FAREWELL FUNCTION FOR PROFESSOR SHARON FONN

At a function held on 18 November 2011, many tributes were read to Professor Sharon Fonn who has, since 2003, led the School of Public Health in a dynamic and proactive way. Professor Fonn was described as a person of great vision who unreservedly supported new fields of needs and training programmes. Committed to the truth, she is incisive, responsive, frank and outspoken and yet sensitive, compassionate and thoughtful at the same time. Women’s health, occupational health, health systems development and health equity have mattered a great deal to her. Her ‘Health Workers for Change’ programmes are still internationally recognised and widely applied.

Testimony to the visionary leadership and drive are several projects initiated by her and the number of awards she has received. A recent huge success has been the CARTA programme (Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa) which she co-leads after being involved in conceptualisation, raising of $11 million and implementation. The programme is already on the way to achieving its goal of developing the next generation of research leaders in public and population health in Africa. This success was recognised in 2011 when she and Professor Kathy Kahn received the Vice-Chancellor’s Academic Citizenship Team Award. She was also the recipient of the DST Distinguished Scientist Award in 2005 for her contributions to the quality of life of women.

She also leaves behind a huge legacy in the form of the new School of Public Health building, a School with a formidable reputation nationally and internationally as a world leader in the field of postgraduate study, research and capacity development as well as a highly skilled staff.

We leave the final word to Professor Shan Naidoo who writes: ‘Outside of work I have often pursued the vexing question as to what the purpose of life is or is there a larger meaning to life. Does this purpose wake us up every morning and drive us through the day? So I tend to be a scientist at work and read esoteric books at night. To my surprise, Sharon also reads these types of books. Steven Covey describes the purpose of life as: “To live, to love, to learn, to leave a legacy”. Sharon, you have certainly left a magnificent legacy. May you be blessed with happiness and may all your dreams come true. God Bless.’

The Faculty and the University have been enriched by having a leader of the calibre of Sharon Fonn and we wish her well for the future.

Photographs: Professor Sharon Fonn; Professor Kathy Kahn with Professor Fonn
Welcome to the new Head of the School of Public Health, Professor Laetitia Rispel! Previously she was the scientific director of the Health Policy Research Group of the South African Medical Research Council and an adjunct professor in the Centre for Health Policy in the School and the principal investigator of the four year Research on the State of Nursing (RESON) research programme.

Professor Rispel also teaches health systems evaluation and research and supervises postgraduate students in public health. Her academic research and publications over the last five years have focused on Health Policy and Health Systems; and Social Exclusion and HIV. In the past two years, she has served on several high level committees established by the South African Health Ministry.

Professor Rispel was one of the founding staff members of the Centre for Health Policy and has more than 20 years of public health experience. She has in-depth knowledge and extensive experience of transforming health systems in sub-Saharan Africa, gained as the former head of the Gauteng Health Department, as previous executive director of one of the HSRC’s largest research programmes and now serving on the Boards of both the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) and the South African Health Systems Trust. She is the current president of the Public Health Association of South Africa, and is on the executive board of the World Federation of Public Health Associations. In 2003 Professor Rispel was the health category winner of the South African Shoprite/Checkers/SABC2 woman of the year award in recognition of her transformative leadership in the health sector.

During 2011, Professor Rispel was inaugurated in the Nurse Researchers Hall of Fame under the auspices of FUNDISA (Forum of University Nursing Deans in South Africa) in recognition of her pioneering research on health policy and health systems, including the role of the nurse as an agent of change, nurses’ roles in health policy development, health sector transformation and primary health care. She was also instrumental in the July 2011 launch of the special edition of the Journal of Public Health Policy to celebrate 24 years of CHP. In August 2011, she was recognised at the annual Faculty Research Awards dinner for her contribution to research in the Faculty.

Professor Rispel's husband, Dr Edward Hank, is the Clinical Executive of the Rahima Moosa Hospital in Coronationville. She has two children: a son who is studying engineering at Wits and a daughter who has just excelled in Grade 10 at Sacred Heart College in Observatory. She says of them: ‘They both keep me grounded and are very honest about my obsessions.’

When she has time to relax she enjoys being out in nature, reading and exercising. She loves watching Cinema Nouveau movies when time permits. We can testify that this no-nonsense lady has a sense of humour and you really want to be near her when there is a Faculty celebration as she is great fun to be around! She has ferociously high standards for herself and her staff but is very much a team player who will find the time to relax and have fun with her staff.

We wish Professor Rispel well for her term of office!

FAREWELL FUNCTION FOR PROFESSOR MICHAEL RUDOLPH
Professor Shan Naidoo writes: ‘Professor Michael Rudolph has served as Head of the Department of Public Oral Health since 1978. He is regarded as one of the founding members in the field of Community Dentistry in South Africa. His retirement function was held on 23 November 2011 at the Adler Museum.

Professor Rudolph has established one of the leading community dentistry departments in the world. Our international and local standing is related to his mission to develop himself and others within his field to excel in their niche area. His leadership style has always focused on development and giving others the space to push their boundaries. His thinking has been way ahead of the times – for example he has used oral health as an entry point into communities and has tailored his plans to the needs of the communities. This has often meant addressing the social determinants and focusing on areas that are important to communities which have included initiating projects such as food gardens and food security, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis education and education of traditional healers. His approach was a multi-sectoral one to primary health care delivery. He has continued with this approach even though many departments in government continue to function as independent silos, giving only lip service to community-based approaches which encompass the principles of primary health care.

The measure of a great leader is not related to what one achieves in one’s lifetime of work but what one leaves behind. Michael Rudolph has left behind a department that is strong, with a highly motivated staff who will always regard him as a “father” and leader who has remained a friend, mentor and advisor.

The farewell function was well attended. Mike’s wife provided musical interludes and his son-in-law Naghi sang. This provided a sad but beautiful ambience to the farewell. Professors Sharon Fonn and Bill Evans paid eloquent tributes as well as other speakers such as Associate Professor Jeff Yengopal. Mike responded in his inimitable way and the Dean, Professor Ahmed Wadee, gave him a present on behalf of the Faculty. We all wish you everything of the best Mike and may you have a blessed retirement.’

Photographs: Professor Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph with Professor Rudolph; Professor Rudolph with Professor Ahmed Wadee

FUNCTION TO HONOUR PROFESSOR BARRY SCHOB

Photographs: Mr Alistair Moffat, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the National Poliomyelitis Research Foundation (PRF), Professor Barry Schoub; Professors Charles Feldman, Lynn Morris, Shabir Madhi.

A function, sponsored by the Poliomyelitis Research Foundation and the Southern African Journal of Epidemiology and Infection, was held to honour Professor Barry Schoub on his recent retirement as Executive Director of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) in the National Health Laboratory Service. Professor Schoub was a founding director of the NICD in 2002. Prior to this he was the Director of the National Institute for Virology (from 1976 to 2002).

Professor Schoub is an internationally renowned virologist who has gained particular prominence in the fields of polio and influenza. He is on the editorial board of the Journal of Medical Virology and Journal of Virological Methods, and reviewer for some twenty scientific journals, including Journal of Infectious Diseases, Bulletin of the World Health Organization, Lancet, Lancet Infectious Diseases, PLoS One, PLoS Medicine, as well as the prestigious publishers Cambridge University Press and Stanford University Press. The Editors of the special edition of the Journal write: ‘Professor Schoub is recognised by all as a top scientist, a visionary and an outstanding teacher.’ Professor Schoub was presented with a Festschrift of peer reviewed articles in the field of communicable diseases, as well as tributes written by friends and colleagues. The festschrift recognises Professor Schoub’s important contribution to infectious diseases in South Africa and internationally. He has also made an enormous contribution to the Poliomyelitis Research Foundation over a period of some 34 years.
and has chaired and guided the Scientific Advisory Panel in an exemplary manner. He was also the founding chairman of the National Advisory Group on Immunisation (NAGI) of South Africa.

Professor Schoub will remain a member of the Epidemiology Division of the NICD, and will assume the position of Interim Director of the newly established Centre for Immunisation and Immunology at this Institute. Professor Lynn Morris writes: ‘Professor Schoub leaves behind a very strong institute that will reflect on his tenure with tremendous pride and warmth.’

GROWING OLD IN RURAL SOUTH AFRICA

The Wits/Claude Leon Foundation Distinguished Scholar and Honorary Professor Margaret Thorogood, presented a lecture entitled: Growing old in rural South Africa on 24 November 2011. Margaret Thorogood is Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Warwick and holds an honorary professorship with the Wits School of Public Health.

In this lecture she described some of the health and social issues facing older people in rural South Africa.

Her work in South Africa has been largely focused on the neglected health needs of the older population and on the emerging epidemic of the chronic diseases of ageing, particularly hypertension and stroke.

She led the SA Stroke Prevention Initiative (SASPI) research team, which demonstrated the large and unmet health burden of stroke on the Agincourt research site. She is also an active member working on the World Health Survey Study on Global Aging and Adult Health (SAGE) project which aims to improve the empirical understanding of the health and well-being of older adults and ageing in developing countries.

Photograph: Professor Kathy Kahn; Dr Maria Nilsson, Division of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University, Sweden; Professor Sharon Fonn; Professor Margaret Thorogood.

ANNUAL FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES HONOURS CELEBRATION

The annual Faculty Honours and Excellence Awards took place on 30 November 2011. The Dean, Professor Ahmed Wadee, paid tribute to those members of staff who are due to retire or had retired during the year, were promoted, had attained special achievements, or who had provided excellent service to the Faculty. The booklet which details this information is obtainable from Mrs Jennefer Hesk (Jennefer.hesk@wits.ac.za).

The prestigious Yosuf Veriava Bioethics Medal which recognises staff members and postgraduate students who have contributed substantially in the area of bioethics in health care was awarded to Emeritus Professor Trefor Jenkins (post ‘retirement’) who continues to enrich science and humanity through his teaching, writings and personal character (photographed with the Dean). Well done Professor Jenkins!
The Dean’s Award for recognition of outstanding performance, often beyond the call of duty, was given to Thabitha Magethi (photographed with the Dean) for her sterling contribution to the Faculty. The Dean described her as the powerhouse of the Faculty, a person of great integrity and honesty who is always willing to go the extra mile. She is a person who is kind and compassionate and lives her religion. Fiercely loyal to the Faculty, she is a pleasure to work with. Well done Thabitha!

Some further pictures from the awards ceremony appear on the last page.

LAUNCH OF THE DEVELOPMENTAL PATHWAYS FOR HEALTH RESEARCH UNIT

The Developmental Pathways for Health Research Unit received official unit status from the University Research Committee and the SA Medical Research Council this year. The official launch took place on 7 December 2011. Professor Mark Hanson, President of the International Society of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease and Director of the University of Southampton Academic Unit of Human Development and Health in the Faculty of Medicine, gave the plenary entitled: Developmental Origins of Health and Disease: Mechanisms and Implications. The Wits Choir introduced proceedings with beautiful song!

Unit Director Professor Shane Norris writes: ‘The MRC/WITS Developmental Pathways for Health Research Unit (DPHRU) is a new unit with a mandate that has evolved from research conducted by the MRC/WITS Mineral Metabolism Research Unit (MMRU) and the Birth to Twenty Research Programme (Bt20).

The vision of DPHRU is research throughout the life-course that improves health and wellbeing across generations. Specifically, DPHRU will investigate genetic, physiological, psycho-social, and lifestyle determinants of growth and development, risk of obesity and metabolic disease, and healthy ageing through innovative multi-disciplinary methodologies across the lifespan. DPHRU will draw upon a conceptual framework that sees health in adult life as a product of a multi-generational process that can be affected adversely by shocks or deprivation, as well as enhanced by the existence of protective factors or appropriate interventions at critical life periods. Insight into the converging complexity of environmental and social factors across the lifespan in South Africa is critical for understanding the pathways to the development of ill-health, effective advocacy, and development of successful interventions.

From both scientific research and policy perspectives, confronting the origins of disparities in physical and psycho-social development early in life may produce greater effects than attempting to modify adult health-related behaviours or improve access to health care. South African formative and intervention research in the area of developmental origins is critically needed in order to address research gaps and provide evidence for policy formulation to help deal with the burden of disease and strengthen primary health care. DPHRU is well positioned to provide scientific and local formative and intervention research in the area of developmental origins of health which will complement existing research entities tackling metabolic disease, health, and wellbeing in South Africa. Furthermore, DPHRU complements the two WITS research thrusts (WITS Molecular Biosciences Research Thrust: Health for Africa and WITS Chronic Diseases of Lifestyle Research Thrust), and the MRC Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases National Collaborative Research Programme. It also addressed the national priorities of increasing life expectancy, decreasing maternal and child mortality and strengthening health system effectiveness.’

Photographs: Wits Choir; Professors Mark Hanson, Shane Norris, Bev Kramer and John Pettifor
PLEDGE OF SERVICE CEREMONY

The Department of Nursing Education arranged a moving Nursing Pledge of Service ceremony for the Bachelor of Nursing graduands on 7 December 2011. B Nursing graduands took the Nurses Pledge of Service, led by Professor Lize Maree, after an inspiring address by guest speaker Sister Nonhlanhla Mary Immaculate Nkabinde, herself a Wits graduate of 1996. Various dignitaries, parents and guests attended the event and awards were also presented to outstanding students. We wish our graduands well as they embark on their nursing careers.

GRADUATION OF CLINICAL ASSOCIATES

On 8 December 2011, the first cohort of students completing the Bachelor of Clinical Medical Practice (BCMP) degree graduated to enter the health service as part of a new cadre of health professionals: Clinical Associates. This is a significant development as Clinical Associates are part of the Seven Foundations of South Africa’s Human Resources for Health (HRH) model, captured in the recently launched national Department of Health’s HRH SA 2030 strategic plan.

In many rural parts of South Africa, people have extremely limited access to quality health care services. This is largely due to weak district health systems and a severe lack of trained human resources for health. In response, a task team assembled by the South African National Department of Health established a scope of practice, training curriculum, and exit outcomes for a new mid-level healthcare provider, the Clinical Associate.

The Clinical Associates will work primarily at district hospitals as integral members of the clinical team, working under the supervision of doctors to provide a range of medical services. They are registered with the Medical and Dental Professions Board of the Health Professions Council of South Africa.

Wits launched the Bachelor of Clinical Medical Practice degree programme in 2009, with an initial intake of 25 students; 23 of these students were funded by the National Department of Health, of whom 12 were from Gauteng and 11 from North West. This 3-year degree emphasises the acquisition of hands-on clinical skills that Clinical Associates need to take their place as essential members of district-level care teams. The rigorous, nationally standardized curriculum is competency-based; it prepares students to provide any medical service within their scope of practice that is delegated to them by the supervising medical practitioner.

All 25 students have successfully completed the degree and will enter the health service as clinical associates in district hospitals in Gauteng and North West provinces.

The Faculty is proud of the achievement of the students, and the academic staff who nurtured them, and looks forward to seeing the contribution they will make to the health service.
With the support of the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) Twinning Center, which supports a partnership between Wits and Emory University School of Medicine’s Physician Assistant Program in Atlanta to strengthen Wits’ Clinical Associates Programme, a celebratory dinner was held on 7 December to congratulate all involved in the programme. It was addressed by the WHO Country Representative, Dr Stella Anyangwe.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN: TALK TO ME SERIES

In his efforts to run a highly professional and interactive Faculty, and to develop a culture of generosity and caring amongst staff and students the Dean, Professor Ahmed A Wadee, has started a “Talk to me series”.

Every attempt will be made to run this series on a Monday, between 13h00 and 14h00 in the Foyer of the Medical School. Health Sciences staff and students are encouraged to assist the Dean in this initiative and to talk freely about anything and everything … It is hoped that these interactions will identify areas that need attention and intervention; and will modify and improve interactions between staff and students; between academic and support staff and between colleagues so that we all work towards a common goal: Being the Faculty of Health Sciences of Choice in Southern Africa!

CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY FOR ST LAURENCE CHILDREN’S HAVEN

Patricia Apfel writes: ‘The St Laurence Children’s Haven is a non-governmental organisation situated on the West Rand. The Haven is not subsidised by government and relies entirely on public generosity for financial support. Administration and fundraising is undertaken on a completely voluntary basis. The house in Discovery currently houses 23 children on a permanent basis and assists Roodepoort Child Welfare with the safe-keeping of 64 children brought in on an emergency basis.

The Department of Nursing Education in the School of Therapeutic Sciences, in conjunction with De La Salle Holy Cross Primary School (Grade 5 R class) launched an innovative “Giving back to society” project. Gift shoe boxes filled with a selection of toys and educational supplies were collected. The Bachelor of Nursing I students, accompanied by the B Nursing clinical coordinator Mrs Hilary Thurling, and the B Nursing III and Psychiatric nursing coordinator, Mrs Annalie van den Heever, spent a fun-filled morning and distributed the shoe boxes to every child at the haven. The house parents commented that such was the excitement that the children were waiting from 5am that morning for the visitors and the gifts.

The students found this to be a very moving day and hope to continue the “Christmas Shoebox” initiative and to include the Haven in their outreach programme. As Anne Frank said: “No one has ever become poor by giving”.

Well done to the students and staff of the Department of Nursing Education!
CONGRATULATIONS!

ASSAf MEMBERSHIP

We were delighted to hear that Professor Helen Laburn, Honorary Professorial Research Fellow in the School of Physiology and former Dean of the Faculty and now Wits Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), and Professor Viness Pillay, Director of Wits Advanced Drug Delivery Platform, have been elected as members of the Academy of Science of South Africa. This is a great acknowledgment of their contributions to science in South Africa and we warmly congratulate them!

ASSAf is a statutory body representing South Africa in the international community of science academies. Please see: http://www.assaf.org.za/.

NEW NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION RATINGS

Congratulations to Professor Glenda Gray who has just been awarded an A rating by the National Research Foundation of South Africa. Professor Gray is Director of the Perinatal HIV Research Unit. Her research career began when she conducted a study to test whether HIV-positive women in resource-poor settings could safely formula feed their babies. She says: ‘I saw how research, how evidence can change perceptions. How evidence can change practice. How evidence can make you think of something in a different way. How evidence can show that women in Soweto can formula feed their babies and should be allowed to be given that choice. And so that taught me the power of research.’

And congratulations are also extended to Professor Duncan Mitchell who has again been awarded an A1 rating by the NRF. This is the highest rating that an individual can achieve.

Well done – again!!

PROFESSOR LYNNE SCHEPARTZ HITS THE HEADLINES!

Associate Professor Lynne Schepartz hit the headlines (The Star, 22 November 2011) when a paper she co-authored was published in PNAS: Antemortem trauma and survival in the late Middle Pleistocene human cranium from Maba, South China (www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1117113108).

Professor Schepartz joined the Faculty in October 2011 as Associate Professor and Head of the Division of Biological Anthropology in the School of Anatomical Sciences. She obtained her PhD in 1987 from the University of Michigan. An active fieldworker and researcher in human skeletal biology (prehistoric health and mortuary archaeology) and palaeoanthropology (evolution of language and behavioral complexity), she currently works in China and Greece. She is also a Visiting Research Fellow (2009-2013) and a Senior International Scientist (2011-2012) at the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology (IVPP), Chinese Academy of Science, in Beijing.

The paper concerns an ancient human skull discovered in China in 1958. Schepartz and her colleagues found the individual from Maba had survived a serious blunt force trauma that was most likely due to intra-human aggression. As such it may be the earliest evidence for human conflict, dating to at least 126,000 years ago. But perhaps more importantly, the Maba skull is a testament to an early act of care giving, as the victim must have received social support in order to survive the injury.

Schepartz is delighted to be at Wits, which she says is a ‘superstore’ of biological anthropological and comparative anatomy collections. She greatly looks forward to exploring the research opportunities that the collections offer and promoting the work of the wonderful group of people in her division.

Photograph: Professor Lynne Schepartz with a rhino jaw from the Hunterian Museum collection. Her research interests include studies of the rhinos exploited by ancient humans in China.
NEWS FROM THE ADLER MUSEUM OF MEDICINE: VISITORS FROM NIGERIA

The curators of the Adler Museum were delighted to welcome Professor Eyitope Ogunbodede, Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria and Visiting Professor at Wits since 2000, and Professor Foluso John Owukele who is completing a PhD in Oral Microbiology at Wits, to the Museum on 23 November 2011. They were visiting the Faculty as well as attending the farewell function for Professor Michael Rudolph but also took the opportunity to discuss the establishment of a dental museum at Obafemi Awolowo University and to explore future co-operation with the curators of the Adler Museum.

ANTHONY AND ROSEMARY GEAR VISIT THE MUSEUM

The Adler Museum curators were delighted to welcome Dr Anthony and Rosemary Gear from New Zealand to the museum on 25 November 2011. The purpose of their visit was to look at the museum’s considerable archive on Professor JHS (James) Gear in preparation for a biography of Gear which they will be writing.

The Museum was most fortunate to have been the recipient of Professor James Gear’s large volume of papers and memorabilia which include biographical and personal files, as well as his degree and diploma certificates, awards, fellowship certificates, personal correspondence, speeches, scientific papers delivered at national and international conferences, research files on tropical and infectious diseases, including his work on poliomyelitis for which he developed a vaccine, photographs and press clippings relating to his long and illustrious career.

Dr Anthony Gear is a rheumatologist in New Zealand and the second son of Professor Gear. He writes: ‘We want to thank you most sincerely for all the trouble you went to when we came to visit. The amount of material you have on Dad was overwhelming and … our visit was extremely valuable. We now know what is there, thanks to the amazing work that has been done on all the papers, and we can work towards coming over with a definite plan in place.’

CHURCHILL MADIKIDA INSTALLATION GOES TO CONSTITUTION HILL

The installation by Churchill Madikida, *Status 11*, is the key artwork being displayed at Constitution Hill during the month of December 2011. Madikida is a Wits Fine Art graduate and Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year award winner for 2006, who is currently completing a Masters degree in Fine Art at Wits. Constitution Hill CEO, Petal Thring, is delighted at the newly-forged link with the Adler Museum and has requested the loan of the exhibition: *Health and health care under apartheid* which will be shown there for three months in 2012.

The Madikida installation was shown from 1 December 2011 when a major function commemorating International Aids Day was held. Justice Edwin Cameron, one of the speakers on the day, has long admired the installation, having opened the exhibition at Medical School in 2006. Petal Thring indicated to the curators that the Indian High Commissioner, who visited ConHill on the previous day, had also greatly admired the installation.

Photograph: Petal Thring with Justice Edwin Cameron
IN MEMORY OF ADELE KAHN (1924-2011)

Adele Kahn died on 18 November 2011. An obituary written by Professor Kathy Kahn has appeared elsewhere. The Curators of the Adler Museum of Medicine take this opportunity to pay tribute to Adele who was, with Professor Ellison Kahn, a great supporter of the Museum. Adele worked in a voluntary capacity for the Museum for many years and contributed articles and editorials to, and assisted with the editing of, the Adler Museum Bulletin. She clearly enjoyed working with the collection as many of her articles relate to its contents. She devoted hundreds if not thousands of hours of selfless service to the Museum. She and Professor Kahn appear in numerous photographs of the Museum from its inception in 1962 and through the early decades of its existence. They also hosted many functions together with Dr Cyril Adler and Dr Esther Adler, the founders of the Museum. Although the Curators did not meet Adele Kahn, we have felt her presence in many ways.

We offer our sincere condolences to Professor Kathy Kahn and the Kahn family.

Photograph: Professor Ellison Kahn, Dr Esther Adler, Dr Cyril Adler, Mrs Adele Kahn (Archives, Adler Museum)

_______________________________________________________________________________________

IMPORTANT REQUEST FROM THE WITS ADVANCEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS DIVISION REGARDING UPDATING OF WITS EXPERTS DIRECTORY

Dear Academic

In promoting an understanding of the activities and research undertaken by Wits, adding value to the debate in society and sharing expertise on a range of matters, Wits academics and researchers contribute to the public discourse and fulfil the University’s commitment to public engagement on a range of issues.

Wits Experts are sought on a daily basis to provide informed analysis in the media, consequently empowering the ordinary man to understand the greater debates and complex topics. The University has a strong reputation of its accessibility to wider audiences, and it is through the visibility of our academics that the University is able to sustain its public engagement, public advocacy and public education function.

The Wits Communications team is currently updating the Wits Experts Directory, a repository of information that will be shared with the media.

We would like to invite you to include your details in this Directory. Kindly fill in the following information and send it back to me for inclusion in the Directory.

Title:     Name:     Surname:     Department/School:     Tel:     Email:     Cell:
(Please indicate if we can share your cellphone number with the media or if it is only for use by the Wits Communications team only)

Areas of expertise: e.g. HIV/AIDS research, Innovation and Strategy, Biotechnology, Social Psychology.

Please feel free to contact Shirona Patel, Wits Communications Manager on 011 717 1019 if you have any questions.

ABNAVIEN KING
Wits Communications Assistant
Advancement and Partnerships Division
Wits University
Tel:  +27 11 717 1021; Fax: +27 11 717 1065; Email: Abnavien.King@wits.ac.za
ETHICS ALIVE

First Announcement
Ethics Alive 12th – 16th March 2012
The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics and
The Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
Invites you to
Ethics Alive 2012

Sharing Healthcare Resources

Guest Speaker: Professor Gavin Mooney
MA Economics (University of Edinburgh), DSoSC (UCT)
Professor Gavin Mooney is a health economist with nearly 40 years of experience and has published extensively on the subject. He is an advocate for Citizens’ Juries and has pioneered its implementation in Australian health. He has served as an advisor to the WHO and OECD as well as various governments and health departments. Professor Mooney’s main interests within health economics are political economy, Aboriginal health, equity and ethics. In 2008 he initiated a fundraising-drive which raised over $8,000.00 for victims of South Africa’s xenophobic attacks.

Symposium
Healthcare: Realities and Myths of Universal Coverage

Date: Wednesday, 14 March 2012
Time: 17:30 for 18:00
Venue: Wits Faculty of Health Sciences

Welcome drinks and a finger supper will be served.

CPD Accredited
GPC COURSES 2012

To assist you with planning your GCP training early in 2012, here is a brief list of dates and places for the first 6 months. Please respond if you want the full schedule as an attachment.

There is a GCP course for Auxiliaries – these are the non-clinical staff who require GCP – it is a full 1 day course.

The ABC of Quality Control course is gaining momentum and is highly recommended for new sites. We also have a module on Responsible Conduct of Clinical Research which was requested by CAPRISA and may be required by other sites. There are other developments happening and I will keep you posted of progress.

GOOD CLINICAL PRACTISE REFRESHER/UPDATE: afternoons from 13:00 – 16:00

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GCP FOR AUXILIARIES: 1 day from 08:30 – 16:00

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‘ABC’ OF QUALITY CONTROL: 1 day from 08:30 – 16:00

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For more information please contact: MELODY MADDOCKS
Tel: 011 274-9256  Fax: 011 274-9257
WITS HEALTH CONSORTIUM (Pty) LTD
VAT REG NO: 4310171493

And finally ... THANK YOU! It was a tough year but we made it!

Thank you to all colleagues who have sent us information over the last year, and who have alerted us to events in the Faculty – you have made the task of putting together this newsletter very easy!

Thank you also to all who take the trouble and time to give us feedback! The newsletter is intended to provide a useful source of information about the Faculty and its activities. Please keep the news coming to us!

Best wishes to all from the Editors for a safe and peaceful break!!!
