RECENT EVENTS

RETIREEMENT FUNCTION FOR THREE FACULTY STALWARTS

A retirement function for three long-serving members of staff of the Department of Surgery was held on 15 January 2014. They are: Professor Peter Beale who graduated MBChB from Pretoria University in 1970, and achieved three postgraduate surgical qualifications. He joined Wits as a Paediatric Surgery Registrar in 1979, and after completing his training he obtained a Senior Clinical Fellowship in Seattle, Washington, USA. He returned to Wits in 1981 as a consultant at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital.

During the past 30 years, he has performed over 1000 paediatric renal transplants, mostly on a purely voluntary basis. He launched a private and public partnership initiative, and raised funds to rebuild the paediatric surgical ward 36 at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital. He also started a fund registered at the Wits Foundation (Surgikids), the Carte Blanche “Making a Difference Campaign” which benefitted public health facilities to the value of R87 million. This has resulted in the upgrading and refurbishing of paediatric surgery wards, operating theatres and the extension of paediatric ICUs at both Charlotte Maxeke and Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospitals.

Professor Beale was the recipient of the HPCSA Excellence in Health Care award for 2007 and the overall award for the Carte Blanche “Making a Difference Campaign” in 2011. He also initiated the Yezabantwana Project (in conjunction with the Plastic Surgery Smile Week).

Professor Kenneth David Boffard graduated from Wits in 1972 and holds five Fellowships. He is a Colonel (Reserve Force) in the South African Military Health Service and a Freeman of the City of London, as well as Liveryman of the Most Worshipful Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators. He graduated (cum laude) with a BSc (Hons) in Aerospace Medicine. He is actively involved in numerous international and national organisations. He was Head of the Trauma Unit at the then Johannesburg Hospital from 1992 to 2002, when he became Clinical Head of Surgery at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital.

Professor Jacques Goosen is a Pretoria Medical School graduate (1971). He started out doing a BSc (Agriculture) degree, but soon realised that this was not what he was destined to do. After working at Nelspruit, Warmbaths and Natalspruit Hospitals, he joined Wits as a Surgical Registrar in 1977 under Professor Bert Myburgh. He continued at Wits once he qualified FCS(SA) and then moved to Welkom. Wits enticed him back in 1998 and he was appointed a Senior Specialist in the Trauma Unit. He became Head of the Trauma Unit in 2002, the position he has held until his retirement.

Professor Goosen has won many prestigious awards during his medical career, and has served as chairman of various medical and surgical society boards, including SAMA. His publications and book chapters, as well as research endeavours are numerous. He has presented papers both nationally and internationally.

Photographs: Professors Ken Boffard and Jacques Goosen with Professor Martin Smith; Professor Peter Beale
The Faculty of Health Sciences and the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics hosted the annual Ethics Alive week from 10 – 15 March. The theme: *The Right to Quality Healthcare*, was informed by the recent amendment of the National Health Act (2013) which established the Office of Health Standards Compliance. The activities related to the over-all theme as well as the context.

Hospital talks were presented at four teaching hospitals during the week. Ms Kirsten Whitworth, a Researcher at the Wits Centre for Applied Legal Studies spoke on “The Right to Quality Healthcare” drawing on the law and her experiences as a lawyer and advocate. Dr Howard Manyonga, whose participation in the week’s activities was sponsored by the Medical Protection Society, spoke on “Shared Decision Making”.

The Undergraduate Student Symposium on *The Right to Quality Healthcare* was held on 12 March and brought together a panel of four speakers from different undergraduate programmes. Mitchell Gow (MBCh) spoke on “Biopsychosocial Medical Care”, Jason Earnshaw (BDS) challenged “Informed Consent”, Maria Chrysostomus (BHSc) presented on the “Management of Multidisciplinary Teams”, and Thabang Mokoena (BSc Nursing) addressed “Patient Advocacy”. This was followed by extensive and lively discussion and debate. The Student Bioethics Society was launched to keep discussions on healthcare ethics and professionalism active throughout the year. The Symposium was co-facilitated by MBCh students Brendan Savary and Zahraa Khotu and was well attended with a strong representation from Nursing Sciences. *(See also report below.)*

The Ethics Alive Symposium was held on 13 March and was opened by Professor Adam Habib, Wits Vice-Chancellor and Principal, and chaired by Professor Judith Bruce, Head, School of Therapeutic Sciences. Professor Bonita Meyersfeld, Director: Wits Centre for Applied Legal Studies, spoke on *The Right to Quality Healthcare* focusing on the South African healthcare system’s participation in enforcing economic apartheid and concluded that the apathy of citizens towards this injustice further drives this divide. Professor Laetitia Rispel, Head, School of Public Health and Deputy Chair of the Board of the Office of Health Standards Compliance explained the role, function and mechanisms of the Office of Health Standards Compliance. Dr Carol Marshall, Cluster Manager: Office of Standards Compliance, was the respondent after which an open discussion followed. Professor Mkhululi Lukhele, Acting Dean: Faculty of Health Sciences, announced the winners of the Undergraduate Bioethics MPS Essay and Helen Joseph Art/ Poster competitions and closed the Symposium.

During the week the Abu Asvat Institute for Nation Building teamed up with the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics to present the 3rd Abu Asvat Memorial Lecture on *The Right to Quality Healthcare* as a satellite activity on 15 March. The keynote speaker was Professor Hoosen Coovadia, Director of Maternal Adolescent and Child Health Systems at Wits.’ Report by Kurium Govender.

For a full report and podcasts of the event please go to: [http://www.wits.ac.za/newsroom/newsitems/201403/23119/news_item_23119.html](http://www.wits.ac.za/newsroom/newsitems/201403/23119/news_item_23119.html)

Photographs: (above): Dr Carol Marshall, Professors Judy Bruce, Ames Dhai, Mkhululi Lukhele, Laetitia Rispel, Bonita Meyersfeld; (below): Advocate Yolande Guidozzi and Ms Jillian Gardner who assisted attendees at the Undergraduate Student Symposium

**STEVE BIKO BIOETHICS STUDENT SYMPOSIUM**

Students write: ‘The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics and the students of the Faculty of Health Sciences hosted a student symposium as part of the annual Ethics Alive Week. The structure for this year’s event was a panel discussion where students from a number of our professional degrees addressed issues under the headings of: • Access to information; • Quality biopsychosocial patient care; • Interprofessional team work and • Patient advocacy.'
Members of the panel spoke for a short time and allowed for discussion from the floor. Students from all Faculties were encouraged to join the discussion in the effort to raise awareness of where South Africa’s Healthcare System is as opposed to where we want it to be. Healthcare does not only concern health professionals but every member of society.

Prior to the event, a freeze mob was conducted (see photographs below) which drew the attention of those who did not have an interest in the event.

South Africa is unlikely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for maternal health by 2015. The country has huge disparities in socio-economic conditions which reflect large differences in maternal health status across population groups. Enormous challenges around health system access, acceptability and community interventions related to health promotion and social factors affecting health continue to burden the health system.

In an effort to translate its scientific research for a broader audience, the Centre for Health Policy (CHP) in the Wits School of Public Health hosted a symposium entitled “Global Insights on health System and Community Interventions to Improve Maternal Health – Lessons for South Africa” on 14 March 2014.

The meeting was attended by over 100 delegates, including policy makers, academics, non-governmental organisations and advocacy groups. Presentations included interventions to counter the lack of male involvement in maternal health, mapping of all research on maternal health in low- and middle-income countries from 2000 to 2012, and an analysis of the funders of maternal health research in those countries. The meeting closed with a fascinating look at the concept of maternity waiting homes where the state provides shelters for women to stay near the end of pregnancy.

Delegates speaking from the floor voiced their concerns about South Africa’s ‘unacceptably high’ maternal mortality rate. They proposed that while current initiatives could not be dropped, solutions could include additional state support. The meeting agreed that a multi-sectoral approach was required for the numerous vulnerabilities which poor women face.

“This symposium vividly depicted the social vulnerability of pregnant women and the conditions into which so many children are born. The solutions proposed could help to reverse the adverse effects of poverty on maternal health, and child health and development,” said conference convenor, CHP's Associate Professor Matthew Chersich.

For further information and audiovisuals please see Wits News 17 March 2014

Audio: Tessa Doorns: Vulnerability of pregnant women in SA: experiences of poverty and pregnancy in an urban healthcare setting; Professor Alex van den Heever: Cash transfers to address vulnerability during pregnancy: international experience and applicability to SA; Professor Matthew Chersich: Role of maternity waiting homes in mitigating the vulnerability of pregnant women: findings of a systematic review

Photographs: CHP Director, Dr Jane Goudge, Daygan Eager, Asha Mohamud, Dr Vivien Black, Clinical Director, WRHI; Angela Stewart, Nika Raphaely, WSPH, Sikhanjwwe Masilela, Gauteng Department of Health in the background
LAUNCH OF DR ERIKA SUTTER’S BIOGRAPHY: SEEN WITH OTHER EYES. MEMORIES OF A SWISS EYE DOCTOR IN RURAL SOUTH AFRICA, TOLD BY GERTRUD STIEHLE; 19 MARCH 2014

Dr Erika Sutter was born in Basel in 1917 and came to South Africa in the late 1940s. She worked as a laboratory assistant and nurse at Elim Hospital prior to studying medicine at Wits from 1956 to 1960, specialising in ophthalmology. She became the head of the Eye Clinic in Elim. Together with her colleague and friend Selina Maphorogo, she founded the Care Groups, village self-help groups working for better health in their communities. The movement is still active after more than 30 years, and now has around 2,000 members, mostly women, in over 200 villages. At the launch, Professor Frances Lund, UKZN, spoke about the Care Group Movement.

Dr Sutter has received numerous international honours and awards for her pioneering work, including the “Woman of the Year” award in 1984 from “The Star”, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Basel.

For the creation of this biography, Erika Sutter spent many hours with the author, her friend Gertrud Stiehle, telling the story of her life. Her account includes her experiences on the Swiss-German border during World War II, and her years of working in South Africa which was when the apartheid policies of the South African Government were becoming more and more repressive, affecting many aspects of life in the country.

The book is available at Jakkie Pentz's bookshop on campus (Matrix) or directly at Blueweaver Publisher: http://www.blueweaver.co.za/index.php/contact-us/ordering-our-books.

Photograph: Swiss Ambassador Christian Meuwly, Dr Nicky Welsh, Wits Ophthalmologist, Professor Frances Lund, UKZN, Mrs Selina Maphorogo, co-founder of care group movement with Erika Sutter, Professor Sharon Fonn, Wits School of Public Health, Sherona Gani, MA student, Political Studies Department

CHILDHOOD OBESITY – A SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE: 25 March 2014

The Transnet Centre of Systems Engineering presented a public lecture by Professor Tak Igusa, Founding Director for Education and Research of the Systems Institute at Johns Hopkins University. The lecture took place in the Adler Museum of Medicine. Professor Igusa’s research interests are in the application of modelling to understanding systems in public health, civil infrastructure, global warming and food supply, disaster response and medicine. He works in the fields of obesity and non-communicable diseases, predicting onset of chronic disorders, and understanding autoimmune diseases.

Photograph: Professor Tak Igusa with Professor David Rubin

FORTIETH ANNUAL PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY: 3 APRIL 2014

The Faculty’s Annual Prize-giving Ceremony took place on 3 April 2014 at which the achievements of students and staff were celebrated and prizes awarded. It is one of the few gatherings during the year at which staff, students, parents and friends join in recognising excellence in all years of study, including postgraduate research, as well as achievements in the area of teaching and research. Professor Angela Woodiwiss was the Master of Ceremonies and guest speaker was Professor Bavesh Kana.

Some highlights were the following awards: The Faculty Research Prize, which is the most prestigious prize...
offered and is awarded in recognition of excellence in research, was won by PhD student Constantinos Kurt Wibmer for a publication entitled “Viral Escape from HIV-1 Neutralizing Antibodies Drives Increased Plasma Neutralization Breadth through Sequential Recognition of Multiple Epitopes and Immunotypes”, published in PLoS Pathogens.

Mr Wibmer obtained a BSc (Hons) in 2008 in the School of Molecular and Cell Biology (Sciences), and subsequently completed MSc and PhD studies in our Faculty. He works at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) under the supervision of Professor Lynn Morris and Dr Penny Moore. Together they are involved in research documenting the development of broadly neutralising antibodies in HIV-1 infected individuals. Broadly neutralising antibodies comprise the active component of almost all protective vaccines to date, but develop in only a quarter of natural infections. Understanding how these antibodies come to be broadly neutralising will provide blueprints that might be replicated by an HIV-1 protective vaccine.

The study documented HIV-1 viral evolution within a single individual from initial infection till the initiation of ARV therapy, and the hosts subsequently evolving broadly neutralising antibody response. Using longitudinal plasma samples Wibmer et al. identified three sequentially occurring broadly neutralising antibody specificities, in itself a rare event. They described key viral mutations that efficiently escaped the first broadly neutralising antibody response, but left the virus vulnerable to the second, likely contributing to its development. Escape from this second antibody specificity required accumulating mutations in the epitope, and consequently the antibody response matured to recognise later viral variants. Both the development of multiple broadly neutralising antibody specificities and their maturation to recognise multiple viral variants significantly increased the capacity of the immune response to neutralise multiple heterologous viral strains (become more broadly neutralising). These data provide novel pathways for guiding the immune systems of vaccinated individuals toward developing equally broad neutralising responses to HIV-1.

The prestigious FJ Milne Department of Internal Medicine Teaching and Service award for distinguished service and teaching in the Department of Medicine was awarded to Professor Frederick Raal (postgraduate level of teaching) and Dr M Tsitsi (undergraduate level of teaching).

The Health Graduates' Association Medal is awarded to the best graduate of the year. Candidates for the award are the top graduate in each of the seven health science degrees, with the winner being announced at the prize giving ceremony. This year the winners were MBBCh: Nathalie Prinsloo (MBBCh) and Mohlago Roslyn Ramothwala (BPharm).

The Duncan Mitchell Prize, awarded by the School of Physiology to the student in the BHSc Honours class who obtains the highest first-class pass mark for the course, was awarded this year for the first time in this Faculty, having previously been awarded in the Faculty of Science. This year it was awarded to Jason Dunning. Professor Mitchell made an enormous contribution to the teaching in the School. His special interest in, and major input into, the development of the Honours course and his unique manner of inspiring Honours and postgraduate students by his research leadership, led the staff of the School to establish this prize in his honour on the occasion of his 60th birthday in 2001.

A booklet listing all the prize-winners was published. It is obtainable through Kasturi.naidoo@wits.ac.za

Photographs: (previous page): Professor Angela Woodiwiss and the platform party; (above): Professor Bavesh Kana; Constantinos Kurt Wibmer with Professor Woodiwiss
MOVE OF THE FACULTY ADMINISTRATION TO THE PHILLIP V TOBIAS HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING

From 27 March 2014 the Dean’s Office, the Research Office, Faculty Registration, Student Support and Finance and Human Resources started their move to the newly renovated Phillip V Tobias Health Sciences Building which is located at 29 Princess of Wales Terrace, Parktown. The pedestrian entrance is off York Road with vehicle entrance off Princess of Wales Terrace.

The gradual increase in student numbers necessitated the expansion of the Faculty’s infrastructure and staffing, and in order to optimise the space in the Medical School this move has taken place.

With the relocation of the School of Public Health, it was also opportune for the Faculty to redesign the 10th Floor of the Medical School for research purposes. The Department of Family Medicine and the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics has therefore also moved to the new Phillip V Tobias Health Sciences building. All telephone numbers remain the same.

This is where you find people in the new building: Ground Floor: Exhibition Area; Coffee Shop; Executive Committee Room; Executive Dining Room; First Floor: Student Support; Second Floor: Faculty Registrar’s Office; Third Floor: Faculty Research; Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics; Fourth Floor: Centre for Rural Health; Rural Health; Family Medicine; Family Medicine Administration; Fifth Floor: Finance; Human Resources; Sixth Floor: The Dean

PACKING UP!

Photographs: Clair Harrison from the Finance Department and Gilbert Morokolo from the Human Resources Department getting ready for the move!

WORLD ORAL DENTAL DAY: 20 MARCH 2014

Two mobile dental units were donated on World Oral Health Day, celebrated annually on 20 March, to the Wits Department of Community Dentistry in the School of Oral Health Sciences which joined hands with the global health care company Glaxo Smith Kline (GSK) and the Gauteng Department of Health as part of its corporate social responsibility initiatives. GSK donated the two fully equipped mobile dental units to Wits and the other two to oral health academic institutions in Gauteng.

Wits is now able to conduct service learning and provide oral health services, which commenced in April 2013, to the under-served communities of Diepsloot, Hillbrow and surrounding areas and will
further strengthen primary oral health care services in Gauteng. This is part of the strategy of the School of Oral Health Sciences which aims to make undergraduate and postgraduate training more relevant by taking students out into communities where they can get a sense of the social and other determinants of health that impact on oral health. Students will then be able to understand the realities of living in underprivileged communities and will be able to make clinical treatment decisions based on patient needs and available resources.

The official launch event and hand-over of the units took place at the Diepsloot Community Hall and was attended by the Gauteng MEC for Health Hope Papo, community members, students, representatives from several community organisations, GSK and the Wits School of Oral Health Sciences.

Professor Veerasamy Yengopal, Head of the Wits Department of Community Dentistry, said that worldwide about 5 billion people suffered from dental problems. Dental services are one of the most expensive primary health care services to provide and the huge demand for care at the sites serviced by the Mobile Dental Units from Wits reflects the impact that these services are having in these communities. Professor Yengopal expressed his thanks to GSK for the donation which will assist in providing a much needed service for the people of Diepsloot and surrounding communities.

The state of the art units feature everything one would find in a dentists consulting room including dental chairs, X-ray equipment and all the necessary dental supplies that are required to offer quality care. These mobile dental units offer much needed services to children, special needs homes, HIV orphans, the elderly, and others.

Photograph: MEC with Professor Yengopal in the mobile dental unit

For further information please see Wits Weekly, 31 March 2014

RETHINKING OF ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

A public meeting to discuss future admissions criteria for the MBBCh degree was held on 8 April 2014. It was chaired by the Wits Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Adam Habib, and was extremely well attended by over 300 members of the public, students and staff members at Wits.

Professor Habib said that infrastructure needs, resources, the changing skills sets of doctors and the dire need for health care services in rural areas are some of the reasons which necessitate a rethink of the admissions criteria for the MBBCh degree at Wits.

Professor Habib said: “Currently, we are producing less than 30% of the number of doctors needed each year. We need to upgrade our infrastructure and training facilities and aim to establish a successful private-public partnership which will allow us to do that.”

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic and Deputy Principal, Professor Andrew Crouch, and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Professor Zeblon Vilakazi have, together with members of a special task team, been commissioned to review the admissions criteria. Professor Crouch presented the current situation pertaining to admissions for the MBBCh degree and said that a review of admissions criteria every few years was a normal process for any institution. He said that the decision to rethink the admissions criteria for the MBBCh degree was informed by a myriad of factors.

Photographs: Professor Adam Habib; Professors Andrew Crouch, Zeblon Vilakazi, Mkhululi Lukhele

For a full report please go to: Admissions Criteria Debate
http://www.wits.ac.za/newsroom/newsitems/201404/23293/news_item_23293.html
Dr Gregory Firth and Professor Anthony Robertson, Conference Organisers, report: ‘Over 70 orthopaedic surgeons gathered from around the country to participate in the above meeting held from 11 to 12 April 2014. We had two international guest speakers: Dr Colin Moseley from Los Angeles (USA) and Dr Markus Michel from Bern (Austria). Both are world renowned leaders in their fields. Dr Moseley gave an honorary lecture at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital on 10 April 2014 which was attended by over 50 local Orthopaedic Registrars. He then saw patients and went on a grand ward round which was extremely interesting.

The ICL meeting was about the Paediatric Hip and lectures were given by both the guest speakers and local Faculty from around the country. The topics included developmental hip dysplasia, slipped capital femoral epiphysis, Perthes disease, septic arthritis and idiopathic chondrolysis.

The teas and lunches were held in the magnificent Adler Museum which really added another dimension to the congress venue at the Wits Medical School. The lectures were held in the Marie Curie Lecture Theatre. Despite a few power outages the generator kicked in and all the delegates commented on the venue being just perfect.

Special thanks to the sponsors (Stratmed, Orthopediatrics, Synthes and Macromed) for helping to bring things together. Food was provided by Olives and Plates and special thanks to Cheryl-Anne Cromie for her help in making the Adler Museum available. We look forward to the next ICL in two years time.

WITS FOCUS DAY 2014

Report: Professor Kumaran Chetty. Photographs: Ms Matty van Nierkerk
Another year and another successful Wits Focus Day. Friday 11 May saw the dedicated workers of the Faculty of Health Sciences materialise in the Old Mutual Sports Hall to exhibit their wares. This was the second Focus Day held on a Friday, the theme being ‘Your first steps to brilliance – Wits University’. The success of the timing of the event will be evaluated and a decision will be made on whether to host the day again on a Friday or revert back to Saturdays. In the FHS, once again the day was an overwhelming success. However, the timing and relevance is once again under the spotlight. A lot of Departments feel that FHS is oversubscribed, so what is the relevance of the Day. Reluctance to participate is becoming evident.

The participating Schools and Divisions were as follows: School of Therapeutic Sciences (Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Nursing Education, Pharmacy and Pharmacology and the Centre for Exercise Science), School of Pathology (Molecular Medicine, Chemical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and the National Health Laboratory Services), Schools of Physiology, Oral Health Sciences, and representatives of the FHS Registrar’s Office. The Faculty ladies (Henda and company) must be commended for their display – they certainly put their best foot forward. Professor Thakur Parbhoo and I scrutinised the exhibits for originality and new innovations. The judging was extremely close and very difficult. The clinical prize was shared by the Departments of Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. The preclinical prize was awarded to the Department of Molecular Medicine. The MBBCh exhibit was once again the busiest stand. Well done to Dr Penny Keene and her helpers.

All in all it was a very tiring but an extremely successful day. Many thanks to all staff members who worked so hard and for their efforts in putting up their displays, well done, you are the STALWARTS of the Faculty. Finally, I would like to thank Mr Cameron Norman for providing the sound system gratis, and Ms Lamb, Kgothatso Letswalo, Mahlodi Montlha, Anelisa Sobalisa and Bronwan Smith (Honours students) for their assistance in helping me feed all the staff members and their helpers.

Photographs: (previous page): Henda van der Walt and her team’s display – as usual putting the best foot forward; Hilary Thurling putting the final touches to the excellent display of the Department of Nursing Education; (this page): the OTs’ ever popular wheelchair race; the ubiquitous Professor Kumaran Chetty with: the first year physiotherapy team - joint winners in the clinical division; Molecular medicine team - winners in the pre-clinical division; the OT team - joint winners in the clinical division
The School of Oral Health Sciences held a get-together event for MSc (Dent) and MDent postgraduate students in the Adler Museum of Medicine on 10 April 2014. The programme was directed by Professor Tarisi Dandajena, Head of Department of Orthodontics and Paediatrics. The Head of School, Professor Hlongwa, welcomed and introduced the staff members from the School. First year students and alumni were represented. It was a great honour to have Professor Elena Libhaber present. She gave a talk on funding and courses offered by the Research Office on behalf of Professor Beverly Kramer.

Dr Tsholofelo Kungoane, Oral Pathology, Dr Ebrahim Patel and Dr Meriting Thokoane, Oral Rehabilitation, gave outstanding presentations on their past and present experiences as postgraduate students.

This kind of event is the third to be held in the School of Oral Health Sciences. The students received packages with important information on their course in general, including what is required of them by the SOHS and the Research Office.

Based on their evaluation of the event, 98% of postgraduate students found the event very informative. The event was organised by Dr Julitha Molepo, Head of the Department of Oral Biological Sciences (formerly Experimental Odontology) and her team, who are looking forward to holding a similar event in 2015.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**PROFESSOR GLENDA GRAY IS NEW MRC PRESIDENT!**

We are delighted to congratulate Professor Glenda Gray, Director: Perinatal HIV Research Unit, for being recently appointed as the new South African Medical Research Council (MRC) President. Professor Gray is a NRF A-rated scientist and internationally acclaimed researcher. Over the years she has contributed extensively to research into mother-to-child transmission and into HIV Vaccine research.

Professor Gray has received numerous accolades for her contributions to health sciences, including the Order of Mapungubwe (Gold) from President Jacob Zuma in 2013; the Hero of Medicine Award from the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care and in 2011, she received an award for Dedication and Achievement in Research from the Wits Faculty of Health Sciences.
PROFESSOR VINESS PILLAY WINS PRIZE FOR INNOVATE WORK

We are also delighted to congratulate Professor Viness Pillay who is the winner of the African Academy of Sciences’ Olusegun Obasanjo Prize for his innovative work on designing commercialisable drug delivery technologies. Professor Pillay, a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences, is the Director of the Wits Advanced Drug Delivery Platform and the South African National Research Foundation Chair in Pharmaceutical Biomaterials and Polymer-Engineered Drug Delivery Technologies.

The prize will be handed over to Professor Pillay at a special awards ceremony which will be held in Congo, Brazzaville on 16 April 2014. This event will be the major highlight of the 9th Triennial Congress of the African Academy of Sciences, hosted by the President of the Republic of Congo, HE Dennis Sassou N’Guesso. The award will consist of a Gold Medal, a certificate and a cash prize of $5000 (about R52 000). The award recognises his pioneering work in the development of the RapiDiss Wafer Technology as an innovative way to provide effective anti-retroviral (ARV) drug therapy to children afflicted with HIV/AIDS. The Technology is a highly stable oral formulation that is placed inside the child’s cheek and releases the ARV medication directly into the systemic circulation. There is no need to swallow the wafer with water; neither does it require refrigeration to remain stable. More importantly it also significantly improves the taste and pharmacokinetics of current liquid ARV formulations. This is one of his seminal technologies that have two patents among a suite of over 35 other patents in the field of drug delivery technology.

The RapiDiss Wafer Technology provides an ingenious solution to the daily challenges of administering ARVs to children.

Professor Pillay said that he feels honoured to be recognised in such a remarkable way and said that it was a remarkable feeling and honor to be recognised as an African innovator.

For a full report please go to: http://www.wits.ac.za/newsroom/newsitems/201404/23292/news_item_23292.html

INVITATION

Lunchtime Seminar

Community Based Health Science Education Committee (COBHSE) would like to invite you to the

Advocacy Workshop

One of COBHSE’s strategic goals is to advocate for increased community engagement and community-based education in the Faculty of Health Sciences and in the University.

Join us for two hours to share our understanding of key issues around Advocacy in Health Professions Education, agree on principles and strategies for use to advocate for CBE in the Faculty and University and suggest indicators and a clear plan for COBHSE’s next steps on Advocacy work.

Date: 24th April 2014
Venue: CHSE Boardroom
Time: 12h00 – 14h00

Please RSVP to Gaolatlhe Mothoagae by 21st April for Catering purposes. The workshop will be facilitated by an external facilitator.
Workshops / Seminars offered in May/June 2014

25 April 2014: Journal Club
12:00-13:00: CHSE Boardroom (3N08)

9 May 2014: Preparing and giving a good lecture
14:00-16:00: CHSE Boardroom (3N08)

21 May 2014: PBL Facilitators workshop
08:15-14:00: CHSE Boardroom (3N08)

30 May 2014: Journal Club
12:00-13:00: CHSE Boardroom (3N08)

10-12 June 2014 (three full days): Health Science Educators Course
08:15-16:00 (daily): CHSE Boardroom (3N08)

Please contact Norman Motlhabani for bookings:
011 717 2329 or gobotsamang.motlhabani@wits.ac.za
And
Professor Patricia Mc Inerney for more information:
011 717 2073 or Patricia.McInerney@wits.ac.za

NEWS FROM THE ADLER MUSEUM OF MEDICINE: A.R.T. SHOW CLOSES

Due to viewer interest the A.R.T. Show: A Project of Make Art/Stop AIDS exhibition at the Adler Museum was extended to March 2014. The exhibition had a record run of 15 months viewing! It was curated by David Gere and Carol Brown, and this showing was the last stop after the exhibition travelled throughout South Africa and the United States. The Museum was extremely pleased to hear that some of the artworks from the exhibition were being donated to them. One of the works, Medicine Man by artist Daniel Goldstein (pictured above) has been installed in the foyer of Medical School and a further three works can be seen on the ground floor of the School of Public Health Building, while The A.R.T. cabinet, a cabinet of curiosities designed by Xavier Clarisse and containing objects by various artists, can be viewed inside the Museum.
The exhibition consists of 9 body maps that tell the personal stories of people living with HIV across the world using images and text, and aims to create empathy and promote understanding for people living with the infection.

DATE: 23 April – 6 May 2014  VENUE: Wits Medical School foyer, 7 York Road, Parktown

Enquiries: adler.museum@wits.ac.za or 011 717 2067

DAVID GOLDBLATT PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION ON SHOW

Currently on view on the mezzanine level of the Museum is a collection of photographs generously donated by David Goldblatt. The photographs were taken in Australia and South Africa, and highlight the devastation asbestos mining has caused to the people involved in mining operations, their families, and the environment.

Left: Blue asbestos on the tailings dump of the Owendale Asbestos Mine, Northern Cape. 26 October 2002 (detail)
Right: Tailings dump after reclamation, Owendale Asbestos Mine, Northern Cape. 24 December 2007 (detail)

STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!

OPEN MEETING: TASK TEAM, STAFF AND STUDENTS: RE: FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES: ADMISSION CRITERIA.
AUDITORIUM, PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDING, 24 APRIL 2014: 12:00 TO 14:00.

Health Sciences Review is published mid-month every month. The next issue will appear on 16 May 2014
Deadline for submission of information and pictures: 16 April 2014. Please send information to: adler.museum@wits.ac.za or rochelle.keene@wits.ac.za