WELCOME TO THE NEW DEAN OF THE WITS FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES:
PROFESSOR AHMED WADEE

Members of the Faculty took time out to welcome the new Dean, Professor Ahmed Wadee on 1 June 2011. We were delighted to spend time with Professor Wadee and to share some of his thoughts.

Johannesburg born and bred, Professor Wadee spent his undergraduate years at the University of Toronto (Canada), completing BSc and Honours degrees before returning to South Africa after the death of his father. He met Dr Ralph Bernstein who offered him a post in the metabolic unit of the South African Institute for Medical Research (SAIMR). There he also met Arthur Rabson and Reuben Sher who were his early role models and mentors. He completed an MMed (in Immunology) and a PhD at Wits and subsequently spent two years at Harvard Medical School completing a post-doctoral fellowship in Immunology. Professor Wadee’s dedication to his work saw him rising within the ranks at the SAIMR and the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS).

He has been Professor of Immunology since 1991 and Head of the School of Pathology since 2001. Together with these posts which he held concurrently, he has also served the Faculty as Assistant Dean Student Affairs for the past 19 years.

Professor Wadee speaks with great passion about his plans for the next five years. Apart from aligning the Faculty to the broader Wits Strategic Plan, his priorities are to create a student-centred Faculty which is service delivery orientated. He also aims to attract the highest calibre of students and staff to strengthen the existing strong research culture in the Faculty. To this end his vision is to provide innovative, student-centred curricula, and to graduate competent, caring and compassionate health care professionals to bolster our health system. He also underlines his conviction that enrolments should match the demographics of this country, and wants to maximise graduation numbers by providing enhanced academic support for students.

He recognises the need to provide an attractive and conducive working environment in which staff can thrive and achieve their goals. To this end, he aims to provide proactive, seamless service and support at all levels and to all disciplines, making the Faculty the best place in which to work! He is proud of Wits and the Faculty and hopes that staff will be enthused to share his vision.

He would like to work closely with partners such as the Department of Health, the National Health Laboratory Service, and also with academic partners, including as the Medical Research Council, National Research Foundation and the Higher Education sector. To achieve his goals, he will tap into the enormous experience of Professors Alan Rothberg and Joe Veriava in areas where we need to expand and to strengthen our international collaborations. In addition, he will be counting on strong support in all areas such as Clinical Medicine, Therapeutic Sciences, Basic Sciences, Public Health and Oral Health Sciences and sees the Faculty Deanery as a vital organ during his tenure. He also has particular regard for the Faculty’s Research Office, headed by Professor Beverley Kramer, and its recent expansion of research activities in the Faculty, and says: ‘We are on an exciting ride upwards!’

We wish the new Dean well during his term of office.
INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY: 12 MAY 2011

The nursing fraternity celebrated the International Nurses Day which commemorates the birth of Florence Nightingale who made a significant contribution towards the nursing profession. To celebrate the day, past and present nurses were called upon to make a difference by spending 100 minutes at the patient’s bedside in a health care setting.

Various new definitions of nursing have arisen since Ms Nightingale wrote her notes. In 1964 Virginia Henderson described the role of the nurse as that of an independent practitioner and an authority on basic care. Nursing has since developed and grown even more, and task shifting has expanded the scope of practice. Further training has enabled nurses to practise on a higher level whereby the nurse will prescribe medication in a Primary Health Care setting, diagnose patients and refer patients to relevant doctors or specialists.

Professor Lize Maree, Head of the Department of Nursing Education at Wits, was the guest speaker at an Oath Taking Ceremony where she addressed nursing and medical staff. Promoting the perceptions of nursing staff, she urged nurses not to accept unprofessional behaviour and low standards of patient care. She urged them to look at their own hearts and practices, to take responsibility, to have the courage to change what needs to be changed in order to restore the image of the nursing profession.

THE JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE + TSUNAMI 2011: A NEW CHAPTER IN RESCUE METHODOLOGY

Professor Efraim Kramer, Head: Division of Emergency Medicine, Wits Faculty of Health Sciences, and Medical Director: Rescue South Africa, Disaster Response Team, gave a riveting and harrowing lecture on 20 May 2011 on his experience of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami which occurred on 11 March 2011. The 50-member strong RSA team left South Africa on a chartered flight for the city of Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, on 16 March 2011. The RSA team’s priority on arrival was to identify evacuation points to ensure their own safety once they began the grim task of searching and recovering the deceased. The medical
team’s priority was to look after the crew’s psychological and physical well-being. Half of the RSA team were new recruits who had never left South Africa before, providing a unique learning experience in line with the vision of Kramer’s emergency medicine department to go out, assist, learn, and then come back and teach.

The RSA team was one of 21 selected by the Japanese for its excellent reputation and was praised by the Japanese Prime Minister for ‘their courageous and effective work under severe conditions’ which represented the clear testimony of friendship and solidarity that the government and the people of South Africa showed.


The fifth of the Faculty Research Office’s Prestigious Research Lectures was presented by Charles Feldman, Professor of Pulmonology and Chief Physician, Head, Pulmonology Division, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital and Wits University and Shabir Madhi, Professor of Vaccinology, Wits University, DST/NRF South African Research Initiative Chair: Vaccine Preventable Diseases, with academic commentary by Professor Robin Green, University of Pretoria. Professors Feldman and Madhi are two of the Faculty’s A-rated researchers.

Professor Madhi talked about prevention of pneumococcal infection, concentrating particularly on the conjugate vaccine, and Professor Feldman talked about treatment of pneumococcal infections, concentrating on optimising antibiotic management. Professor Green praised the quality of the research and also indicated the value of clinical research that may lead to better patient health and outcome.

Photographs: Professor Francois Venter, Dr Caroline Tiemessen, Professors Madhi, Feldman and Beverley Kramer; Dr Chris Hammond, Professors Helen Laburn and Alan Rothberg

LECTURE: IMAGES OF PREGNANCY IN WESTERN ART: AN ODYSSEY OVER 35 000 YEARS

Photographs: Professor Ahmed Wadee, Dr Nicky Welsh and Dr Spitz: Mr Walter Oltmann, Senior Lecturer, Wits School of the Arts (WSOA), Dr Spitz and Mr Stanley Sher, Head of Art in Education in the Wits School of Education (WSoE).

A small but enthusiastic crowd thoroughly enjoyed the fascinating lecture given by Wits Alumnus, Dr Irving Spitz, at the Adler Museum of Medicine on 26 May 2011. Copiously illustrated with dozens of slides, he presented a kaleidoscope images of pregnancy in art over the last 35 000 years and made most interesting associations between artworks that were both familiar and unfamiliar to the audience.
Staff in the Deanery gathered to welcome the new Dean, Professor Ahmed Wadee, who assumed office on 1 June 2011. The outgoing Acting Dean, Professor Alan Rothberg, was thanked for his role in steering the ship for the past five months. In return Professor Rothberg thanked and paid tribute to the Faculty, specifically commenting on the glowing reference to Wits made in Parliament the previous day by the Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, during his Health Budget Vote presentation. The Minister referred to the additional intake of medical students at Wits in response to his appeal to work towards production of more doctors for the country. Professor Rothberg said this had been made possible by the excellent co-operation, creative thinking and team work within the Faculty.

Photograph: The new Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Ahmed Wadee, with Professors Beverley Kramer, Joe Daly, Sharon Fonn and Alan Rothberg.

THE PASSING OF ALBERTINA SISULU (1918 – 2011)

Together with the nation we were deeply saddened at the death of Mrs Albertina Sisulu on 2 June 2011. As a nurse trained at the Johannesburg General Hospital, she started her nursing career at the ‘Non-European’ section of the Johannesburg General Hospital and qualified as a general nurse in 1944 and 10 years later, as a midwife.

She was employed as a district midwife by the Johannesburg City Health Department and for the next 25 years served her patients with diligence and with dignity.

In 1980 she was appointed as a senior nurse running a small hospital in Orlando East. There she met another great humanitarian and activist Dr Abu-Baker Asvat. She retired three years later but continued working with Dr Asvat in his own practice to provide much needed health care during the height of apartheid.

She committed herself to the plight of the elderly and to young children. Her more recent patronage of The Albertina Sisulu Foundation and the Walter Sisulu Paediatric Cardiac Centre for Africa, has enabled her to live her legacy of care.

In February 2011 the Department of Nursing Education, School of Therapeutic Sciences, hosted the first Albertina Sisulu Lecture, which was delivered by Professor Shula Marks. This prestigious lecture series was instituted in honour of Mrs Sisulu: iconic nurse, humanitarian, role model and human rights activist who, for over 50 years, served South Africa with grace and dignity.

Professor Judy Bruce writes: ‘I feel particularly privileged and grateful that we had the opportunity to honour Ma Sisulu in her “life time”, through the prestigious lecture series ... and more especially that Adele Tjale and I could share a cup of tea with her on the eve of the inaugural lecture. The nursing profession has lost an inspirational role model and a beacon of hope.’

Professor Shula Marks attended a memorial for Mrs Sisulu held in St Martin-in-the-Fields in London on 15 June 2011. She writes: ‘The ceremony was extremely moving, especially when Ms Themi Nobadula recalled her personal experience of being nursed by Albertina Sisulu in the 1950s; it brought back the wonderful turnout for the inaugural lecture, when so many black nurses came to honour Ma Sisulu’s life. We are really seeing the passing of the age of giants.’

Photograph: Dr Adele Tjale and Professor Judy Bruce with Mrs Sisulu, February 2011
FAREWELL TO TANIA VAN LEEVE

Many tears were shed as the Faculty bid farewell to Tania van Leeve at a function held on 10 June 2011.

Tania has been in the Faculty since 2002 and in 2007 took over the role of Deputy Faculty Registrar and Head of the Postgraduate Administration Office. As Sandra Benn, the Faculty Registrar said, Tania leaves a big hole and she will be greatly missed by all, including the many friends Tania has made in the Faculty.

Professor Alan Rothberg also paid tribute to her on behalf of the Deanery.

Photograph: Sandra Benn and Tania van Leeve (Dal Mas)

CONGRATULATIONS!

PROFESSOR DUNCAN MITCHELL WINS HARRY OPPENHEIMER FELLOWSHIP AWARD!

Photographs: (Left): Professor Mitchell’s 70th birthday: Mr Andrew Swanepoel (Public Health), Professor Mitchell, Mrs Tanya Swanepoel (Physiology); (Right): Receiving the award: Dr Leith Meyer, Professor Mitchell, Associate Professor Andrea Fuller, Dr Robyn Hetem (Photograph: Elaine Banister)

Shortly after a celebration for his 70th birthday (we also can’t believe he is 70 but here’s the cake to prove it!), we were delighted to hear that Professor Duncan Mitchell is the recipient of the 2010 Harry Oppenheimer Fellowship Award. The award recognises leading scholars with a sustained record of outstanding research and intellectual achievement at the highest level, and is considered the top award for research on the African continent.

The announcement of the award reads as follows (edited): 'The Board of the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust is pleased to announce the recipient of the prestigious Harry Oppenheimer Fellowship Award for 2010: Duncan Mitchell of the University of the Witwatersrand. Mitchell becomes the 11th recipient of the Award since its inception and the third from Wits.

The Awards were initiated by the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust in 2001 to commemorate the Trust’s founder and all he stood for, especially his efforts to support human and intellectual development, to advance scholarship and encourage ideas. The Trust has a long tradition of investing in education and many beneficiaries have gone on to make important contributions to South African public life. The Fellowship builds on and expands this tradition and is the Trust’s premier award with a monetary value of up to R1 million. Candidates from all disciplines compete annually for the Award and it is granted to scholars of the highest calibre who are engaged in cutting-edge, internationally significant work that has particular application to the advancement of knowledge, teaching, research and development in South Africa.

Germiston-born Duncan Mitchell is a NRF A1-rated scientist and holds the position of Emeritus Professor of Physiology at Wits. He is a founder member of the Academy of Science of South Africa, a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa, a Honorary Fellow of the Physiology Society of Southern Africa and a member of many international scientific bodies. Duncan was voted one of the four Outstanding Young South Africans of 1980 and has lectured in twenty six countries in the course of his career.
The Award will enable Professor Mitchell and his team to acquire research equipment that will take their work on responses of large mammals to global warming and to southern hemisphere drying, to a new level. Well-informed and well-balanced scientists have predicted that many of the animal species that attract tourists to South Africa no longer will be able to survive in our game parks and nature reserves by the middle of this century; many animal species have become extinct during previous global warming events of similar size. Mitchell and his team are exploring, in southern Africa and in Australia, whether some animal species have hidden physiological talents that, for them, may avert that catastrophe. Mitchell’s team has championed the approach of measuring the physiology of free-living animals in their natural habitats, using instruments that the animals themselves carry. They are the world leaders in these research techniques and while they cannot yet say which mammals could survive global warming, what they have discovered already about the physiology of free-living animals will require textbooks to be re-written.

WINNERS OF VICE-CHANCELLOR’S ACADEMIC CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The Academic Citizenship Team Award has been won by Professor Sharon Fonn, Head of the School of Public Health, and Kathy Kahn, senior scientist in the MRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt), and associate professor in the School of Public Health. Kahn was a member of the Agincourt team which won this award in 2010.

Fonn and Kahn, recognising that individual African universities and countries lack the requisite human, financial and infrastructural capacity to single-handedly develop globally-competitive doctoral programmes, worked together with colleagues in Africa to set up the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA). This is a southern-led, but north-south collaboration to rebuild and strengthen the capacity of African universities to produce locally well-trained and skilled researchers.

The initiative was born of the concern that university education in most sub-Saharan countries faces a multitude of challenges: unprecedented growth in student enrolment occurring at a time when per capita funding for universities is being reduced; overburdened, underpaid and disillusioned faculty staff who take on consultancies to maintain a basic living standard; the increasing exodus of academics and researchers in Africa, which is reflected in the continent’s decreasing share of global scientific output which in turn contributes to the widening gap in science and technology between Africa and the other continents. Whilst these problems affect university programmes in Africa at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, they have a disproportionate impact on graduate studies, and particularly at doctoral level. At no other time has the role of African universities in training the next generation of African academics, researchers, planners and policy makers at masters and doctoral levels been more critical. Underscoring the enormity of these problems the African Technical Department Report (2002) observed that ‘if nothing urgent is done now, African universities will be empty of brains in the next few decades’.

For further information please also see: The story in the CARTA website

WELCOME!

On 1 April 2011, Professor Sindiswe L Shangase became the new Head of the Department of Oral Medicine and Periodontology, School of Oral Health Sciences, Wits Faculty of Health Sciences.

Professor Shangase graduated with a BChD from MEDUNSA in 1994 and received a Chancellor’s Award for best graduand overall in a degree lasting four years. She spent four years in private practice as a General Dental Practitioner. She registered for her MDent (Oral Medicine and Periodontology) at MEDUNSA in September 1998 which she duly obtained when she graduated as the first black periodontist in South Africa in December 2003.

In 2004, she worked in private practice in Pretoria in addition to consulting as a periodontist on a sessional basis at MEDUSA. In 2005 she was appointed on a permanent basis as a specialist, where she worked until June 2006. Her climb up
the academic ladder led her to the University of Pretoria where she was appointed Senior Specialist in July 2006. She was involved in teaching and in clinical training of both under- and postgraduate students and research.

Professor Shangase has served on a number of professional bodies in the field of dentistry. Recently she completed a four year term as Honorary Treasurer, SA Society for Periodontology. We wish her well in her new position as the Head of Oral Medicine and Periodontology at the School of Oral Health Sciences.

WELCOME!

On 1 April 2011, Professor Lize Maree was appointed as Head of Nursing Education in the School of Therapeutic Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences. Professor Maree graduated in 1976 with (Hons) B Sco Sc (Nursing) from the University of the Orange Free State. In 1988 she was awarded a PhD from the University of Pretoria. From 1993 to 2000 she managed a Skilled Nursing Facility where she was self employed. She began her academic journey by lecturing at the Technikon of Pretoria. Her climb up the academic ladder has stood her in good stead, and Professor Maree has worked and served at various institutions as Head of Department: HOD of Nursing, Technikon Pretoria; HOD Nursing Science, Pretoria Campus and HOD Adelaide Tambo School of Nursing, Tshwane University.

Professor Maree has had several publications published in peer-reviewed journals and has delivered papers at national and international conferences. Her area of expertise is oncology nursing. She has successfully secured funding from international donors for cancer research and will strive to continue her research at Wits. Professor Maree serves on professional bodies nationally and internationally in the field of oncology nursing. Her vision for the Department of Nursing Education is to seek collaborations for further research related to oncology and to advance professional excellence. She greatly looks forward to being a ‘Witsie’. We wish her well in her post as the Head of Department of Nursing Education in the School of Therapeutic Sciences.

INVITATIONS

MOLECULAR BIOSCIENCES RESEARCH THRUST
‘Health for Africa’
Joint initiative of the Faculties of Science & Health Sciences

Dr Abdelkrim Rachedi

Wednesday, 22 June 2011
Venue: Van Blerk Lecture Theatre, Surgery Department, 9th Floor, Medical School
Time: 12h30-14h00

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<td>12h30-12h35</td>
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<td>Abdelkrim Rachedi</td>
<td>Structural Targets in South Africa and Prospects to Network the Scientists</td>
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<td>13h15-13h30</td>
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Abdelkrim Rachedi, Algerian, completed a PhD in structural biology at Leeds University, UK. Prior to joining Wits University, he was based at the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI) with the Structural Bioinformatics group (PDBe). He joined the Wits School of Molecular and Cell Biology and the Wits-Bioinformatics Unit in 2009. He lectures Bioinformatics and has created a number of bioinformatics tools and resources.

RSVP to Sandra Pretorius, (011) 489 9238, Sandra.Pretorius@wits.ac.za
INAUGURAL LECTURE: PROFESSOR PATRICK ARBUTHNOT

You are invited to the Inaugural Lecture of Professor Patrick Arbuthnot, Head of the Antiviral Gene Therapy Research Unit in the School of Pathology, entitled: *The potential of gene therapy.* Genes are central to all biological processes and controlled alteration of gene function, which is gene therapy, has enormous potential for developing new methods of treating diseases. Approaches to therapy typically involve repairing of damaged genes or silencing of ‘rogue’ genetic elements to restore the health of cells. The technology has exciting possibilities and gene therapy is rapidly becoming part of mainstream research of modern molecular biology and medicine. It is expected that new solutions to overcoming serious diseases of South African importance will emerge from harnessing gene therapy techniques.

**Date:** 28 June 2011  
**Time:** 17:30 for 18:00  
**Venue:** Marie Curie Lecture Theatre, Wits Medical School, Parktown  
**Enquiries:** Rechelle Tsunke on (011) 717-1193 or rechelle.tsunke@wits.ac.za

Faculty of Health Sciences, Wits  
**Workshop: Social Accountability: From molecular research to rural education**  
What it means for Wits

**Date:** 4 July 2011  
**Time:** 0900 – 1530  
**Venue:** Len Miller Lecture Theatre, 9th floor, Medical School

The workshop will be facilitated by Dr Charles Boelen.

Dr Boelen worked at the World Health Organization from 1972 – 2001. During this period he developed numerous national, regional and global projects that brought health professions educators together with stakeholders in the health services. The goal of these projects was to ensure quality, equity, relevance and cost-effectiveness in health care.

To register for this workshop, please email Gobotsamang.Mothabani@wits.ac.za before 28 June 2010

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**Health Science Educators Course**

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

**Dates:** 21-23 June 2011 (08:00-16:30 daily)  
23-25 August 2011  
4-6 October 2011

**Venue:** CHSE Boardroom

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

A fee of R400 will be charged to cover catering and printing costs.

Please contact Norman Mothabani for bookings:  
011 717 2829 or gobotsamang.mothabani@wits.ac.za

and

Prof Patricia McInerney for more information:  
011 717 2078 or Patricia.McInerney@wits.ac.za
2nd Annual Alzheimer’s One-Day Seminar  
“Making it real: Living with Alzheimer’s”  
Wednesday 21st September 2011  
Linder Auditorium, 27 St Andrews Road, Parktown, Johannesburg

This one-day seminar is of special interest to all health professionals, medical and other health science students, families, community members and carers of people with dementia.

Registration fees (incl VAT):  R300 per person, Members of Alzheimer’s SA: R270, Students: R150

CPD points: HPCSA: 8   SACSSP: application in process    SAPC: a certificate of attendance will be issued

Programme: Presented by Ms Bernadette Lawrence, Chairperson, Alzheimer’s Gauteng Regional Council

07:00-07:50  Registration
08:00-08:05  Guest speaker  
“Making it real: living with Alzheimer’s”
08:10-08:50  Dr S Selemani (Psychiatrist)  
Introduction to Alzheimer’s and other dementias
08:55-09:35  Professor Marilyn Lucas (Department of Psychology, Wits)  
Assessing memory impairment in the dementias
09:40-10:20  Dr Brent Tipping (Geriatrician, Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre)  
Medication for the person with dementia
10:25-10:40  Steve Mufamadi (Master of Science student, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, Wits)  
10:40-11:10  TEA
11:10-11:50  Advocate Margaret Meyer (Masters’ Training: Justice College, Pretoria)  
Legal aspects  
12:00-12:30  PANEL DISCUSSION facilitated by Mr Mark Deavall (Merit Business Institute)  
Presenters from the morning session
12:30-13:00  LUNCH
13:15-13:55  Professor Claire Penn (Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, Wits)  
Speech Pathology
14:00-14:40  Ms Onica Tlhoaele (Social worker)  
Effects of Alzheimer’s disease on the family
14:45-15:25  Dr Sanet du Toit (Lecturer, Department of Occupational Therapy, University of the Free State)  
Validation Therapy
15:30-16:00  Ms Loraine Schirlinger (Regional Director, Alzheimer’s SA, Gauteng)  
Caring for the person with dementia
16:00-16:15  Ms Bernadette Lawrence  
Summary and closing

Please request a registration form from: Anne or Loraine  
Tel: 011 478 0006    Fax: 086 634 2620/3    Email: alzheimers@myconnection.co.za

Please register before 10 September 2011
Workshop on “Qualitative research approaches in medical contexts”: Some guidelines and examples

The Research Office, Faculty of Health Sciences invites you to attend the above workshop.

Workshop outline
- 29th July - Qualitative research in health care: Why this matters in South Africa
- 30th July - Putting qualitative methods into action: teaching and research

Course presenters are Professor Claire Penn, founder of the Health Communication Project, together with Dr Jennifer Watermeyer and Dr Neil Prose from Duke University in the United States.

Time: 09:00 - 16:00
Venue: 29th July 2011 (Len Miller Lecture Theatre - 9th floor, Medical School)
30th July 2011 (Marie Curie Lecture Theatre, Medical School)

The cost of the workshop is R250 to cover the costs of refreshments.
Payment must be made at the fees office.
Account: 001 408 8411105 5123004
Reference: RESC000

Bookings: Nomfundo Sibiya (Nomfundo.sibiya@wits.ac.za or 011 717 2503) by 11 July 2011.

And finally …

Some thought-provoking questions …

NEXT ISSUE OF HEALTH SCIENCES REVIEW: 15 July 2011.

Email: adler.museum@wits.ac.za or rochelle.keene@wits.ac.za