Lecturer needs help in suicide study

by Gerrit Bester

Braam Hoffinan, lecturer at the Department of Biomedical Sciences, is currently busy with his doctorate on the experiences of late adolescents close to suicide victims. He needs your help towards completing this interesting research topic.

As part of his research, Braam has to interview female-students (between the ages of 17 and 21 years) about their experiences on losing a significant person to suicide. He needs to interview at least 15 such students. The interviews should preferably be conducted before the end of September, since Braam will be leaving for Canada on a Commonwealth Scholarship.

"A number of studies have recently focused on the demographics, causes, risk factors and treatment of suicidal behaviour," says Braam. However, the problem at present is that little is known regarding the emotional experiences, meaning-making and coping behaviour of those that are left behind after a completed suicide attempt by a close relative or friend."

Staff members who know of such students that would be willing to participate in Braam's study, can contact him at tel. (012) 318-4452/6265, fax (012) 318-6262 or cell 083-650-9917.