Recent events

**PAINSA CONGRESS, 22 TO 24 JUNE 2012**

The national pain organisation, PainSA, held its annual congress in Pretoria from 22 to 24 June 2012. The congress, which was organised by Peter Kamerman and Sean Chetty from the Brain Function Research Group (BFRG), Wits School of Physiology, was a resounding success. Lorimer Moseley, the internationally renowned pain researcher, was the keynote speaker. He is originally a physiotherapist from Australia and gave a talk on brain perceptions and pain, showing how altering the brain’s perception of the body can cause changes in pain, swelling and immune cell expression in a painful limb. Lorimer was also one of the judges of the oral presentation competition in which students from the BFRG participated. Liesl Hendry presented her work on association of genetic markers in a potassium channel on pain sensitivity in HIV-associated neuropathy, Prinisha Pillay presented “Symptom changes after starting antiretroviral therapy in HIV-positive patients with pre-existing symptomatic peripheral neuropathy” and Stephanie Ferreira presented “Is postoperative pain associated with anxiety-like behaviour in rats?” Congratulations to Stephanie who won the competition and to Liesl who received an honorary mention!

The BFRG gave the basic science symposium with Professor Duncan Mitchell speaking on opioophobia, Peter Kamerman on where analgesics work and Antonia Wadley on genetics and pain. Professor Mitchell also gave a talk on low back pain. All the BFRG talks were well received and the group was commended on the level and quantity of research the Pain Lab is doing.

At the AGM, Peter Kamerman was made President-Elect of PainSA; he will be the next President in three years time. Antonia Wadley was elected to the council.

Photographs: Lorimer Moseley; Stephanie Ferreira

**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP WITH WITS**

The Wits Faculty of Health Sciences and Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA have formed a Wits/Vanderbilt partnership in training, research and other important educational based imperatives. This was initiated though the setting up of a collaboration by Professor Bonnie Miller, Senior Associate Dean, and Professor Roy Zent (Vanderbilt) and Professor Beverley Kramer, Assistant Dean, Research and Postgraduate Support. In the first week of July, Professor Miller, Professor Roy Zent (nephrologist, medical cell biologist and Wits alumnus), Professor David Haas (infectious diseases and pharmacogenomics/personalised medicine expert), Professor John Doullis (IT systems and bioinformatics expert), Professor Ambra Pozzi (medical cell biologist) and Professor Robert Miller (pulmonologist and intensivist) and Professor Liza Weavind (Associate Professor in Anaesthesiology, Critical Care and Surgery at Vanderbilt), visited the Faculty and ran seminars as well as participating in meetings and discussions.

Should anyone be interested in participating in these training or research endeavours, please contact Professor Bev Kramer: beverley.kramer@wits.ac.za. A Wits/Vanderbilt collaboration Website is currently being set up and will be linked to the research page of the Faculty Website.
NEW BEGINNINGS FOR INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE IN HILLBROW: THE VISION OF PROFESSOR HELEN REES

The handover of Shandukani to the Gauteng Provincial Government took place on 13 July 2012 when guests were addressed by the National Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi. Photograph: City, provincial and national government partners and corporate sponsors. Professors Helen Rees and Loyiso Nongxa are on the right of the Minister.

Few ordinary people would look at derelict, run-down buildings in the heart of 1990s Hillbrow and see a world-class hub of health facilities and research activities. But there is nothing ordinary about Helen Rees. Professor Rees not only worked as an activist in the health sector throughout the 1980s and helped the African National Congress develop the health policy for a post-apartheid government, she has continued to work with government on many aspects of health policy while establishing and growing what is now the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute. The WRHI is one of the largest programme implementation, research and training units of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa, leading the way in the field of HIV, sexual and reproductive health and related conditions.

The WRHI began life as the Reproductive Health Research Unit (RHRU) in 1994 and had a presence in the Esselen Street Clinic in Hillbrow, providing training to health care workers and carrying out research into HIV, the reality of which the nation was just beginning to absorb. Some of that research was with marginalised populations like sex workers. In 1997 Professor Rees’ vision to use the derelict buildings around the Esselen Street Clinic was born.

She developed partnerships with the City of Johannesburg and in later years with the Gauteng Department of Health & Social Development to establish the Hillbrow Health Precinct: a world-first metropolitan quarter based on a precinct model of urban regeneration that would address health and poverty in Johannesburg’s inner city. It would deliver outstanding services, training, best practice models and world-class research, all relevant to South Africa and to the African continent.

The dilapidated Hugh Solomon Building was restored in 2006 which became the headquarters of the RHRU. In 2009 the basement level of the Wits University Residence was refurbished to become a start-of-the-art Research & Training Centre; and Ward 21, the antiretroviral initiation site of the Hillbrow Community Health Centre, was also upgraded.

With the delivery on 13 July 2012 of Shandukani, an integrated maternal and child health care facility in the heart of the precinct, funded by Vodacom, Altron and Altech, a momentum is underway which would have seemed impossible ten years ago. The Hillbrow Health Precinct has achieved recognition as an important hub for health care and research and is a model of public/private partnership on which future projects will be based. All because of the vision of an extraordinary woman.

(For further information and coverage Also see Wits News 10 August 2012)
The Faculty together with the Aurum Institute for Health Research has taken a significant step towards enhancing tuberculosis (TB) research in South Africa through a joint agreement which was signed on 31 July 2012. The Wits Aurum Coalition will facilitate a multi-dimensional approach towards research into the dual TB/HIV epidemics that are currently gripping South Africa.

The Aurum Institute is an internationally recognised, specialist research and health systems management organisation with a focus on TB and HIV prevention, treatment and care. Aurum has an international reputation for its work in these areas and is the recipient of research and other grants from South African and international agencies and institutions for their work.

Our Faculty of Health Sciences is similarly recognised for its cutting edge research into a variety of diseases including HIV and TB. Wits aims to use this opportunity created by the coalition of these two world-class entities, to further extend knowledge and treatment of TB through the pursuit of ground-breaking research.

‘The ultimate aim of this partnership is to take maximum advantage of the diverse research capacity and infrastructure retained at the various Wits research units and departments and the Aurum Institute, to initiate high impact, multi-disciplinary research and training which will have a positive effect on alleviating the burden of TB disease in our country and globally. It is envisioned that these activities will result in the coalescence of expertise and capacity to create a cohesive network of research activity specifically focused on TB,’ says Dr Bavesh Kana, Senior Research Scientist and Head of the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence for Biomedical TB Research at Wits.

The agreement entails mutual exploration and support in identifying areas of research that could be advanced, as well as cooperating in using clinical sites for research, service provision and joint usage of some of the important epidemiological ventures and sites. It is envisaged that this will extend research opportunities to Wits’ postgraduate students for research projects.

ALBERTINA SISULU MEMORIAL LECTURE
The Department of Nursing Education, School of Therapeutic Sciences, held the second Albertina Sisulu Memorial Lecture on 1 August 2012. The lecture, entitled The Soft Vengeance of an Injured Freedom Fighter, was delivered by Justice Albie Sachs. The Faculty was delighted to welcome the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Loyiso Nongxa, to the lecture, as well as Mr Simon Barber, the country manager for Brand SA in the USA.

Justice Sachs reflected on his experiences from the day he was injured in a car bomb attack in Mozambique through his journey to recovery. He paid tribute to the nurses, physiotherapists and occupational therapists who played an important part in this journey. He described how the system has changed from one of oppression to one of democracy and the upholding of human rights. He also reflected on a number of appeals brought to the Constitutional Court and how the judgments had made him weep. He ended by saying that he is left with no vengeance – not even soft vengeance and that it is time for us to move on.

LAUNCH OF BOOK: HAART AND MIND: Common Mental Disorders in People Living With HIV

The second book published by The Access Series, HAART AND MIND: Common Mental Disorders in People Living With HIV by Adjunct Professor Rita Thom, Wits Division of Psychiatry, was launched at the Adler Museum of Medicine on 1 August 2012. The editor of the series is Professor Christopher Szabo. The guest speaker was Professor Francois Venter, Deputy Executive Director, WRHI and Associate Professor in the Wits Department of Medicine.

Copies of the book are available for purchase at the Adler Museum of Medicine at a cost of R120.

For further information please contact: adler.museum@wits.ac.za In addition, etchings of the book cover (20 were printed in the edition) by Professor Deborah Glencross, are also for sale at cost of R500.

Photograph: Professors Francois Venter, Rita Thom, Christopher Szabo

NATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY CELEBRATION: 8 August 2012

The Dean, Professor Ahmed Wadee, hosted a splendid breakfast for the women in the Faculty in celebration of Women’s Month and particularly National Women’s Day on 9 August 2012.

As has become customary, one particular woman in the Faculty was honoured. This year it was Clair Bacher from the Finance Department for her unfailingly friendly disposition and for always going the extra mile. We salute you Claire!

Photographs: Some of the ladies enjoying breakfast; (above): Clair Bacher, Professors Wadee and Bev Kramer
Dr Jocelyn Naicker writes: ‘A one day Acid-Base Workshop was held on 10 August 2012 under the auspices of the South African Association for Clinical Biochemistry (SAACB). This was aimed to assist Registrars in their preparation for the up-coming College examinations. They were updated on Stewart’s physicochemical theory by Professor Guy Richards, Head of the Critical Care Unit at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, and all the other topics were covered by Chemical Pathologists employed at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital, Tygerberg and Groote Schuur Hospitals and NHLS Laboratories. The attendees, Chemical Pathology and Internal Medicine Registrars, found the interaction between the clinical and laboratory departments to be very informative.’

OPENING OF EXHIBITION: POLIOMYELITIS – THE DREAD OF YESTERYEAR

The staff and Board of the Adler Museum of Medicine were delighted to have Professor Barry Schoub, former Executive Director of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, National Health Laboratory Services and Wits Professor of Virology, as guest speaker at the opening of a new exhibition: *Poliomyelitis – the dread of yesteryear*. Professor Schoub gave a fascinating talk about the WHO drive to eradicate poliomyelitis which is presently endemic in only two countries in the world. The Dean, Professor Ahmed Wadee, hosted the evening. The Museum was delighted to host Dr Bernie Tabatznik, an alumnus from the class of 1949, who was visiting from the USA.

Photograph: Professors Caroline Tiemessen, Barry Schoub and Lynne Morris
The Wits Centre for Rural Health (CRH) hosted its annual Rural Health Week this week. A series of events were addressed by Professor Roger Strasser AM, founding Dean of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) in Canada, with a focus on transformative health professions education.

At the annual CRH seminar, held in the Adler Museum on 15 August, Professor Strasser delivered the keynote address entitled *Transforming Health Profession Education through Distributed Community Engaged Learning*, during which he described the distributed learning approach of NOSM, whereby students are placed in multiple sites over a wide area for large parts of their training, a strategy that was implemented both to transform the kinds of graduates that are produced as well as to attempt to address workforce and other health service issues. The strategy arose out of engagement with the communities of northern Ontario, and is already producing positive results. Professor Joe Veriava reflected in response on the need for Wits to take up the challenge and move forward, despite the many obstacles that stand in our path.

Other speakers at the seminar were Professor Andre-Jaques Neusy from Belgium, Executive Director of the international Training for Health Equity network that links medical schools with a focus on achieving equity in health care through training, and Professor Steve Reid from Cape Town, who chairs a national collaboration for achieving health equity that links nine faculties of health sciences in South Africa (CHEER).

On 16 August Professor Strasser addressed a symposium in Potchefstroom hosted jointly by the CRH and the North West Provincial Department of Health, entitled *Training Health Professionals for the needs of the North West*. He described how NOSM was developed as a collaboration between two universities 1000km apart, with a vision of being ‘in the north, for the north and by the north’, in order to address the problems of that region of Canada. Other speakers included Professor Hoffie Conradie, Director of the Ukwanda Rural Clinical School at the University of Stellenbosch, who described the development and early outcomes of the Ukwanda Rural Clinical School, which places students in a rural area for an entire year; Professor Marlene Viljoen former dean of the North West University Faculty of Health Sciences, who described their activities in the province; Professor Ian Couper, director of the Wits CRH, who discussed Wits initiatives in the North West; and Dr Andrew Robinson, deputy director-general for health services in North West, who encouraged participants to see the whole province as a training platform. It was agreed that the process of developing a collaborative health professional training school in the province needed to be taken forward actively, and a task team was nominated to lead on this. A cherry on the cake was a dinner celebrating the tenth anniversary of Ian Couper taking up his appointment at Wits as the first chair of rural health in Africa.
CONGRATULATIONS!

BMA MEDICAL BOOKS AWARDS 2012

Congratulations to Professor Ken Boffard whose 3rd edition of the Manual of Definitive Surgical Trauma Care, published in 2011 by Hodder Arnold, has been Highly Commended in the Surgery category of this year's British Medical Association Awards. This is excellent news indeed! The awards ceremony will be held on 13 September 2012 at the British Medical Association in London. Professor Boffard says: 'Wits contributed a large proportion of the manual. We are already working on the 4th edition!'

OBITUARY: EMERITUS PROFESSOR BARBARA ROBERTSON

It is with deep sadness that the Department of Nursing Education and the Faculty of Health Sciences record the death of Emeritus Professor Barbara Robertson on Tuesday, 24 July 2012 in Cape Town after a short illness.

Barbara Robertson became the Head of the Department of Nursing Education on 1 April 1986, a position she held with distinction until her retirement in 1997. Formerly from the Department of Nursing Science at the University of South Africa (UNISA), Barbara was headhunted by Wits and persuaded by the doyen of nursing, Professor Charlotte Searle, to take on the headship.

She had a long and distinguished career in nursing not only in South Africa but also in neighbouring states, notably in former Bophuthatswana. Her visit, as part of a South African health professional delegation, to the Delta Health Centre in the US in September 1990, served as a catalyst for major curriculum reform in the undergraduate nursing programme at Wits. Barbara's involvement in the WK Kellogg Community Partnerships and Health Professions Education Project confirmed her belief in multidisciplinary, community-based education to prepare nurses for the health challenges of South Africa’s people. It was this belief and her profound understanding of educational diversity and the need for nursing scholarship development that transformed nurse education and training.

During the subsequent years, Barbara was instrumental in introducing Problem-Based Learning (PBL) as the educational method for the undergraduate programme. PBL is still being used in the Department and has evolved with the support of a well established e-learning platform.

In 1990, Professor Robertson also established the Centre for Additional Nursing Studies (CANS), now known as the Consortium for the Advancement of Nursing Science, which offered short courses. She cared deeply about the continuous professional development of nurses and believed that the university setting had an important role to play. CANS started by offering courses in Gerontology, Community Health Nursing and Occupational Health Nursing, and continues to offer a range of practice-specific courses for nurses.

Her achievements are recognised nationally, receiving many accolades and key awards. Together with Professor Rosalie Thompson from UCT, Barbara was a founder member of FUNDISA, an organisation that advocates for university nurse education and scholarship, and that has grown in stature and influence.

To her students Barbara was an outstanding teacher, always generous in sharing her knowledge, a compassionate nurse, an ethicist and humanitarian. To her colleagues she was a visionary, a role model, a mentor, an astute but soft-spoken critic, a true lady and a person of great wisdom. Because of these attributes and the legacy she has left behind, the memories of Barbara Robertson will be forever etched in our hearts and minds.

A memorial service was held for Professor Robertson at the King of Kings Baptist Church, Noordhoek, Cape Town on 27 July 2012. The Faculty will hold a memorial service on 21 August 2012 in the Adler Museum of Medicine at 12:30.
MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PENELope RICHARDS (nee SMITH)

We were sad to learn that a Wits alumna, Penelope Richards, died on 29 July 2012 after a long battle with tracheo broncho malacia. Wits Alumni Affairs was notified by her husband, Fr Peter Richards, to whom we extend the sympathy of the Faculty. Penelope held the following Wits degrees: BSc 1989; BSc Hons (Anatomical Sciences) 1993. A memorial service will be held for her at St Georges Anglican Church, 7 Sherbourne Road, Parktown, on Friday 31 August 2012 at 15:00.

Should those who knew her wish to contact the family they may use the address ethics.peter@gmail.com.

She is survived by her husband, Peter, and two children Guinevere Frances Kylashandra (13yrs) and Abbyghail Hazel Nomasonto (10yrs).

INVITATIONS

The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics
Invites you to the
2012 Steve Biko Bioethics Lecture
entitled
What Would Steve Say?

By
Professor Rogers Ragaven

Professor Rogers Ragaven
Ph.D(ADD) (McGill),Ph.D(Cond.)(Carthage) MA. (Queen), MA. (Queen), MA. (U.KZN), B.Ed (London)Or.L.Ed. (London)Or.L.Ed. (Queen

Professor Ragaven has been a Professor of Social Sciences at several Universities in the US, England and Canada. He began his studies as a part time student at the University of Natal Non-European section (UNNE) where he was enrolled for a BA in Philosophy and Drama. At the time, UNNE was the most militant institution after Fort Hare in student politics. He served in the Student Representative Council (SRC) in various capacities from 1959 – 67. Steve Biko became involved in student politics under the leadership of Ragaven who was the President of the SRC in the most difficult period just after Sharpville.

Response by
Dr Saths Cooper

Dr Cooper is a graduate of the Universities of South Africa, Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and Boston University (the latter is where he obtained his PhD.) A close colleague of the late Steve Biko, he has played a key role in the anti-apartheid struggle, the advent of democracy in South Africa and the unification and ascendency of psychology during and after apartheid. He was the first National Director of the Institute for Multi-Party Democracy which engaged with political parties across the spectrum in 1991 leading up to CODESA. Dr Cooper has represented the Republic of South Africa at UNESCO, the UN, ICSSU and other international forums.

Service delivery is in crisis for citizens of this country. A healthy population depends not only on medical care but also the social determinants of health. At the 2012 Steve Biko Bioethics Lecture, Steve Biko’s philosophies and how they apply in the healthcare context will be discussed. The current healthcare context will be analysed against these philosophies. The need for healthcare practitioners to function as their patient’s advocates will be underscored.

Date: Wednesday, 12 September 2012
Time: 1300 – 1400
Venue: Marie Curie Lecture Theatre
Faculty of Health Sciences
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
7 York Road, Parktown
Cost: None

RSVP: Kurulum Govender with your HPCSA number if applicable.
Email: Info.SteveBikoCentre@wits.ac.za

CPD Accredited
Accreditation number: MD006/021/01/2012
Activity number: 29799
PUBLIC DEBATE
Presented by The Wits Centre for Ethics and the Division of Infectious Diseases

What's bugging you? Ethics and Infectious Disease

- Be afraid: infectious disease on the comeback – Sarah Stacy
- The ethical context: how infectious disease got left out – Lucy Allais
- Doctors, drones and dragnets: who’s to blame? – Helen Rees
- Should MDR TB patients be incarcerated? – Francois Venter
- Do you have an obligation to disclose your HIV status to your sexual partners? – Eusebius McKaiser

Thursday 23 August
18h00-20h00 (refreshments served from 17:30)
Marie Curie Lecture Theatre, Wits Medical School

Two Ethics CPD points

RSVP:
Yhsmien.hill@wits.ac.za
3rd Annual Alzheimer’s SA, Gauteng, One-Day Seminar
“Dementia: Living Together”
Wednesday 12th September 2012
Linder Auditorium, 27 St Andrews Road, Parktown, Johannesburg

CPD points: HPCS SA: 8  SACSSP: 4  SAPC: a certificate of attendance will be issued

Registration forms available on www.alzheimers.org.za

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>07:00 – 08:20</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:30 – 08:40</td>
<td>Mr Brandon October (Ambassador for Alzheimer’s SA, Gauteng) Opening</td>
<td>Linder Auditorium</td>
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<td>08:40 – 09:30</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker Professor Malan Heyns - President of Alzheimer’s SA (Emeritus Professor of Psychology, University of the Free State) The WHO-ADI Dementia Report 2012</td>
<td>Linder Auditorium</td>
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<td>09:30 – 10:00</td>
<td>Morning tea</td>
<td>Linder Auditorium</td>
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<td>10:05 - 10:45</td>
<td>Professor Stefan Weiss (Faculty of Science, School of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of the Witwatersrand) Therapeutic approaches for the treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease targeting the 37 kDa/67 kDa laminin receptor.</td>
<td>Linder Auditorium</td>
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<td>10:50-11:30</td>
<td>Dr Stanley Lipschitz (Specialist Physician and Geriatrician in private practice) Young Onset Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>Linder Auditorium</td>
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<td>11:35 - 12:15</td>
<td>Dr Brian Ruff (Physician; Rheumatologist; Health Economics Discovery Health) Memory Care Concept – Funding Challenges and Alternative Reimbursement</td>
<td>Linder Auditorium</td>
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<td>12:30 – 13:25</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>13:30 - 14:30</td>
<td>Ms Kobie Zietsman (Occupational Therapist) Ms Sylvia Birkhead (Occupational Therapist) Multi-Modal Sensory Stimulation for Low Cognitive Level Functioning People</td>
<td>Linder Auditorium</td>
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<td>14:35 - 15:15</td>
<td>Dr Alex Landmann (Neurologist in private practice) The Role of the Neurologist in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Dementia</td>
<td>Linder Auditorium</td>
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<td>15:20-16:00</td>
<td>Ms Erika Hitge (Psychotherapist) How to Cope as a Caregiver</td>
<td>Linder Auditorium</td>
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<td>16:00-16:05</td>
<td>Ms Ilse Koen (Executive Director, Alzheimer’s SA) Closing</td>
<td>Linder Auditorium</td>
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For registration, further information contact: Loraine Schirlinger on alzheimers@myconnection.co.za or 011 346 2757.
Health Sciences Research Day and Postgraduate Expo 2012: Final Reminder!

Get ready for the biennial Health Sciences Research Day and Postgraduate Symposium taking place on 19 September 2012. This one-day meeting showcases new and groundbreaking research produced by staff and students of the Faculty. Under the slogan Excellence, Relevance, Determination: Transforming Life Through Research Excellence, oral and poster presentations will be selected to highlight research in Diseases of Lifestyle; Education, Policy and Systems; Clinical Research and Therapeutics for Health; Infectious Diseases; and Molecular and Comparative Biosciences. Entrance is free, and all aspiring participants and delegates should pre-register at www.witsresearchday.co.za

And Finally...

Just when we thought that spring was around the corner! Snow at Medical School 7 August 2012. Staff and students alike thoroughly enjoyed the dusting:
AND A TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN OF THE FACULTY DURING WOMEN’S MONTH!!

Next issue of Health Sciences Review: 14 September 2012
Deadline for copy: 11 September 2012
Email: adler.museum@wits.ac.za