RECENT EVENTS

RESEARCH ON THE STATE OF NURSING SYMPOSIUM: TRANSFORMING NURSING PRACTICE, POLICY AND LEADERSHIP IN SOUTH AFRICA

Over 100 nursing stakeholders from across the country attended the final symposium of “Research on the State of Nursing (RESON)”, a four-year project within the Centre for Health Policy, held at the Wits School of Public Health on 25 June 2013.

Funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies to the tune of R9-million, the project aimed to develop and strengthen the evidence for improved nursing policy development and practice in South Africa. The project was a significant investment in nursing policy research and yielded over 30 presentations and posters at local and international conferences. Various papers are planned for publication in local and international journals. The most significant project achievements include: generation of new knowledge on nursing in South Africa; methodological innovation ranging from the use of reflective diaries to capture the experiences of practising nurses to a large scale cross-sectional survey on agency nursing and moonlighting; capacity building at both formal and informal levels; and providing an independent policy space to discuss and debate nursing, workforce and health system issues, thereby facilitating a broader transformation process in nursing.

The symposium emphasised the research evidence gleaned from research projects, and focused on the centrality of nurses to population health and health system performance and improvements.

The five broad themes were: Improving Nursing Practice and Quality of Care; Nursing Research and Policy Influence; Maximising the Health Policy Impact of Research; Building the Next Generation of Nursing Leadership; and Nursing Leadership and Management for Health.

Selected papers dealt with factors influencing job satisfaction of primary health care clinic managers in two SA provinces; the direct and indirect costs of agency nursing in the SA public health sector (2005-2010); using reflective diaries to explore issues facing SA nursing managers in hospitals; nurses’ participation and influence in key nursing policies, and perceptions of male nurses on professional growth and development.

The keynote address by Mr Chris Rakuom, the Chief Nursing Officer in the Ministry of Health in Kenya, reminded the delegates of the need for strong leadership, management training for nurses, and research. “As a policy maker, I like to see that research influences policy and I want to make decisions based on research. Research needs to help us in management. I have been amazed at what was presented at the symposium — there is a galaxy of knowledge in South African nursing.”

Photographs: The research team and advisory committee members with Head of School of Public Health, Professor Laetitia Rispel; Mr Chris Rakuom, Chief Nursing Officer of Kenya and key note speaker
WITS DEPARTMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION HOSTS AN INTRODUCTION TO ESMOE FOR MIDWIVES: 4 JULY 2013

Barbara Hanrahan, Midwifery Lecturer, Department of Nursing Education writes: “There is a buzz going around in maternity units and obstetric departments: it is all about ESMOE: Essential Steps in Managing Obstetric Emergencies. ESMOE is a national priority for the South African Department of Health and a ministerial order.

South Africa has been struggling with a rising maternal mortality rate starting in 1990. The 2015 MDGs aim at reducing maternal mortality by 75%. We will not be even close to that target. Over the past two decades HIV and AIDS have complicated the issue of maternal deaths in South Africa.

In 2012, the Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths for the period of 2008 – 2010, highlighted the leading causes of maternal morbidity and mortality. Non pregnancy related infections accounted for 40.5% of maternal deaths; obstetric haemorrhage accounted for 28% and hypertension in pregnancy leading on to pre eclampsia accounted for 14% of maternal deaths. The committee found that “maternal deaths due to obstetric haemorrhage and hypertension could possibly be and probably be preventable in 81% and 61% of cases respectively.”

ESMOE was designed to improve doctors’ and midwives’ practical skills in an obstetric emergency. Each maternity facility needs to either run the ESMOE training within their facility under the guidance of an ESMOE Master Trainer, or collaborate with other facilities sharing the use of the ESMOE mannequins and Master Trainer. The emphasis is placed deliberately on simulated skills drills.

The Wits Department of Nursing Education teamed up with the Johannesburg Metro District Team and gave the midwives from clinics and hospitals in the district a taste of how ESMOE works.

As more midwives and doctors take part in ESMOE training and become Master Trainers the reach and impact of ESMOE will lead to a reduction in maternal morbidity and mortality, by addressing health worker related problems. It’s an exciting venture and skills drills can actually be fun, together with refreshing essential live saving midwifery and obstetric skills.’

PAUL LEVY MEMORIAL LECTURE

On 4 July 2013 the School of Physiology hosted the Paul Levy Memorial Lecture, a Faculty eponymous lecture. Professor Patricia Price from the School of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Western Australia and also an Honorary Research Professor in the School of Physiology, presented a talk entitled “The footprint of cytomegalovirus (CMV) persists in HIV patients”. Professor Price is an authority on the immunological and genetic determinants of a good outcome when individuals with advanced HIV disease begin antiretroviral therapy (ART) and she presented some of the work from her research investigations into the poor recovery of T-cell function, Immune Restoration and neuropathy. She also presented findings which addressed the role of CMV as it is implicated in immunological ageing and cardiovascular disease. Almost all HIV patients are CMV seropositive and Professor Price asked the question as to whether CMV actually matters once a patient is on ART.

Photograph: Professors David Gray, Head, School of Physiology, Patricia Price, Peter Kamerman
ARBOR BROWNIE PACK VISITS THE ADLER MUSEUM

The Adler Museum of Medicine was delighted to be visited by the Arbor Brownie Pack from Benoni on Saturday 6 July 2013 for a fun day out. Parents and siblings of the Brownies joined the tour and fun activities arranged by the staff of the Museum.

Catherine Watts, a 4th year Wits Physiotherapy student made time to speak to the group about physiotherapy and being a student at Wits. A good day was had by the group of 40 visitors and the children went home having had a fun learning experience.

Photograph: Renee Watts, Brownie Pack leader, with the Brownies and their siblings

MBBCH AND GEMP: 10 YEAR REVIEW

On 11 July 2013 members of the Faculty of Health Sciences held a most productive and immensely useful Faculty retreat (meeting), chaired by Professor Damon Bizos, to look at the current state of teaching and learning in the MBBCh undergraduate programme (including the GEMP). After 10 years of GEMP and against the background of the pressure to produce more health professionals, and particularly doctors, The Dean, Professor Ahmed Wadee welcomed participants and attendees and set the scene for the deliberations.

Presentations were made which included the history of the current curriculum, admissions and pass rates, national and international guidelines and trends and three very interesting student perspectives by a GEMP 1 student and two Registrars. In the afternoon attendees broke into groups and discussed issues such as: What kind of doctor do we want to produce?, What would the ideal curriculum look like to achieve the above? and What do we need to do to realise the ideal curriculum?

The committee driving the agenda and structuring the day’s deliberations consisted of the Dean, and Professors Damon Bizos, Thakor Parbhoo, Det Prozesky and Dr Penny Keene. They will take the recommendations from the group discussions, analyse the data and compile a report which will recommend what changes may be necessary with a view to possibly implementing these changes from the 2014 teaching year.

Photograph: Professors Det Prozesky, Di Manning, Ahmed Wadee, Thakor Parbhoo, Damon Bizos

SBIMB SECURES INTERNATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR WITSIES

Caryn McNamara writes: ‘The Sydney Brenner Institute for Molecular Bioscience (SBIMB) is a cross-faculty Institute at Wits that has been successful in securing an international research training exchange programme between the Centre for Genome Regulation (Centre de Regulació Genòmica, CRG) in Barcelona, Spain, and Wits. This will afford three Wits postgraduate students or postdoctoral fellows from any Wits Faculty working on a molecular bioscience project the opportunity to spend six months abroad in Spain at the CRG facility. The programme is funded by Novartis.

Three students, all from the Faculty of Health Sciences, have been selected to attend this exchange programme:
Ms Jackie Frost, Human Genetics (Wits Supervisors: Professors Mohammed Tikly and Michele Ramsay; CRG Host: Dr Xavier Estivill)

Ms Kiashnee Moodley, Internal Medicine (Wits Supervisor: Dr Raquel Duarte; CRG Host: Dr Juan Varcarcel)

Ms Nikki Gentle, Centre for HIV and STIs at NICD (Wits Supervisor: Dr Caroline Tiemessen; CRG Host: Dr Roderic Guigo)

SBIMB congratulates the recipients on their success in being chosen for this exchange.

The students will travel to Barcelona in September/October 2013, for 6 months, hosted at the CRG facility learning new lab skills under the guidance of exceptional host scientists. The students will then bring back significant new knowledge to disseminate back to Wits.

We hope that this will be the first of many such exchanges to take place between Wits and the CRG, and are extremely grateful to Novartis for the funding to make this capacity development effort possible.'

CONGRATULATIONS!

NEWS FROM ALUMNA: THE MAURICE GOLDBLATT CYTOLOGY AWARD 2012

We were delighted to hear that one of our graduates, Professor Gladwyn Leiman, MD, FIAC (USA) was the recipient of the prestigious Goldblatt Award for 2012 from the International Academy of Cytology and presented at their 18th Congress in Paris in May 2013. She was a member of the Class of 1967 and is presently Director of Cytopathology, Fletcher Allen Health Care and Professor of Pathology, University of Vermont.

Her citation reads: 'For her lifelong love and dedication to clinical cytology; for her very special relationship to underserved areas of the world and her willingness to bring knowledge and expertise to people deserving improved medical care; for her academic rigor and achievements in publishing and teaching; to her loyal support of Acta Cytologica and the International Academy of Cytology for many years.'

The Award was inaugurated in 1960 by the late Maurice Goldblatt, founder and Honorary Chairman of the Cancer Research Foundation in Chicago and is funded in perpetuity by the interest of a $ 50 000 donation. The jury of the Awards consists of the Chair of the Awards Committee and the previous awardees. The Awards have been given annually since 1961. There have been 53 cytologists from 21 countries who have received the Award. Recipients receive a gold medal and an honorarium. CONGRATULATIONS!

NEWS FROM OUR STUDENTS

SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS SURGICAL SOCIETY SYMPOSIUM

Megan Dempster, Head of Communications, Wits Students Surgical Society writes: ‘The inaugural South African Students Surgical Society Symposium took place on 5 and 6 July 2013 at Wits Medical School. The symposium was aptly titled: “What they didn’t tell me before I became a surgical intern”, and provided an overview of
important aspects encompassed in being a surgical intern. It attracted students from medical schools across the country, as well as from neighbouring countries of Botswana and Namibia. The two day programme included presentations by interns, surgical registrars and consultants which covered a range of topics, from the initial process of choosing a hospital for internship, the running of a surgical ward, the role of an intern within the ward, to the diagnosis and management of important surgical emergencies.

The opening plenary by Professor Martin Veller, provided an overview of the future of surgery in South Africa, and the increasing demand for surgeons in South Africa, while the closing plenary, by Professor Zac Kota, highlighted the importance of laparoscopic surgical training, and the use of laparoscopic surgery in the setting of abdominal trauma. Concurrently with the symposium, two surgical skills workshops were run, and were a highlight for all who attended. The symposium also showcased the growing interest in student research, with presentations by students from UCT, UKZN and Wits. The competition was won by Xolani Ntombela, from UKZN, with his presentation “A clinicopathological spectrum of anal cancer in KwaZulu-Natal province”. With students from various medical schools present, this provided a unique opportunity for discussion about future growth of surgical societies both in South Africa and the rest of Africa, and the possible development of a Southern Africa Students Surgical Society, which will enable continued collaboration among surgical societies both locally and abroad.

The future of surgical societies is bright, as evidenced by the first ever South African Students Surgical Society Symposium, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, and showcased the strides already made by the Wits Students Surgical Society. Sponsors included ABI, Nedbank, Covidien, Elsevier East Med and Africa, Craft Liquor Merchants, Wine Of The Month Club, Wits University Department of Health and Adcock Ingram; with catering by Olives and Plates.'

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**BODY WORLDS EXCURSION, SCI-BONO CENTRE, NEWTOWN**

Patrick Chappel, President of the MSC writes: 'The MSC organised for 50 medical students to go to the Body Worlds exhibition held at Sci-bono on 15 June 2013 where they got the opportunity to see perfectly dissected human specimens. This excursion gave the students the privilege of seeing the human body in its most faultless presentation ever. The exhibition was appreciated by students from across all the years. The first years in particular were extremely fascinated as this was their first encounter with dissected human bodies. Students in the later years mentioned that they appreciated the opportunity to view the well dissected bodies whilst still in school. All in all everyone agreed that the best part was taking the time to truly appreciate the artistry and majesty of human anatomy and brilliance of how the body is perfectly suited for function.'

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**SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNAL OF BIOETHICS AND LAW**

The latest issue of the South African Journal of Bioethics and Law (Vol. 6 No. 1) is available online (open access) at [www.sajbl.org.za](http://www.sajbl.org.za).

For further information please contact: Professor Ames Dhai, Editor, South African Journal of Bioethics and Law: [ames.dhai@wits.ac.za](mailto:ames.dhai@wits.ac.za)

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INVITATIONS!

Albertina Sisulu Memorial Lecture 2013

“From BC-2013 AD, From AA-DD: Women, Breast and Cancer”

Presented
By
Dr Carol Benn

As one of the leading breast cancer experts and founder of the Breast Health Foundation in South Africa, Dr Carol Benn is committed to helping and empowering many women during their life-changing struggle with breast cancer. Inspired by her patients and driven by her own optimism, Carol Benn ensures the best possible health care for her patients based on evidence and empathy.

DATE: Monday, 5 August 2013    TIME: 16:30 for 17:00
VENUE: Marie Curie Lecture Theatre
Faculty of Health Sciences,
University of the Witwatersrand,
7 York Road, Parktown, Johannesburg
RSPV: Mrs Irene Janse van Noordwyk
011 717 2063
irene.jansevannoordwyk@wits.ac.za

Pre-lecture drinks will be served and refreshments afterwards.
Invitation to a Book Launch

“Empty Hands”
The life of Sister Abegail Ntleko

Hosted by Professor Ahmed Wadee,
Dean of Wits Faculty of Health Sciences

Date: 2 August 2013

Venue: Adler Museum of Medicine, 4th floor,
Wits Medical School

Time: 17h00 for 17h30

RSVP (acceptances for catering purposes):
moys.keane@wits.ac.za

Sister Abigail will be present to tell her story as a nurse in rural South Africa over the past five decades. Thanissara, a supporter of Kulungile, the outreach project for HIV and AIDS and vulnerable children, founded by Sr Abigail, will give an overview of the context of this work.

Copies of the book will be sold at R100 per copy. Sales will support Kulungile.

Sr Abigail received the Unsung Hero of Compassion award from the Dalai Lama in 2009.

Kulungile Project: http://www.dharmagiri.org/engagement.html

ORAL HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH DAY 2013

Dr Julitha Molepo, Chair: School of Oral Health Sciences Research Day Committee writes: ‘The School of Oral Health Sciences will be presenting a School Research Day to be held on 22 August 2013 at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital Auditorium. The School has not had a Research Day in a long time, and this will be a platform to showcase its research activities.

The research papers to be presented will represent various fields of study in the School such as Oral Medicine and Periodontology, Community Dentistry, Oral Pathology, General Dental Practice, Orthodontics, Prosthodontics, Microbiology, Endodontics and Maxillo-Facial & Oral Surgery. These will largely be in the form of clinical research, laboratory-based research and case reports.

The event will allow for networking and interaction of dentists, specialists, oral hygienists, scientists, postgraduate and undergraduate students. There will be exhibitors who will be displaying latest technological advances from dental and other suppliers. The event will also provide attendees and exhibitors with the opportunity to interact with each other.

The School of Oral Health Sciences Research Day will be an exciting event that will seize the attention of dental researchers and commercial stakeholders. We trust that you will be as excited as we are about this memorable event and we look forward to sharing this day with you.’

This event will be CPD accredited (6 clinical, 2 ethics), and you are invited to register for participation in the event.

Deadline for registration to participate in the Research day is 28 July 2013.

For registration, please follow this link:
http://www.wits.ac.za/academic/health/oralhealthsciences/19771/research_day_2013.html

For further information please contact: Matsie.sibeko@wits.ac.za and Julitha.molepo@wits.ac.za.
Workshops / Seminars offered in July/August 2013

24 July 2013: PBL Facilitator Workshop
8:30-14:00    CHSE Boardroom (3N08)

26 July 2013: Journal Club
12:00-13:00    CHSE Boardroom (3N08)

13 August 2013: Development of a teaching portfolio
14:00-16:00    CHSE Boardroom (3N08)

14 August 2013: Information for the newly appointed academics
14:00-16:00    CHSE Boardroom (3N08)

20-22 August 2013 (three full days): Health Science Educators Course
08:15-16:00 (daily)    CHSE Boardroom

Please contact Norman Motlhhabani for bookings:
011 717 2329 or gobotsamang.motlhhabani@wits.ac.za
And
Professor Patricia McInerney for more information:
011 717 2073 or Patricia.McInerney@wits.ac.za

The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics
Invites you to the 2013 Steve Biko Bioethics Lecture

Health, Ethics and Human Development in an Unequal World

Professor Adam Habib, Vice-Chancellor, Wits University
BSc (USC) (UNED); MA (Psychology) (Wits); MA (Philosophy) (UNED); MA (Philosophy) (UNED); PhD (Philosophy) (UNED).

Professor Adam Habib is an academic, activist, and a university administrator. He has written extensively on democratization and development, contemporary social struggles, university transformation, and South Africa’s role in Africa and beyond. He has also recently concluded a study on the state of academic freedom in South Africa, and sat on the task group on academic freedom and institutional autonomy established by the Council for Higher Education. Professor Habib has also chaired the institutional audit of the University of Venda. His forthcoming book entitled South Africa’s Suspended Revolution: Hope and Prospects will be published by Wits University Press and Ohio University Press in August 2013.

Dates: Thursday, 12 September 2013
Time: 12h00 – 14h00
Venue: Adler Museum of Medicine, 4th Floor Faculty of Health Sciences University of the Witswatersrand
7 York Road, Parktown

RSVP: Ruirum.Gwenedier@wits.ac.za

CPD ACCREDITED FOR ETHICS
MSC PV TOBIAS COMEDY EVENING: Friday 30 AUGUST 2013

Date: 30 August 2013
Time: 17:30 for 18:00 to 21:00
Venue: Foyer, Adler Museum of Medicine, 4th floor, Medical School
Cost: R30

Drinks and snacks will be served at the interval by the med ball committee.

The comedy evening will be hosted by Suhayl Jooma whose passion is comedy! She wants to share a bit of this with her fellow colleagues at Medical School. She writes: ‘We all know how much they need to laugh! The profits raised from the show will go towards the PV Tobias Bursary Fund. We want this event to be sustainable as a platform for young, upcoming comedians. We have a headline act: the handsome Simmi Areff, who has thrilled many a crowd with his witty humor and clever crowd interaction. So come out and support this event so we can keep you laughing for years to come’

Simmi has opened for Riaad Moosa on his national tour of Doctor’s Orders; he has appeared on Comedy Central live at Parker’s; on the line up of the Kings and Queens of Comedy show this year and recently hosting Inner City Comedy at the Jo’burg Theatre. He apparently spent a year undercover as a Wits Journalism student and was described as “flippant” by lecturers and “handsome” by classmates.

Suhayl herself is no mean comedienne. She performs regularly on a Tuesday night at Kitchener’s which is hosted by Simmi and has opened for Riaad Moosa in one of his shows in Lenasia. She has also performed at the Box (Pop Art Theatre). Other acts were being confirmed at the time of writing ….

Professor Tobias (1925-2012) will be remembered as an outstanding teacher, renowned scientist and dedicated Witsie. He was one of the best academics and philanthropists ever produced by Wits. The generations of students he taught fondly remember his inspiring and encouraging role. To continue his legacy, the Faculty of Health Sciences Medical Student’s Council established a bursary fund to provide financial support to needy students in all Health Sciences degrees. The bursary is based on criteria set by the late Professor Tobias, Faculty and the Student Body at the time. These include: Academic merit; Financial need; Contribution to Faculty/Community/Student Body and Satisfactory conduct.

FACULTY BRANDED ITEMS FOR SALE

Visit the Adler Museum of Medicine, 4th floor, Medical School, to purchase Faculty branded items. Latest winter stock of jackets, hoodies, scarves, beanies and long sleeve t-shirts has arrived!

Other branded items include a selection of pens, cooler bags, conference and sports bags, pop-up and golf umbrellas, executive folders, window stickers, lanyards and mugs. Items are of excellent quality and will also serve as special gifts for VIPs, speakers, overseas visitors, family and friends.

If there are specific items other than the ones offered which you would like us to stock, please let us know.

Come and browse and buy! Stocks are limited so first come first served!

Enquiries: 011 717 2067 or email: adler.museum@wits.ac.za
And finally …

How well do you know the history of this Faculty? Study these photographs below. How many of these people can you identify? A Faculty branded pen will be the prize given to the person who identifies the most number of people! Networking allowed! Judges decision will be final! Email your answer to: adler.museum@wits.ac.za

Health Sciences Review is published mid-month every month.

The next issue will appear on 16 August 2013

Deadline for submission of information and pictures: 14 August 2013

Please send information to:

adler.museum@wits.ac.za or

rochelle.keene@wits.ac.za