INDEPTH 12TH INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE DISCUSSES NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEMS, 28 to 31 October 2013

The importance of data gathering was emphasized at the 12th INDEPTH Scientific Conference, held at the Wits School of Public Health (WSPH). Low and middle-income countries confronted by challenges of credible data shared ways of strengthening the quality of data and statistics. The conference brought together demographers, epidemiologists, public health specialists, social scientists, health scientists, researchers, practitioners, funders and other scientific researchers from Africa, Asia, Oceania and other parts of the world to reach a common understanding on future directions in demographic and health research.

The ISC partnered with Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). The conference was co-hosted by the WSPH in collaboration with INDEPTH member Health and Demographic Surveillance Systems (HDSS) in South Africa (i.e. Africa Centre, Agincourt and Dikgale).

The theme was “The contribution of INDEPTH Health and Demographic Surveillance Systems (HDSS) to strengthening National Health Information Systems”. Professor Adam Habib, Wits Vice-Chancellor and Principal, delivered the keynote address and said the University was very proud to host the conference as it plays an important role in intensifying Wits’ research agenda and postgraduate training.

Other speakers at the opening ceremony included Marcel Tanner from the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Professor Kathleen Kahn from WSPH, Osman Sankoh, INDEPTH Executive Director; and Professor Sharon Fonn, Acting Dean of the Wits Faculty of Health Science.

For further information please see: Wits Weekly, November 2013 issue 41

BIOLOGY OF NEURODEGENERATION: PROGRESS TOWARDS MECHANISMS AND THERAPIES

Professor AJ Turner, Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Leeds, UK, presented a most interesting lecture entitled Biology of neurodegeneration: progress towards mechanisms and therapies on 29 October 2013.

Professor Turner is the current Chair of Publications and Council member of the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN). His research interests focus on the function, structure and regulation of proteases, especially zinc metalloproteases involved in neurodegenerative and cardiovascular diseases. Their roles and potential as therapeutic targets in diseases of aging is a particular focus of his laboratory and he spoke extensively on the mechanism associated with and current management of Alzheimer’s Disease.

Photograph: Professor Anthony Turner, Dr Natalia Nalivaeva, Professor Amadi Ihunwo, Brendon Billings, Tanya Augustine
IS THE ‘HEART-HEALTHY’ PRUDENT DIET THE SINGLE WORST MEDICAL MISTAKE OF THE 20TH CENTURY?

Professor Tim Noakes, Discovery Health Professor of Exercise and Sports Science at the University of Cape Town, and Director of University of Cape Town/Medical Research Council Research Unit for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine in the Sports Science Institute of South Africa, presented a lecture entitled “Is the ‘heart-healthy’ prudent diet the single worst medical mistake of the 20th Century?” on 30 October 2013. He was hosted by the Royal Society of South Africa, and spoke on the politics, commercial influences and the absence of science that drove the adoption of dietary guidelines, in 1977, advocating the eating of 6-11 servings of grains and cereals per day and an avoidance of dietary fat. He presented evidence that suggests that unless we radically alter our current dietary advice we will be powerless to prevent or reverse the epidemic of obesity and diabetes that is already apparent in all South African youth.

Photograph: Professors Tim Noakes, Jane Carruthers, Chairperson of the Northern Branch Committee of the Royal Society of South Africa, Andrea Fuller, Duncan Mitchell

For further information and to listen to the talk, please see: Wits Weekly, November 2013 issue 41

4TH SOUTH AFRICAN CHILD HEALTH PRIORITIES CONFERENCE: 31 OCTOBER-2 NOVEMBER 2013

The 4th South African (SA) Child Health Priorities Conference was convened by the Wits Division of Community Paediatrics on behalf of the SA Child Health Priorities Association at Wits Medical School from 31 October to 2 November 2013. The aim of the conference was to review progress in child health in South Africa, reflect on recent achievements, and set priorities for the forthcoming year. It attracted 120 health practitioners, policy makers, researchers and academics from around the country.

The opening addresses from Drs Susan Kasedde and Sanjana Bhardwaj of UNICEF re-emphasised that global child related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set for 2015 are unlikely to be achieved, unless the trajectory of child mortality is altered by systematically focussing on the major causes of mortality and on the interventions with the biggest sustained impact.

Recent decreases in under-5 and infant mortality rates in SA have been encouraging. In contrast, neonatal mortality rates remain stubbornly high – posing a critical barrier to achieving MDG 4 in SA.

The conference examined reasons for the unacceptably high on-going child mortality, but more importantly, with the theme being “Getting the basics right: Child Health in 2013”, participants deliberated on how the situation could be rapidly improved. Participants concluded that solutions lie within health systems changes, improving access to care, better programme implementation and extracting accountability. Prominent national experts such as Professor Gerry Boon, Professor Alex van den Heever and Mr Mark Heywood offered their insights on these issues.

Photograph: Dr David Harrison (DG Murray Trust), Dr Gillian Saloojee (Malamulele Onward), Dr Neil McKerrow (UKZN), Professor Haroon Saloojee (Wits), Dr Biljit Cheema (UCT), Dr Sibongile Mbatha (Wits), Professor Gerry Boon (E Cape), Dr Lesley Bamford (National Health Department), Dr Chris Sutton (Limpopo)
2013 AFRICAN SCHOOL OF FORENSIC SCIENCES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

A high profile function held at the Adler Museum of Medicine on 11 November 2013 heralded the launch of the 2013 African School of Forensic Sciences and Human Rights. This international school runs from 11 November to 6 December 2013, and is jointly hosted by the Argentine Forensic Team (EAAF) and the School of Anatomical Sciences, in partnership with the Foundation for Human Rights of South Africa and the African Network of Forensic Medicine. The course is being attended by forensic delegates from across Africa, and is designed to help fill a deficit in forensic science training in many African countries, with special application to human rights investigations.

The course offers forensic practitioners from African countries a specific training in the uses of forensic disciplines in human rights investigations; how to recover ante-mortem data from relatives; survey and excavation of mass graves; forensic archaeology and anthropology; forensic genetics; identification of human remains; analysis of trauma in bones; the uses of forensic pathology in human rights investigations; presentation of reports; and cultural and religious issues on dealing with dead bodies and exhumations. Delegates from Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe and South Africa are attending the course. All are forensic pathologists or specialists in human rights advocacy. They are being tutored by Luis Fondebrider (EAAF), Claudia Bisso (EAAF), Ivana Wolff (EAAF), Patrick Randolph-Quinney (Wits), Amanda Esterhuysen (Wits), Desire Brits (Wits), Henriette Stratman (EAAF), Mariana Segura (EAAF), Steve Symes (Mercyhurst), Brian Kuhn (Wits), Maria Dolores (EAAF), Ignacio Tredici (EAAF), and Mercedes Salado (EAAF).

Further details can be obtained from patrick.randolph-quinney@wits.ac.za.

Photograph: Ivana Wolff (EAAF), Kevin Fourie (Forensic delegate, South Africa), Professor Jeanine Vellema (Head of Forensic Medicine), Claudia Bisso (EAAF), Brigadier Leonie Ras (Director, Victim Identification Centre)

WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PUBLISHES ITS REVISED DECLARATION OF HELSINKI

The World Medical Association (WMA) has adopted and published its latest (2013) revision of the Declaration of Helsinki. Meetings have been held across the world since 2012 to get diverse input in the process and Professor Ames Dhai, newly elected President of the South African Medical Association, participated in these meetings. The Declaration of Helsinki is regularly revised to ensure that it is always relevant; hence it is one of the most important ethical guidelines for medical practitioners and research involving human participants.

Significant changes have been made which included provision for increased protection for vulnerable groups involved in research and a new provision for compensating people harmed as a result of participating in research. In addition there are expanded requirements for post-study arrangements to ensure that participants involved in research are informed of the results and have access to any beneficial treatments that emerge.

For further information please see: http://ndcommunications.hosted.phplist.com/lists/lt.php?id=N0RSBAZPAAYKGVCBAI
75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOTHERAPY: A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF THE WITS FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCE

The Physiotherapy Department, School of Therapeutic Sciences, recently celebrated its 75th anniversary at an evening themed *A passage through time*: a remarkable milestone in the history of physiotherapy at Wits.

An exhibition on the history of the department was shown on the evening. This exhibition is now on show in the Adler Museum of Medicine so if you missed it, do pop in to the museum and learn something about the achievements of the department.

WITS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT TURNS 70 YEARS OLD

2013 marks the 70th anniversary of the Wits Department of Occupational Therapy, School of Therapeutic Sciences. Several events have been held throughout the year in order to showcase the best of the department, starting with a symposium which was held during the annual School of Therapeutic Sciences research day on 10 September. Research conducted by Wits OT staff, students and alumni was showcased. It was enlightening to witness the achievements and innovations in OT practice within South Africa and abroad.

This was complimented by a celebratory breakfast held on 27 September at the Wits Club, where guests were treated not only to a scrumptious meal, but also to an inspirational address by Frank Kronenberg, founder of Occupational Therapists without Borders and PhD student at the University of Cape Town.

The breakfast was attended by past and current OT staff, alumni, current students, community stakeholders and other prominent current and former wits academic staff, such as Professor Alan Rothberg, Professor Judith Bruce, Dr Marjorie Concha and Professor Rosemary Crouch.

These celebrations will be complimented by the publishing of a commemorative journal in the South African Journal of Occupational therapy, where research conducted by the staff in the OT department will be published as well as an NHl Symposium which will be held next year.

Photographs: Speakers at the OT Symposium: (Front row): Lisa Wegner, Associate Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Occupational Therapy, Patricia de Witt, Adjunct Professor and Head of the Wits Department of Occupational Therapy; Mrs Paula Barnard-Ashton, Manager, e-learning programme in the School, Dr Daleen Castelein, post-doctoral researcher and senior lecturer in the Department. (Back row): Theresa Lorenzo, Associate Professor in the Department of Disability Studies and Occupational Therapy, which forms part of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, in the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town; Dr Michele Verdonck, Wits alumnus and lecturer at the University of the Sun Shine Coast, Australia; (right): Dr Marj Concha, former HOD, Dr Rosemary Crouch, retired Mellon mentor and former staff member, Adjunct Professor Pat de Witt, HOD, Professor Alan Rothberg, Professor Judith Bruce, Head of School of Therapeutic Sciences, Associate Professor Helen Myezwa, HOD, Department of Physiotherapy, Mr Frank Kronenberg.
Analee Milner writes: ‘Prior to 1962, the Wits Department of Anaesthesiology was run by the Department of Surgery. Although the South African Society of Anaesthetists (SASA) was established in 1943, it took almost another 20 years for South African anaesthetic departments to become autonomous. To quote Professor Ginsberg, one of the first anaesthetic registrars on the Wits circuit in 1938: ‘The surgeons considered anaesthetists their handmaidens and when they booked their list they wrote what type of anaesthetic they wanted eg spinal or GA. Sometimes even gas or oxygen…’

These days, surgeons would not dare to dictate their preference of anaesthesia. Everyone in an operating theatre is considered to be a member of a team and the anaesthetist is an invaluable and essential part of that team. Currently on the Wits circuit there are approximately 100 registrars and 50 consultants.

To commemorate this auspicious day, fifty years ago, when the Department of Anaesthesiology declared its autonomy from the Department of Surgery, a luncheon at Emoyeni was arranged on 3 July 2013. This venue was chosen as it used to belong to Johannesburg Hospital and housed the bar to which many of the doctors went after a day's work. Also, it has a stunning view over Johannesburg.

The theme for the luncheon was ‘Decades of Anaesthesia’. The centrepieces on the tables were chosen according to this theme and equipment, books and photos were sourced for each decade. A competition was held to see who could guess which table belonged to which decade. Dr Silvio Breno and Dr Colin Clinton each gave a photographic presentation of ‘what it used to be like’ many years ago working at the Jo’burg Gen. A picture of a hard wooden bench was shown. This was the bed for the registrar on call at night which made us all realise how times have changed. Dr Breno also had a ‘guess-the-instrument’ competition.

WELCOME!

We take this opportunity to welcome Mr Charles Gilbert to the Faculty. Mr Gilbert is the new Manager, Human Resources, Faculty of Health Sciences. He hails from the Western Cape and has a wealth of experience in the management of human resources in the field of higher education.

He is married to René and has two sons of school-going age.

Welcome and we wish you well in your new post!

ON-LINE JOURNALS

1 The latest issue of the African Journal of Health Professions Education (AJHPE) (2013 Vol. 5 No. 2) has been published online (open access) at ajhpe.org.za.

2 The latest issue of the South African Journal of Bioethics and Law (SAJBL) has been published online (open access) at sajbl.org.za.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

UPGRADING OF THE UNIVERSITY SWITCHBOARD SYSTEM AND REROUTING OF MEDICAL SCHOOL CALLS THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY SWITCHBOARD

Dear Colleagues

The University switchboard is currently undergoing an upgrade. Since the decision has been taken to re-route Medical School calls through the University switchboard, the Medical School switchboard will not be part of the upgrade. Incoming calls to Medical School are to be routed through main switchboard as soon as the upgrade has been completed. I do not have a date yet. However, I have received the following communication from Anne Caldwell, Telephone Manager:

‘At Braamfontein Campus, the Operators only book overseas calls, not local or cellular. Could you please send out a comms alerting MS staff to this. If they require their extension to be upgraded to cellular (Class 4), National (Class 5) or International (Class 7) they should send an email via their HOD/Departmental Administrator to Felicity.Erasmus@wits.ac.za (x71002) who will action the upgrade for them.’

Please could you pass this message onto staff in your departments and divisions in preparation for the switch? As soon as I have a date for this changes I will let you know.

Sandra Benn
Faculty Registrar, Wits Faculty of Health Sciences

IN MEMORIAM: PROFESSOR RALPH BERNSTEIN

(BSc 1935, BSc Hons 1936, MSc 1937, MBCh 1940)

The Faculty joins the University in conveying its sincere condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Professor Ralph Bernstein, who passed away on 19 October 2013.

Professor Bernstein was born on 7 February 1914 and died on 19 October 2013 after a short illness. He is survived by his wife Dr Mary Bernstein, children Irene Bernstein and Professor Geoff Bernstein, grandchildren Dr Penny Bernstein (Kingsbury), Zeev and Talia Bernstein and great grandchildren Gabriella and Jack Kingsbury, and their respective families.

Professor Bernstein was awarded the William Cullen Medal for the most distinguished science graduate of his year – a precursor of a remarkable career that lay ahead. In 1945 he became a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Physiology, his field of research and teaching being renal and chemical physiology. He went on to obtain the Diploma in Clinical Pathology from the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London, studied for a time at King’s College Hospital Medical School in London and spent a year at the University of New York Medical School.

When the SAIMR established the Human Genetics and Metabolic Research Unit to research the diagnosis of various genetic disorders in people using biochemical methods of detection, he was appointed as its Head in 1957. In the same year he was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathology (London) and registered as a specialist chemical pathologist with the SA Medical Council. Wits appointed him Honorary Professor in Chemical Pathology in 1975. Although he retired the following year he continued lecturing at various medical schools in South Africa and presenting papers at medical meetings.

The Bernstein family has had a long and distinguished connection with Wits University and the Faculty extends its sincere condolences to his family and relatives.
CONGRATULATIONS!

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR’S TEAM TEACHING AND LEARNING AWARD GARNERED BY THE FACULTY!

The Vice-Chancellor’s team teaching and learning award has been awarded to the team who run the Bachelor of Clinical Medical Practice programme. They have made an invaluable contribution to teaching and learning and have adapted material and curricula suitable to the South African context without compromising its relevance or standards.

We warmly congratulate the team: Audrey Gibbs, Scott Smalley, Ando Kerlen, Bright Sithole, Kayode Akingba, Kate Hammond, Abigail Dreyer and Mapule Marumo. New member of the team, Eamon Armstrong and Aviwe Mgobozi, must be delighted to be part of this award winning group! As the acting Dean expressed it: ‘We also acknowledge the outstanding contribution made by the doctors at the various district hospitals where our students are trained. This is a real team effort and we are delighted that your efforts have been recognised. Congratulations to you all.’

The Bachelor of Clinical Medical Practice (Clinical Associate) is a new three year degree with the initial intake of 25 students in January 2009, all of whom graduated in December 2011. The numbers of students has grown each year. The programme is taught by a small team, which the HPCSA accreditation panel commended as passionate and dedicated. The course uses integrated teaching and early clinical exposure, student support, and training in the community mainly at district hospitals. This results in a high student throughput with competencies demonstrated by Wits students achieving high marks in the combined national examination written by the three universities offering the programme.

This team functions in the Division of Rural Health under Professor Ian Couper, Department of Family Medicine.

LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR PROFESSOR DEBBIE GLENCROSS AT THE 6TH SA AIDS CONFERENCE, DURBAN 18 – 21 JUNE 2013

The Dira Sengwe Leadership Awards recognise exceptional contributions by individuals and organizations in the response to HIV in South Africa. This year, the selection criteria were: impact, coverage and bravery. In the individual winner category, the prize was shared by Professor Debbie Glencross from the Department of Molecular Medicine and Haematology at the University of the Witwatersrand and Dr Patience Koloko, a traditional healer from KwaZulu Natal.

The awards took place at the opening session of the 6th SA AIDS Conference in Durban 18-21 June 2013.

Dira Sengwe meaning “take action” is a South African based NGO established in 2002 by the members of the local organising committee of the ground breaking XIIIth International AIDS Conference held in Durban in 2000.

Professor Glencross’ artworks (picture left) are also presently being displayed at the Origins Centre. While the majority of the Origins Centre is dedicated to the Rock Art of the San, it also incorporates the works of contemporary South African artists. Her works are also for sale in the shop. Do visit the Origins Centre the next time you are on the main campus!
DISCOVERY FOUNDATION AWARDS

On behalf of the Faculty, we are delighted to congratulate the following members of staff who received Discovery Foundation Awards:

**Dr Elizabeth Mayne**, Consultant Haematologist, Department of Molecular Medicine and Haematology, NHLS/Wits, who received an Academic Fellowship Award for research which will focus on inflammation, immune activation and the role of the blood vessel lining in HIV infected patients;

**Professor Claire van Deventer**, Adjunct Professor in Family Medicine at Wits and Family Physician, who won the North West Province Rural Individual Fellowship Award who is pursuing a PhD on quality improvement (QI) in primary care and, in particular the involvement of patients in QI. The overall aim of her research is to explore the potential value (in terms of patient outcomes) of patient-inclusive interventions while implementing QI in primary care; and

**Professor Yosuf (Joe) Veriava**, Professor of Medicine attached to the Dean's Office, who received a Distinguished Visitor Award to set up a foundation for developing training platforms in rural districts for the recruitment and retention of healthcare practitioners, for mentoring senior doctors involved in postgraduate studies, including community service doctors, interns, final year medical students and clinical associate learners in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District, North West Province.

ADLER MUSEUM PUBLICITY BROCHURE WINS DESIGN AWARD

The Chairman of the Board of Control of the Adler Museum, Professor Joe Veriava, and the Curator and staff of the Museum, are delighted to announce that the Museum’s new publicity brochure won the SAMA Publication Design Award: Division B at the recent South African Museums Association 77th conference held in Kimberley in October 2013.

Division B was for publicity material or promotional material (less than 4 pages), flyers, bookmarks, folders, floor plans, marketing posters, suites of material such as an advert, invitation, name tag, menu/programme for an event, stationery, certificates etc.

The Museum is grateful to Ferna Clarkson, Head of Wits Marketing and Communications, for picking up the project and to the designer, Mzwa Makhanya, for his fabulous design!

NEWS FROM OUR STUDENTS: PAEDIATRICS PLAYROOM INITIATIVE – TOY DRIVE

The Wits final year MBCh class is raising funds to create a play area in two of the paediatric wards at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital. When children are admitted, they have no form of stimulation which plays a pivotal role in the recovery of a child.

As the final year class of 2013 there have been many community projects that we have undertaken throughout our fledgling careers, however this project is unique in the sense that it is not only a chance for us to leave a legacy, but it also serves to make a tangible change in the lives of many.

A toy collection box has been placed in the Adler Museum of Medicine. We are collecting reading books, teddy bears and other toys, tables and chairs that we will use to furnish the rooms. Monetary donations, which will be used to finance the renovation of the said rooms are also welcome (please contact paedsplayroominitiative.gemp@gmail.com for account details).

The cut-off date for donations is 30 November 2013. PLEASE DONATE GENEROUSLY!

Paediatrics Playroom Initiative – Doing It for the Kids. Fredrick Nana-Akuffo, Secretary, Paediatrics Playroom Initiative Committee
WITS TO RIO CAMPAIGN

MSC President, Patrick Chappel writes: “The Wits Yacht Club started a ‘Wits To Rio Campaign’ in February and it has gone from a dream into a tangible reality. We have entered the prestigious 4000 nautical mile Ocean Yacht Race which starts in Cape Town on 4 January 2014 in a chartered Farr 38ft yacht called ‘Alladin’. A Wits boat competed in the race in 1984 and to our knowledge there has not been another student in the race since then. The fleet this year is tremendous with over 35 yachts coming from all over the world including USA, Australia, Italy, Angola and India (we fancy our chances nonetheless!).

We are a students-only boat with three current Wits students, two recently graduated alumni and a student from Durban Stu Purchase. Our crew is Brad Robinson (skipper, 3rd year BSc Geography and Earth Sciences), Patrick Chappel (bowman, 4th year MBBCh), Alexa Brown (meteorologist, 3rd year BA Geography and History), Ric De Carvalho (trimmer, BSc Engineering (Aeronautical) (Hons) 2011), Alistair Moodie (night-watchman, BSc Engineering (Mechanical) (Hons 2010) and Stuart Purchase (navigator, 3rd year management).

Through vigorous fund-raising we have accumulated about R330 000 with sponsors like Wits Sports Administration, Amtec Engineering, PPS, the crew themselves and the rest from our ‘Buy-a-Mile’ campaign where friends, family and people we have never met have been tremendously generous and encouraging. It has taken blood, sweat and tears to get where we are and we haven’t even reached Cape Town to start working on the yacht. We are all going down to as soon as the academic year concludes to put in a solid month of elbow grease to get our yacht race ready. We encourage all those interested in our adventure to PLEASE ‘buy a mile’ (R50 a nautical mile and you get your name on the yacht for the race and follow our progress through our website (www.witscapetorio2014.com) and social media pages (twitter @Witstorio2014, Facebook ‘WITS to Rio 2014’).”

NEWS FROM ALUMNI: MEDICAL SCHOOL 30TH REUNION

Alumnus Trevor Lissoos writes: ‘On the weekend of 4 – 6 October 2013, thirty five graduates of the 1983 Medical School Class were privileged to meet in Chicago, USA for a privately arranged 30th Medical School reunion. The event was organised by Trevor Lissoos, Denise Walt and Frank Phillips. Attendees came from the USA, Canada, UK, Australia and South Africa. Most had not seen each other for 30 years since graduation which was the inspiration for organising the event. Many felt that this was truly a weekend to remember as former classmates reconnected, renewed friendships and shared wonderful memories of their training at Wits.”
Due to the quality and rigour of the medical training they received at Wits, attendees at the reunion felt more than prepared for their varied secondary specialty training and subsequent careers. This calibre of Wits education is further reflected in the high achieving positions many graduates of the school currently hold. From leading outstanding research careers at centres such as Yale and the University of Pennsylvania, to overseeing clinical trials at major pharmaceutical companies, the 1983 class of Wits doctors is very well accomplished.

In the end, a great time was had by all at the reunion and everyone expressed interest in having similar events every 5 years and not waiting for another 30 years!


Middle row left to right: Paul Roberts, Caroline Popper, Zoe Winters, Denise Walt, Frank Phillips, Kazalette Kiepel, Michelle Reisner, Jeremy Coplan, Clive Zent

Front row left to right: Kevan Jacobson, Steven Burstein, Stephen Markowitz, Tanya Bilchik, David Pick

Sheila Jacobson and Roy Bloom also attended the reunion but were unfortunately not present for the photograph.

INVITATIONS

INAUGURAL LECTURE OF PROFESSOR HELEN REES

Politics is nothing but medicine on a large scale

Starting with her Master's thesis on maternal health, Helen Rees has combined a passion for social justice and medicine. In 1988, in response to measles and polio outbreaks in Alexandra Township, she published her first research paper exploring the reasons for non-immunisation of children in Alexandra Township at the height of political tensions within that community.

As the HIV epidemic took hold she became internationally recognised as an HIV prevention researcher focusing on new technologies for women, and in her talk she will outline her work on microbicides and antiretroviral-based prevention since 1994, and the successes and failures of that field. Over the last two decades, in parallel to her research work, she has actively engaged with many global health policy issues in the fields of vaccines and HIV. She will describe her work as Chair of the World Health Organization's overarching immunisation committee (SAGE) and the contribution that this has made to global vaccine policy including the international efforts to eradicate polio and the development of the Global Vaccine Action plan aimed at reducing vaccine-preventable diseases worldwide.

Date: Tuesday, 19 November 2013
Time: 17:30 for 18:00
Venue: Marie Curie Lecture Auditorium, Wits Medical School, Parktown
RSVP: Mmatshoko Kgwebane on 011 358 5587 / e-mail: mkgwebane@wrhi.ac.za

INVITATIONS: IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

DIAMONDS AND PEARLS II – INSIGHTS INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IN WOMEN

The Faculty of Health Sciences presents this symposium. Speakers include Dr Daniel Vorobiof, Dr Eric Klug, Dr Carlos Libhaber, Dr Emma Wypkema and Dr Naomi Rapeport.

Date: 21 November 2013 Time: 16:00 – 18:30
Venue: The Marie Curie Theatre, Parktown Health Sciences Campus
Enquiries: lee-Ann.holmes@astrazeneca.com or 083 268 2074 CPD accredited
ANTIBODY BASED HIV VACCINES – ARE WE ANY CLOSER?

The Faculty of Health Sciences will host the 9th Prestigious Research Lecture that will be presented by Professor Maria Papathanasopoulos and Dr Penny Moore.

Date: 26 November 2013   Time: 17:00 for 17:30
Venue: Auditorium, School of Public Health Building, Parktown Education Campus
RSVP: nomfundo.sibiya@wits.ac.za or 011 717 3503   CPD accredited

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE: YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics will be hosting the Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi for a conversation on National Health Insurance. Motsoaledi has a vision for the development of South Africa that is dependent on a healthier, more equal population. In this conversation, he will elaborate on this vision and the NHI’s role in realizing it. He is a medical doctor who studied at the University of the North and the University of Natal, Durban. He joined the ANC while serving as a medical intern and has held numerous political portfolios since then.

Date: 28 November 2013   Time: 10:00 - 13:00
Venue: Lecture Theatre, School of Public Health Building, Parktown Education Campus
RSVP: kurium.govender@wits.ac.za   CPD accredited for Ethics

POSITIONS FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

NATIONAL HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

DST/NRF Centre of Excellence for Biomedical TB Research

PO Box 1038, Johannesburg, 2000   (011) 489 9030   Fax: (011) 489 9397
bavesh.kana@nhls.ac.za

Positions for Postgraduate Students

The Wits node of the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence for Biomedical TB Research (CBTBR) is looking for MSc and PhD students. Successful candidates will be required to participate in the vibrant research program ongoing in the department. Candidates will be funded through several local and international grants awarded to the CBTBR by the Department of Science and Technology, National Research Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and US National Institutes of Health.

The Wits node of the CBTBR provides a dynamic working and training environment for career development. Students will learn/gain experience in the following:

1. Basic molecular biology techniques such as cloning, PCR and bacterial genetics
2. Culture and handling of human pathogens under BioSafety Level III conditions
3. Occupational Health and Safety training
4. Specialist techniques in microbial physiology such as HPLC and confocal microscopy
5. Analysis of mechanisms of drug resistance emergence in Mycobacterium tuberculosis

Students will have the opportunity to interact with collaborators and to present their work at local and international meetings.

For queries, please contact:
Bavesh Kana or Bhavna Gordhan
Tel: +27 11 489 9030/9135 | Fax: +27 11 489 9397
bavesh.kana@nhls.ac.za; bhavna.gordhan@nhls.ac.za
Into the Past: A Memoir

Memorial Edition

Phillip Tobias

The death of Phillip Tobias on 7 June 2012 marked the end of an era of pioneering discovery of our ancestry in Africa. Through his East African studies, he provided a link between South and East Africa, and by his development of a Palaeoanthropology Research Unit in the Wits Anatomy Department he provided a link between the earlier research and that of the younger generation. ... Now that he is gone, he can truly be described as a missing link to the past – from the prelude by Ronald J. Clarke

Phillip Valantine Tobias (1925–2012) was one of South Africa’s most honoured and decorated scientists, best known for his pioneering work at South Africa’s famous hominid fossil sites, in the course of his career he developed the reputation of being a leading international authority on the evolution of humanity.

The original edition of Into the Past, published in 2005, focused on the first 40 years of Tobias’s life, and contained vivid accounts of his interactions with some of the great names in twentieth-century science as well as their impact on him.

In this memorial edition, material from an unfinished second volume of Tobias’s memoir is contained in an Epilogue. It describes his collaboration with Louis and Mary Leakey on the fossil remains of Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. The challenges Tobias and the Leakeys collectively posed to the international scientific community, and the far-reaching consequences their analysis of the finds would have on our understanding of Africa as the birthplace of modern humans, are recounted in Tobias’s inimitable style, and they make for fascinating reading.

A prelude by long-time collaborator, paleoanthropologist Ron Clarke, provides a moving and at times humorous reflection on the legacy of one of South Africa’s most loved scholars and humanists.

This memorial edition features an introduction by Ron Clarke. In addition, it contains new material from the second volume of Tobias’s autobiography, which he was working on at the time of his death on 7 June 2012, which covers events in Olduvai Gorge, Lucy and the Leakeys.

Publication: October 2013
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Price (eBook): R154.00
Category: Non-Fiction (Autobiography)
Format: TBR (234 x 153 mm)
Extent: 340pp

The next issue of Health Sciences Review will appear on 13 December 2013
Deadline for submission of information and pictures: 10 December 2013
Please send information to:
adler.museum@wits.ac.za or rochelle.keene@wits.ac.za