Welcome to the first issue of Health Sciences Review for 2012. The main purpose of the Review is to keep everyone informed about what is going on in the Faculty. This includes news about recent events, staff appointments, promotions and awards, information about forthcoming lectures, courses and research grants.

The newsletter is published monthly around mid-month. Please use it as a vehicle to publicise anything you want to share within the Faculty.

If you would like to submit news, correct your email address or add a name to our distribution list, please contact us at: Telephone: 011 717 2081; Email: adler.museum@wits.ac.za.

We receive constant requests for previous issues of Health Sciences Review. Please note that all previous issues can be accessed via the Faculty’s website. Go to: Faculty/Reports/Health Sciences Review.

We wish everyone a productive and rewarding year!

Editors: Rochelle Keene and Cheryl-Anne Cromie

INVITATIONS

Please join us for a talk by Prof David Dawson from the Oregon Health & Science University

“New Approaches to the search for effective drug therapy in Cystic Fibrosis”

DATE: 23 JANUARY 2012
VENUE: ADLER MUSEUM OF MEDICINE AT WITS MEDICAL SCHOOL
TIME: 17H30 - 19H00

Kindly RSVP before the 20/01/2012 to Dr Catherine Baird: cathybaird@telkomza.net or Meredith Chambers: meredith.chambers@abbott.com
Faculty of Health Sciences

Welcome Day Ceremony

You are cordially invited to attend the Welcome Day Ceremony for 2nd year students who will take the Hippocratic Oath (modified version)

Date: 27th January 2012
Time: 14:00
Venue: Linder Auditorium

Kindly RSVP to Mrs J Hesk at jennefer.hesk@wits.ac.za

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The Wits Faculty of Health Sciences Research Office

Alumni Diaspora Programme

Jonathan Hellmann graduated with an MBBCh from Wits in 1970. He undertook paediatric training at Wits and specialised in Neonatology, completing a Fellowship in the United States. He moved to Canada in 1983 and has held a number of positions including Staff Neonatologist, and Director of Continuing Education in the Department of Paediatrics. He has also served as a Royal College of Physicians of Canada examiner. Currently, he is the Clinical Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at The Hospital for Sick Children and a Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Toronto. He has a long standing interest in bioethics and served as Chairman of the Bioethics Committee at the Hospital for Sick Children from 1989-1993. He completed a Masters in Bioethics in 2006 and is involved in bioethics teaching.

Please join us for Professor Hellmann’s Faculty lecture, in which he will share societal perspectives on neonatal intensive care:

“Towards the responsible use of neonatal intensive care”

Date: Monday 30 January 2012
Time: 12:30-13:30
Venue: Len Miller Theatre, 9th Floor Medical School
Info: Philippa.Mckechnie@wits.ac.za
Professor David Gray, Head of the School of Physiology, University of the Witwatersrand, has the pleasure of inviting you to attend the

**PAUL LEVY MEMORIAL LECTURE**

*“Sensory Circumventricular Organs: window to the brain”*

to be delivered by

**Professor Ruediger Gerstberger**

Department of Veterinary Physiology and Biochemistry at the University of Giessen, Germany.

Ruediger Gerstberger is a comparative physiologist and neuroscientist, whose work has focused on the role of the hypothalamus in the central nervous control of body fluid and temperature homeostasis of mammals and birds. The topic of his lecture is on how signaling molecules circulating in the blood stream, such as peptide hormones and cytokines of the immune system, reach specific neuroglial sites within the hypothalamus – otherwise protected by the endothelial blood-brain-barrier – to trigger complex physiological (and behavioural) reactions in mammals, including man.

**Date:** 15 February 2012  
**Time:** 17:30 for pre-talk snacks and refreshments, lecture starts at 18:00  
**Venue:** Marie Curie Lecture Theatre, Wits Medical School, 7 York Road, Parktown  
**RSVP by 13 February to Lynne Pritchard** ([lynne.pritchard@wits.ac.za](mailto:lynne.pritchard@wits.ac.za), 011 717 2258)  
**Accredited 1 CPD point**

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The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics invites you to a lecture on

*"Fearlessness and Suffering: Changing Medical and Psychiatric Protocols in Response to Hunger Strikes.”*

to be delivered by

**Professor Nayan Shah**  
Associate Professor of History, University of California San Diego

Nayan Shah is the Associate Professor of History at the University of California San Diego. He is author of Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco’s Chinatown (University of California Press, 2001) and Stranger Intimacy: Race, Sexuality and the Law in the North American West (California, 2011). He is at work on a new project on hunger strikes, human rights and Medicine that spans India, Europe, North America and South Africa.

**DATE:** 23 January 2012  
**VENUE:** 10N01 (10th Floor – Wits Medical School)  
**TIME:** 13h00 – 14h00  
**RSVP:** Diana Govender [Diana.Govender@wits.ac.za](mailto:Diana.Govender@wits.ac.za)  
**CPD accredited**
CONGRATULATIONS!

Professor Maureen Coetzee, Director, Malaria Entomology Research Unit, School of Pathology, Wits University, VCRU/NICD, was among the winners at the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards. The awards honour great scientific achievement and contribution through science for the socio-economic development of Africa.

The awards ceremony was held at the African Union Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 14 December 2011. Her award was for Regional Women Scientists in recognition of outstanding achievements in science and technology.

She is due to receive yet another award on the 27th February from the American Mosquito Control Association – the John N. Belkin Memorial Award for exceptional contribution to systematics and biology of African mosquitoes. The award will be presented at the Association’s 78th annual meeting in Austin, Texas.

Photograph: Professor Maureen Coetzee receiving award in Addis Ababa

OBITUARY: PROFESSOR EMERITUS JOHN (JACK) CAMERON ALLAN MBBCH, CHM, MD, FRCS

In a moving memorial service held on 16 January 2012, the Faculty took leave of Professor Emeritus Jack Allan who died on 7 January 2012 at the age of 93. He had been ill for some time.

Professor Emeritus Jack Allan devoted his life to the training of medical and allied health sciences students in the Faculty. The training he offered was in two disciplines: anatomy and surgery and surgical skills. He devoted seventy years to teaching and research in the Faculty, serving it with great distinction for thirty years beyond retirement. He came to work enthusiastically every day, almost up until his last day and was still active in research and supervision of postgraduate students at the time of his death. He was in the process of co-authoring a paper for presentation and also had two books in preparation, one on statistics and the other on neuroanatomy.

Professor Allan possessed all the characteristics of a great surgeon, dedicated anatomist and devoted teacher. As a surgeon he saw the importance of the discipline of anatomy for medical and allied medical health students. He thus always attempted to make evident to students how anatomy, together with physiology, is the fundamental foundation of medical science and critical to most postgraduate clinical specialties.

Besides his dedicated role in teaching and research, Professor Allan also played a role in the administration of the University. He was a Member of the Board of the then Faculty of Medicine for 28 years and a member of the Board of the Faculty of Science for 25 years.

In June 2009 he received the University’s Gold Medal. The final sentences read: “Professor Jack Allan has brought great distinction to the School of Anatomical Sciences and to the Faculty of Health Sciences at this University and has strengthened the discipline of Anatomy and the reputation of the School of Anatomical Sciences. He is universally well-liked by all those he has taught and whose careers he has inspired. The Faculty of Health Sciences counts him among a small group of its truly “great” teachers.

In recognition of his unique skills in teaching anatomy through the eyes of a surgeon, for his remarkable length of service which continues to the present, for his enormous contributions to the training of postgraduate
students, for his involvement at various levels in the Faculty and University and also for his professional contributions, the University awards its Gold Medal to Emeritus Professor John (Jack) Cameron Allan.’ Professor Allan’s huge dedication and allegiance to the School of Anatomical Sciences, the Faculty and the University will be remembered with gratitude and fondness. On behalf of the Faculty, we extend heartfelt condolences to his son John, daughter Kathy, their spouses, children and grandchildren.

OBITUARY: ADJUNCT PROFESSOR JANICE PAIKER

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Adjunct Professor Janice Paiker on 13 January 2012.

Janice was born in Pretoria on 13 November 1959. She was the third child of a family of 5 children, born to Sharon and Mike Paiker. After matriculating from Carmel School she obtained her MBChB degree in 1983 at the University of Pretoria. After Internship at the Helen Joseph Hospital, she continued to work there as a Casualty Officer and Polyclinic Doctor. During her time at the Helen Joseph Hospital she obtained a diploma in primary emergency care.

In July 1988 she joined the SAIMR and Wits as a Registrar in the Department of Chemical Pathology. She graduated as a Specialist Pathologist in 1993. During the period 1994 to 1999 she became the Head of the Chemical Pathology Laboratory at the Johannesburg Hospital. In November 1999, she completed a MMed degree in Chemical Pathology. In 2000/2001 she became Acting Head and she took this role again from 2003 until 2005, when she was promoted to Head of Department.

Janice had a special interest in lipids and cardiovascular disease and was carrying out a PhD under the supervision of Professor Derick Raal. Her work centred on the aetiology of atherosclerotic plaque formation in familial hypercholesterolaemic patients.

She leaves behind her husband, Professor David Rubin, her children Michael and Daniel, aged 10 and 6 respectively, her mother Sharon, sister Edana and her three brothers, Hillel, Alan and Mark.

Although we were aware that the last few months were extremely difficult for Janice and her family, we are devastated by her passing. She leaves a huge void in the lives of all the people that knew her.

Her legacy is defined by her deeds, words and actions. A highly knowledgeable and talented Professor, a vibrant, energetic and fair leader, inspiring and passionate, displaying a genuine concern for staff and colleagues, a people’s person, a caring and kind doctor, a family person who was humble and modest, a role model of justice, and charity. She graciously and generously made sacrifices for the sake of her ideals, and was never afraid to grow and learn. She was a fighter – she fought for her ideals and she fought against any threat to those ideals.

Her practical acts of kindness and generosity is exemplified by the interior decoration of her office, which is filled with merchandise made by crafters from disadvantaged communities. Her passion for the environment extended far and wide; an elegant lady in a demanding and challenging career, carrying bags of ‘rubbish’ to work for recycling! We will miss the sound of her footsteps as she travelled at 100km/hr down the corridor, the 4pm tea and ‘skinner’ sessions, and that wicked sense of humour!

She was proud of her heritage and went to great lengths to preserve this, which included restoring photographs of ancestors taken many generations before.

We admire Janice for who she was and the principles by which she lived her life. We will cherish her memory and be ever grateful that we came to know her. Life is short and all we can do is to touch the world in our own small way to show we have been here and made a difference, and Janice definitely accomplished this. She will be sorely missed by all of us.

On behalf of the Faculty, we extend heartfelt condolences to her family.

(Obituary submitted by Bernice Klugman and Nigel Crowther on behalf of NHLS)
OBITUARY: PROFESSOR EMERITUS SHIRLEY WILLIAMSON

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Professor Emeritus Shirley Williamson on 14 January 2012. She was the first Professor of Nursing at Wits.

Shirley Barbara Williamson was born in Pretoria on 5 November 1925, and from an early age knew that she would be a nurse. Shirley matriculated from St Mary’s DSG in Pretoria and thereafter commenced her nurses training at Grey’s Hospital in Pietermaritzburg. After completing her training as a nurse, she travelled overseas to Scotland where she obtained her midwifery qualification at Edinburgh Hospital. On Shirley’s return to South Africa she nursed at hospitals on the East Rand and continued her studies, becoming principal of the Germiston Nursing College. Wits began its BSc (Nursing) programme in 1969: a first in South Africa. Shirley joined Wits in 1970 and, in 1973, was appointed as the temporary head of the nursing sub-department and took up a seat on the University’s Senate Committee. A full and independent Department of Nursing at Wits was established in 1977, and Shirley became Wits’ first Professor of Nursing.

Shirley had many gifts, and was a strong administrator with the ability to delegate and motivate. She played a major role in the early structure and implementation of the BSc (Nursing) degree. She had a great strength of character and a need to serve, which she did with warmth and humour. She was a good listener and related well to people of all ages. She retired as Professor Emeritus from the Faculty in 1986.

Staff and alumni were delighted when Shirley joined them in celebrating Nursing’s 70th anniversary in Johannesburg in December 2007. During the 2010 International Year of the Nurse Shirley Williamson was recognised for her contribution to nursing and was awarded a Leadership Excellence award in Cape Town. Due to her frail state of health she could not receive this award in person.

Gradually increasing deafness resulted in her decision to take early retirement in 1986, settling in Helderberg Village in Somerset West, where she lived very happily for 21 years, while she continued her calling to serve others in any way she could. She died quietly on 14 January 2012 in her suite at Helderberg Village.

She instituted the Shirley Williamson bursary in 2001 which is awarded to a postgraduate student who is in financial need registered in the Faculty of Health Sciences and whose programme of study involves Nursing or Midwifery. Between 2002 and 2010, eight postgraduate students received financial assistance. Her name will also be perpetuated in the Faculty through the Shirley Williamson Prize for the best student nurse in Comprehensive Nursing III. This prize was established by the Faculty in 1998 in her honour and is awarded to the best overall student in the third year of study.

OBITUARY: DR ANVIR ADAM (1937-2011)

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Dr Anvir Adam, MBBCh, 1964; DTMH, 1986; DPH, 1988, who died peacefully on 25 November 2011, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Born 12 March 1937 in Pretoria, he matriculated from Pretoria Indian Intermediary School and received a BSc degree from the University of Cape Town in 1959 before enrolling for a medical degree at Wits. He also received Diplomas in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in 1986 and Public Health in 1988. He was admitted as a member of the College of Family Physicians within the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (CMSA) in 1973. In 1978, he was made an affiliate member of the Royal Society of Medicine, United Kingdom, and in 1990 was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (UK). The CMSA honoured him with life membership of the College of Family Physicians in 2003 and he was awarded the FCFP in 2006.

An activist during his student years, he protested for the rights of black students studying medicine at the time. The outcome of his protest was that conditions were improved for students working at the Coronation, Baragwanath and Bridgeman Maternity Hospitals. Years later he gave extensive evidence at the Internal Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which, together with the
evidence of others, resulted in a formal apology being tendered by medical academia and the erection of a statue at the entrance to Medical School, symbolising the struggle of oppressed healthcare workers, students and patients during the apartheid era. He was also the founder, together with Professors PV Tobias and TH Bothwell, and principal fund-raiser for the Wits Medical Faculty Research Endowment Fund which he started shortly after graduating from Medical School and which has grown from humble beginnings to a substantial fund for research. He also raised funds on an ad hoc basis for the Witwatersrand Medical Library Endowment Fund.

His interest in primary healthcare and epidemiology led him to serve in the Department of Health for two years, during which time he published several articles on these subjects as well as a translation of J M Last's Epidemiology Dictionary into Afrikaans with Dr Horst Kushner. He was also a founding member of the Pretoria Medical Discussion Group (PMDG), a well-recognised forum for CME, on which he served for over 45 years and in which he was actively involved at the time of his death.

He will be remembered as a philanthropist who contributed to many worthy causes over the years. His commitment to his patients and the disadvantaged communities he served stands out as his most remarkable characteristic. He received widespread recognition for his commitment to community service, continuing medical education and research, including being the recipient of the University's Gold Medal in 2004 for his contribution to CME, the National Award of the Baobab in 2007, the Stella Soliderieta Italiana in 2007 and a DPhil (Honoris Causa) from UNISA in 2010.

He ran a small family and community-centered practice in Silverton with his wife, Zaiby, until the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, son and six grandchildren. His constant refrain to his family shortly before succumbing to his illness was that he felt “so blessed” and “was ever so grateful” to God Almighty and the many people by whom he had been inspired.

On behalf of the Faculty we extend heartfelt condolences to the family.

(We are grateful for the content of this obituary received from Sureiya Adam, daughter-in-law of the late Dr Adam)

NEWS FROM ALUMNI: CLASS OF 1961 HAS CYBERSPACE REUNION

Dr Peter Arnold (MBBCh 1961) has convened a reunion of his class via cyberspace with the assistance of Wits Alumni Relations. Review the reunion here: [http://www.wits.ac.za/alumni/news/wherearetheynow/1961graduates](http://www.wits.ac.za/alumni/news/wherearetheynow/1961graduates)

Dr Arnold has been in contact with the Adler Museum of Medicine and Alumni Relations for a considerable amount of time now to assist him with his research into Wits graduates who migrated to Australia (about which he has recently published a book)* or who were in his 1961 graduating class.

There were 86 students who graduated in 1961, of which fewer than 70 are still alive. Dr Arnold has managed to contact approximately 45 graduates and most of them have contributed their stories. Some 20 of the class he has been unable to trace. In some cases he traced widows or children, who have or will be contributing stories. The website will be constantly updated as new material continues to come in. He is also hoping that more stories will come to light.

Well done to Dr Arnold for having undertaken this wonderful project and to Alumni Relations for solving all the technical problems and hosting this interesting project on the Wits website. CHECK IT OUT!

Photograph: Dr Peter Arnold

*A Unique Migration: South African Doctors Fleeing to Australia.*
Health Science Educators Course

All teachers in the health professions are invited to attend a CPD accredited course in basic health science education.

Dates: 14-16 February 2012
10-12 April 2012
26-28 June 2012
23-25 August 2012
9-11 October 2012
(08:00-16:30 daily)

Venue: CHSE Boardroom (3N08)

This three day course will cover basic aspects of teaching and learning:

- Theory of teaching and learning
- Communication
- Describing the job and a task analysis for the job
- Teaching and learning in the domains of knowledge, skills, attitude
- Developing a lesson plan
- Assessment – methods and practice, domain specific
- Evaluating your course

Bookings are open now!!!

Please contact Norman Motlhhabani for bookings:
011 717 2329 or gobotsamang.motlhhabani@wits.ac.za

and

Prof P McInerney for more information:
011 717 2073 or Patricia.McInerney@wits.ac.za
2-WEEK COURSE in IMMUNOLOGY

The School of Pathology, University of the Witwatersrand, is pleased to be offering a 2 week course in Basic and Advanced Immunology. The course aims to provide a detailed understanding of the principles of immunology as well as bring participants up to date on exciting developments in this fast-moving field.

The focus is NOT on clinical diagnostics or management issues but rather on providing participants with the skills to understand the immunology literature in their field. Speakers and topics will be multidisciplinary and will provide an overview of our current understanding of the various facets of the immune system.

The course will comprise a taught component as well as interactive small group sessions, practical work, small assignments and an examination. The course is ideal for clinicians and scientists (minimum Honours degree). No previous experience in immunology is necessary.

The course comprises 2 full-time weeks.

WEEK ONE – BASIC IMMUNOLOGY
26 March - 31 March 2012

WEEK TWO – ADVANCED IMMUNOLOGY
28 May - 1 June 2012

The course is accredited for a Wits Certificate of Competence as well as 30 CPD points.

Interested applicants should email Melinda.suchard@nhls.ac.za for details

NEW BLOG ON UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE COVERAGE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Dr Jane Doherty writes: ‘2012 is an important year for the South African health system as it will see the first steps in the implementation of the government’s National Health Insurance proposal. These first steps include pilot sites to develop the design of NHI and test its feasibility.

NHI has the potential to reform the health system in fundamental ways. It is also a complex reform that requires sustained effort, skill and ingenuity. Why does South Africa need NHI? What is the best solution for South Africa? What design features or processes would make NHI work well?

South Africans need to debate these and other questions in order to ensure the best health outcomes for our country. I would like to contribute to this debate by making available research evidence – from South Africa and elsewhere – that is in an easy-to-understand format and focused on clarifying the debate.

I am starting a new series of blog posts under the heading ‘NHI Snippets.’ I will write a new ‘Snippet’ every Sunday, beginning with the concept of ‘universal health care coverage.’ I hope that with time some of you will respond to these ‘snippets’ with information and ideas of your own.

My blog will NOT promote a specific policy or seek to answer all possible questions.

Please check out my blog and contribute on http://healthpolicysa.com/.

Jane Doherty, Independent Researcher and Part-time Lecturer, Wits School of Public Health
Land line: +27-11-4829116; Mobile: +27-83-2480242; E-mail: dohertyj@telkomsa.net
FACULTY RESEARCH PRIZE: REMINDER!!

The Faculty Research Prize recognises outstanding research in a given year and is presented annually at the Faculty's Prize Giving Ceremony (usually held in March). A certificate and a cash award of R10 000 (allocated to research) are awarded based on research excellence in publication.

The call for nominations for the 2011 Research Prize is open. The closing date for submissions is **30 January 2012**.

For further information on the eligibility criteria and the nomination process, download the [guidelines](#).

Enquiries: please contact Mr Moraba Meela in the Health Sciences Research Office on: 011 717 2023 or email [research.health@wits.ac.za](mailto:research.health@wits.ac.za).

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And finally …

Next issue of Health Sciences Review: 17 February 2012

Please submit news and photographs by 15 February to email: [adler.museum@wits.ac.za](mailto:adler.museum@wits.ac.za) or [rochelle.keene@wits.ac.za](mailto:rochelle.keene@wits.ac.za)