An investigation into the perspectives of first year Health Sciences students (first language speakers of Afrikaans and African languages) on the usefulness of the language assistance provided in the Module: Chemistry in Health Sciences**

**FUNDING:** DoE

**PROJECT LEADER:** AJN Louw

**CO-INVESTIGATORS:** M van Heusden, M de Villiers

**RESEARCH QUESTION:** Was the language support tutor programme in the Module: Chemistry in Health Sciences in the first semester of the first year useful according to the perspectives of first language speakers of Afrikaans and other African languages?

**OBJECTIVES**

The main objectives of the study are to determine:

- Whether the particular cohort of students was satisfied that the language support tutor programme assisted them sufficiently in understanding the Module: Chemistry in Health Sciences where the medium of instruction and language interaction with the lecturer is only in English.
- Whether this cohort of students were satisfied that the tutors who assisted them in the programme were well-informed about the subject matter they wanted to discuss or explained.
- Whether there are areas that could be improved upon in student participation, tutor training and the involvement of the responsible lecturer and coordinator.
- Whether this particular language support tutor programme was successful and should be repeated in future.
- Whether this particular language support tutor programme should be extended to other modules and year groups where students are not proficient enough to fully comprehend the academic use of the language of instruction.

**FINDINGS:** Preliminary report

**FURTHER RESEARCH:** n/a

**ARTICLE:** Pending

**CONFERENCES:** 2011: Oral presentations – SoTL; SAAHE; Colloquium, Stellenbosch. Poster : Academic Year Day; AMEE (Vienna, Austria)