



## **UJ RECEIVES R120,000 DONATION TO CARE FOR COMMUNITY AND STUDENTS**

The University of Johannesburg (UJ) has received a R120,000 donation from PPS, the specialist financial services provider to graduate professionals, to help fund the refurbishment of its Optometry Community Clinic.

According to Gerhard Joubert, Head of Group Marketing and Stakeholder Relations at PPS, the company was very pleased to be able to support the university in its efforts to upgrade its training areas and equipment. “The clinic performs two essential roles, by providing much-needed training to students as well as providing vital eye care services to the local community.”

Joubert says the training area of the clinic currently has more than 150 students using the facility, of which nearly half are previously-disadvantaged. “The training that the clinic provides is invaluable, as it exposes the students to the latest technology in the field of optometry. However, this also means that the equipment is always in need of being upgraded to ensure the students receive the most up-to-date training possible.”

Professor Andre Swart, Executive Dean of Health Sciences at the University of Johannesburg, says the donation by PPS is also essential for the local community as most of the patients cannot afford glasses. “We need to continuously seek additional funding in order to subsidise frames and lenses for our patients so this donation is essential as we cannot afford to upgrade and replace equipment in addition to subsidising the healthcare of patients.”

Swart says that this donation also means that the clinic will now be able to provide more services than just a simple eye tests. “With the drive towards a more primary health care approach, we also want our new generation of optometrists to assist with a range of illnesses, including visual field losses and detection of glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, hypertension and diabetes.

He says that the donation also corresponds with the World Health Organisation’s global VISION2020 initiative, with correcting vision now being included as an important part of the war against poverty. “We are extremely grateful to PPS for providing this much-needed funding to ensure that we are able to continue serving not only our local communities who rely heavily on this service but also so that we can meet the further training needs of our students.”