Province and its residents. Addressing the historical gap in resource allocation to the Medunsa Oral Health Centre as compared with the other oral health training centres in the province is an on-going process.

On the one hand, the location of our dental school allows us to leverage the immediately surrounding poor communities in ways other schools located within cities have been unable to do, which in turn, increases the lustre of a community-oriented SMU degree. On the other hand, our location poses an additional challenge as regards attracting specialists and fee-paying patients for specialist care, limiting related specialist training opportunities. The access to additional funding through the clinical training grant (CTG) from the Department of Higher Education and Training, the Health Professions Training Grant (HPTG) and the National Tertiary Services Grant (NTSG) through the Provincial Gauteng Health Department have been key in addressing some of these challenges in the past year and would remain vital going forward. In our research and educational programmes, we maintain productive collaborative relationships with leading national and international Universities. The school unlike any other dental school in South Africa now has two NRF-rated scientists on staff, demonstrating our resolve to promote research excellence.

I would like to seize this opportunity to call on all MEDUNSA-SMU alumni to join in supporting the School on this exciting journey as SMU keeps its strategic focus on the following vision and mission statements:

VISION
• To be the benchmark institution providing holistic health sciences education that meets the health needs of the individual, the family, the community, and the population.

MISSION
• Provide high-quality primary health care-oriented health sciences research, education and services.
• Deploy educational approaches that include evidence-based methods for curriculum development and delivery that are rooted in the community.
• Promote interdisciplinary research, education and skills training that recognise the cross-disciplinary nature of holistic health care provision.
• Produce a cadre of health professionals with the transformative leadership capacity to identify, analyse and address the health needs of the individual, the family, the community and the population.
• Create an environment that supports innovation and harnesses the power of new technologies to address the health needs of the community.

We are entering an era in which oral health professionals will have the expertise to manage their patients, communities and the society more professionally and effectively than ever before. It is an honour to lead the Dental School and the Faculty of Health Sciences at SMU at such an exciting time.

It is the privilege of the Association to host a FESTSCHRIFT recognising the Sefako Makgatho University, the institution renamed in honour of a man who made major contributions to society in a variety of fields. The team at the Medunsa Oral Health Centre of the University are congratulated on their commitment and achievement.

The construction of a Festschrift is indeed an architectural triumph of words, an assembly of text, but these are special words and special text, for in combination they build a model of the Institution which encompasses the achievements, the philosophies and the ambience, the very ethos which sustains the Hospital. So it is with considerable satisfaction that the Festschrift has been constructed and is now presented. It is indeed an appropriate climax to the year.

Well done indeed!