RECENT EVENTS

RESEARCH AWARDS DINNER 2011

The Faculty of Health Sciences greatly values the ongoing dedication of its researchers. To honour outstanding research achievements by members of the Faculty over the last year, a formal dinner was hosted by Professor Beverley Kramer, Assistant Dean: Research and Postgraduate Support, in the Adler Museum of Medicine on 2 August. Professor Maria Papathanasopoulos acted as co-host and Dr Gansen Pillay, Vice President of the National Research Foundation, was invited to deliver the after-dinner talk.

Dr Pillay expressed his admiration of the Wits Health Sciences researchers and encouraged them to keep grappling and engaging with the challenges of research in South Africa.

Photograph: Dr Gansen Pillay with the Dean, Professor Ahmed Wadee

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES PHENOMENAL WOMEN’S SERIES: 22 August 2011

The Faculty of Humanities presented the Phenomenal Women’s Series, a celebration of South Africa’s women, during the month of August. Women’s Month in South Africa is normally observed and celebrated by government and commercial activities which do not adequately address issues of women’s inequality and gender injustice and activities are often limited to 9 August. Academic institutions and academics have also neglected to bring their tools of analysis to take stock through critique of progress or lack thereof since the advent of democracy in 1994. The issue of women’s emancipation is a process that cannot be reduced to a single or events on one day, a problem that the Faculty of Humanities addressed through initiatives such as the Phenomenal Women’s Series Photography Project in which undergraduate students from the various faculties in the University participated.

In their photographs, nine students at Wits described their perspectives on being a woman in South Africa. The presentation to the Faculty of Health Sciences took place at the Adler Museum of Medicine on 22 August 2011. This was done by Alexandra Buckley, a fifth year medical student, who spoke with humour and great insight about what women are already doing to empower their lives. Alexandra holds the degrees of BHSc and BSc (Hons) (Physiology) and has spent seven years at Medical School where she says she has not personally experienced any discrimination: what a very pleasing perspective from a student!

Photograph: The Dean of the Faculty of Humanities Professor Tawana Kupe, Iris Dawn Parker, mentor and photographic workshop co-ordinator, Alexandra Buckley.
AJ ORENSTEIN MEMORIAL LECTURE: 23 AUGUST 2011

The annual AJ Orenstein Memorial lecture was delivered by Professor Francois Venter, Deputy Executive Director, Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (WRHI), Wits School of Clinical Medicine. It was entitled: *HIV prevention and sex in southern Africa: Why can’t we get it right?*

In the lecture, Professor Venter berated the failure of public sexual education programmes which appear to be wrongly targeted and appealed for more research to be done into understanding the ‘closeted’ sexual networks which are driving the epidemic in this country. The large audience which braved the August winds to attend was not disappointed and the thought-provoking lecture was thoroughly enjoyed and extremely well-received. Outspoken and sometimes controversial, Professor Venter is known for his challenging views and commitment to the cause of HIV/AIDS eradication in South Africa.

Photograph: The Dean, Professor Ahmed Wadee with Professors Joe Veriava, Alan Rothberg and Francois Venter

SCHOOL OF THERAPEUTIC SCIENCES BIENNIAL RESEARCH DAY

Photographs: Mrs Disebo Maboko, Mrs Norma Mtshali-Qamata, Professor Pat de Wit, Mr David Mphuthi and Professor Judy Bruce; Professor Michael Danckwerts and Dr Hellen Myezwa

Below: Some of the prize winners: Mrs Gayle Heydenrych; Dr Daleen Casteleijn; Dr Shirra Moch, Dr Kerith Aginsky

Associate Professor Robyn van Zyl reports: ‘The School of Therapeutic Sciences hosted its 3rd Biennial Research Day on 24 August 2011. The Research Day was officially opened by Professor Bruce, Head of the School, who welcomed and encouraged a large audience of staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students to engage with the diverse programme being offered. The programme included a morning session to showcase the research currently being conducted in the Department of Physiotherapy. Associate Professor Aimee Stewart gave an overview of the research programme and current studies being conducted, seven of which were then presented by staff members. The first by Nicole Hilburn who delivered her award winning presentation at the recently attended Confederation of Physical Therapy congress in Amsterdam, entitled: “The development of the infant Gross Motor Screening Test to evaluate infants who are HIV positive”.

There were 24 short presentations by members of staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students from all the Departments in the School, with diverse topics being covered in Therapeutics, Musculoskeletal, Paediatrics & Outcomes and Mental Disease & the CNS. Topics included laboratory based research with cutting edge nanotechnology used to advance the delivery of various drugs to the investigation and validation of Southern
African traditional medicine. Clinical research included various studies on back pain and sport related injuries, the current practice in decontamination of nebulisers in ventilated patients and the effect of developmental activities on children. During lunch, delegates had time to read and talk to the presenters of the 13 research posters. A panel of judges evaluated the oral presentations and posters, followed by the award of prizes in three categories.

A stimulating morning of clinical and basic research has yet again proven to Faculty and University of the strength and advancement the School of Therapeutic Sciences has made in delivering first class research.

**Prize winners:**

**Category 1: Oral Presentations**
- Winner: Dr Kerith Aginsky: Why it is difficult to detect an illegally bowled cricket delivery with either the naked eye or usual two-dimensional video analysis?
- Runner-Up: Ms Deshnee Naidoo: Are plants used traditionally for sexually transmitted infections Maputuland effective and safe?

**Category 2: Poster Presentations**
- Runner-Up: Mrs Shirra Moch: Amitriptyline in the management of distal sensory neuropathy in South African patients with HIV.

**Category 3: Book Prizes for presentations of special note**
- Mrs Gayle Heydenrych: The value of simulation-based learning within an aeromedical service in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Dr Daleen Casteleijn: Advantages of routine outcome measurement in mental health care settings.

**ANATOMY LUNCHEON CLUB 55TH ANNIVERSARY**

The 55th anniversary of the Anatomy Luncheon Club, School of Anatomical Sciences, was celebrated in style! Members and guests were treated to a most interesting address by Professor Phillip Tobias on the origins of the Club which he in fact initiated in 1956 after an extensive trip to the USA in the first half of 1956 where he was struck by the number of luncheon clubs wherever he visited. After reporting to Professor Raymond Dart on his 18 month’s absence from the Department of Anatomy, which included a recommendation that Wits sets up a luncheon club, Dart tasked Tobias with establishing one at Wits. The first meeting took place on 11 September 1956 and the first talk was by Professor Tobias himself. He surveyed the progress of desegregation in the USA at the time when universities in this country were threatened with increased segregation. Interestingly, the third speaker was no other than Dr Sydney Brenner who spoke about molecular biology, a field in which he won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2002!

The Club was to become the most interdisciplinary forum of its kind at Wits, and attracted a varied audience. Not only did staff of the Department of Anatomy attend the talks, it soon attracted postgraduate students, staff of other departments at Medical School and the university, outsiders, scientists, writers, musicians, and everyone from eager beavers to culture vultures! The topics were enormously varied and not confined to the anatomical sciences although these talks were always a popular choice.

The Club also attracted a host of interesting and important speakers, including the artist Karel Nel, writers such as Professors Es’kia Mphahlele and Njabulo Ndebele, Tim Couzens, Nadine Gordimer and historian Professor Bruce Murray, performers such as Johnny Clegg and Des and Dawn Lindberg, businessmen such as Clem Suntner and Gavin Relly, people from the sporting world, including Dr Ali Bacher, Professor Tim Noakes, Bruce Fordyce and Frith van der Merwe, paleoanthropologists Alan Morris, Mary Leakey, Tim White, Bob Brain and Richard Leakey, archaeologists including Professor Revil Mason and David Lewis-Williams, and Diane Fossey (the gorilla lady) and Jane Goodall (the chimp lady) … the list is huge!

The excellent news is that the vibrant programme of the Wits Anatomy Luncheon Club is to be resumed and everyone will be welcome to attend! WATCH THIS SPACE!
THINGS ARE ON THE MOVE IN THE SCHOOL OF ORAL HEALTH SCIENCES...AND NOT ONLY TEETH!

The Department of Orthodontics enjoyed a dual celebration when staff gathered to welcome the incoming new Head of Department and the new Registrars. Professor Tarisai Dandejena and his wife Happiness are to assume office in January next year whilst the Registrars commenced their course in April.

Photograph: Tasneem Kadwa and Mohammed Kaka (new Registrar), Elmarie and Etienne Pitout (new Registrar), Bill Evans (outgoing Head), Lera (new Registrar) and Vincent Moshaoa, Happiness and Professor Dandejena (incoming Head).

ADCOCK INGRAM HEALTH PROFESSIONS ART EXHIBITION

The 36th Annual Art Exhibition of the Adcock Ingram Health Professions Art Group opened on Wednesday 7 September 2011 in the Adler Museum. The chairman of the Art Group, Dr Chris Hammond gave an address at the opening as well as Dr Bernard Levinson, a committee member and one of the founders of the group. There are over 85 works on display and it is well worth a visit to view the talent of these health professionals which include a number of members of the Faculty.

The exhibition will be on view until Wednesday 28 September 2011. DON’T MISS IT!!

Photograph: Sandra Benn, Professor Phillip Tobias, Hannah Benn and Maureen Schneidermann at the opening

2011 STEVE BIKO BIOETHICS LECTURE

The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics hosted the annual Steve Biko Bioethics lecture on 12 September 2011. The lecture was entitled: *Equity and access in health care* and was delivered by Ms Precious Matsoso with response by Advocate Adila Hassim. Ms Matsoso is the Director General of the National Department of Health. Advocate Hassim is the Director of Litigation and Legal Service – Section 27 and serves on the Technical Advisory Group of the Global Commission on HIV and Law.

Photographs: Professor Merryll Vorster, Vice Dean, with Ms Matsoso and Professor Ames Dhai in the background; Advocate Hassim
LENN SMITH RACE

Congratulations to all Faculty of Health Sciences staff who took part in the annual Lenn Smith Race on 15 September 2011. The 4km run/walk race started at the Walter Milton Oval, looped around the main campus and returned to the Oval. Lenn Smith, a Wits alumnus and running stalwart turns 88 shortly and was present and participated in the race! Over 410 people finished the race. The Faculty won the category for the most participants who finished the race!

We are proud to announce that the top female runners in the race from the Faculty were 2nd place Deanne Hazle (Therapeutic Sciences), 4th Mel Bertram (Public Health) and 6th Sandra Benn (Registrar). In the men’s race, amongst the top 10 runners were 4th place Bafana Themba (Physiology) followed by Arthur Yoyo (CHSE) and Tumisho Mashasha (CHSE). In the team events, the School of Anatomical Sciences men’s team came third and the School of Public Health women’s team came second. Well done to all who took part in this interfaculty event!! To see all the results of the day go to http://www.bioinf.wits.ac.za/lennsmith

FAREWELL TO MAEVE HERSMAN

A farewell party hosted by Professor Sarala Naicker and the Department of Internal Medicine was held on 7 September 2011 to bid farewell to Maeve Hersman who has served this University since 1969, initially as secretary to Professor Stanley Jackson, and the Faculty since 1982, when she came to work in the Department of Internal Medicine under Professor Tom Bothwell.

She left in June 1997 to accompany her husband, Dr Gordon Hersman, a former Senior Consultant in the Department of Surgery, to Abu Dhabi. On their return to South Africa, she worked with Advocate Jules Browde on the Faculty’s Internal Reconciliation Commission until the end of 1998 and then joined the HGA where she became administrator in a part-time capacity. She later transferred to a full-time post in the Wits Alumni Office. While there, she interviewed numerous prominent Wits Alumni and wrote articles for Arena, the Wits Alumni magazine at the time. In May 2005 she returned to the Department of Internal Medicine as Professor Joe Veriava became Head of the Department.

Maeve has had an enormous amount of experience at Wits and says of her time here: ‘It’s been a wonderful and interesting time and I have interacted with a lot of intellectually stimulating people. It has been a privilege to engage with so many of them.’ Professors Merryll Vorster, Saraladevi Naicker and Joe Veriava all thanked Maeve for her years of dedication and service to the Department of Medicine and wished her well in her retirement. Photograph: Maeve Hersman with Professor Sarala Naicker
IMPORTANT VISITORS TO THE FACULTY

Left: Professor Krishna Somers, MBCh (Witwatersrand, 1949), FRCP (Lond & Edin), FRACP, FACC, DCH (CPS, Bmy), Consultant Physician, Royal Perth Hospital, Australia (formerly Professor of Medicine, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda), paid a visit to Faculty during a stop-over trip from Uganda back to Australia in July 2011. He is pictured here with Mohammed Hans, also a Witsie, who practises as an architect in Jo'burg.

Right: Dr Debbie Argue and Professor Colin Groves from the School of Archaeology and Anthropology, Australian National University in Canberra, Australia, visited South Africa in August to look at collections of early hominid fossils in all institutions in South Africa. They were hosted a Medical School by Professor Phillip Tobias and paid a visit to the Adler Museum of Medicine while here.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2011 WOMEN IN SCIENCE AWARDS

Three distinguished researchers from this Faculty were recognised at the Women in Science Awards ceremony held in August 2011 as part of the Department of Science and Technology’s annual Women’s Month celebrations. They are aimed at promoting women’s access and excellence in research and innovation careers while profiling women scientists and researchers as role models for younger scientists and researchers; and to encourage and reward younger women who are starting their careers as emerging researchers and scientists. The theme this year was Promoting Women’s Access and Excellence in Research and Innovation Careers.

Associate Professor Aimee Stewart, responsible for the development of postgraduate research in the Department of Physiotherapy in the School of Therapeutic Sciences, won the Social Sciences and Humanities category, while Professor Maureen Coetzee, Director, Malaria Entomology Research Unit, Wits School of Pathology was the first runner-up in the Life, Natural and Engineering Sciences category; and Reader/Associate Professor Lizette Koekemoer, Head: Vector Control Reference Unit, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, the second runner-up in the Distinguished Young Women In Science: Life, Natural and Engineering Sciences category.

All three professors ardently acknowledge the impressive work that their students have contributed towards their awards and pay tribute to them for their hard work and the outstanding research they are doing.

For the full story see Wits News 24 August 2011
IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IN NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

Professor Laetitia Rispel was an influential figure in nursing scholarship who was celebrated for her significant contributions to the field. She was the principal investigator of the multi-year Research on the State of Nursing research programme at the Wits Centre for Health Policy. Rispel’s research focused on areas such as nursing policy, casualisation, agency nursing, and moonlighting; nursing management, and quality of care. Her work had significant policy impact in South Africa. In the lead up to democracy in 1994, Rispel was instrumental in health policy research on nursing, including the role of nurses in health policy formulation and as agents of change. She is recognized as a health policy and systems expert throughout southern Africa.

FUNDISA honoured nine esteemed nurse researchers who have achieved long-term, broad national and/or international recognition for their work and whose research has impacted the profession and the people it serves.

Professor Rispel's research focuses on nursing policy, casualisation, agency nursing and moonlighting; and nursing management and quality of care, and has had significant policy impact in South Africa. In the lead up to democracy in 1994, Rispel pioneered health policy research on nursing, including the role of nurses in health policy formulation and as agents of change. She is recognized as a health policy and systems expert throughout southern Africa and is the current president of the Public Health Association of South Africa.

Photograph: Professors Lize Maree, Laetitia Rispel and Judy Bruce. For the full story see Wits News: 17 Aug 2011

Professor Andrea Fuller, Associate Professor in the School of Physiology, has been chosen as one of a limited number of Founding Members of the South Africa Young Academy of Science (SAYAS), a newly established wing of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). The SAYAS will be officially launched and inaugurated in Pretoria on 27 September 2011 by the Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor, followed by a whole day General Assembly on 28 September. Congratulations!

STOP PRESS!!!

PROFESSOR RACHEL JEWKES RECEIVES AN NRF A RATING!

We heartily congratulate Professor Rachel Jewkes, Director of the Medical Research Council’s Gender and Health Research Unit and an Honorary Professor in the Wits School of Public Health, who has just received an A rating from the NRF. Trained as a medical doctor at St Thomas’s Hospital in London, she is a public health specialist, epidemiologist and social researcher. Since 1995 she has undertaken research into the interface of gender inequity and gender-based violence and health, particularly HIV, at the Medical Research Council. Her work has followed a public health approach, with an emphasis on describing the scale and nature of the problem of gender-based violence in South Africa through epidemiology, understanding its context and the dimensions and dynamics of gender inequity in relationships using qualitative methods, and developing and evaluating interventions for responses in the health, education and NGO sectors. She has spent many years developing the health sector response to rape in South Africa, through research and policy development.

Rachel Jewkes is the Secretary of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative, which promotes the use of research towards the goal of ending sexual violence globally. She is a member of the WHO Secretary General’s Expert Advisory Panel on Injury and Violence Prevention and Control, the WHO’s Strategic and Technical Advisory Committee for HIV-AIDS, and the PEPFAR Scientific Advisory Board. She is currently a senior technical advisor to the ‘Gender-based violence and masculinities research project’ of UNDP’s Partners for Prevention Programme, in Asia Pacific Region, which is primarily seeking to understand gender-based violence perpetration in seven countries.
She has authored well over 100 articles in peer reviewed journals and over 20 book chapters. She is actively engaged in developing research capacity in the field of gender and health, particularly through PhD supervision. She has also been very involved in research translation activities, including adapting the HIV prevention manual Stepping Stones for South Africa, and working with colleagues to develop a training manual for health care professionals on GBV ‘Vezimfihlo’, as well as a violence prevention curriculum for use in school with Grade 8 learners ‘Respect 4 U’. She has also chaired the committee revising the national policy and management guidelines for post-rape and sexual assault care of the National Department of Health.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

OBITUARY

Michael David Thomas Bird, BA (Wits), BSc (UNISA), Lic Royal School Mus (London), Fellow Trinity College Mus (London), MSc (Med) Wits, PhD (Med) (Wits posthumous)
23 August 1938 – 22 August 2011

Michael David Thomas Bird was born in Braamfontein, Johannesburg. He matriculated at Parktown Boys’ High School, Johannesburg. After receiving a BA at Wits, majoring in English and History of Art, he started his vocation of teaching at Parktown Boys’ High, Athlone Boys’ High, Jeppe Boys’ High, St John’s College as well as extramural activities at these and other South African institutions of singing, orchestral training, art work, cartooning, and theatrical production.

In 1973 he joined the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Wits under the headship of Professor Louis Solomon as Research Assistant. His activities included: radiographic assessment of metacarpal indices for osteoporosis (Professor Solomon), experimental surgery of osteocartilaginous grafting and muscle transplanting in baboons (Professor GT du Toit), data collection for projects on osteoporosis (Professor CM Schnitzler), and finally the project of age-related changes in the human knee (Professor MBE Sweet). In 1988 he was appointed Research Associate to the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Wits, albeit without a funded university post, but supported by bursaries and research grants. It is a poor reflection of the funding of orthopaedic research in South Africa, that we could never, in all his life, appoint Mike to a research post at any of our universities.

In 1986 Mr Bird started to present and publish his research results at local and overseas meetings and in international peer-reviewed orthopaedic research journals. This dealt mainly with the anatomy and physiology of the human semilunar menisci. His brilliant discovery of a system of nutrient canals in the semilunar menisci was exhilarating. The techniques of studying such intricate biological systems, in both humans and baboons, with a scanning electron microscope and by a positive pressure dye perfusion technique to demonstrate the canals and vessels in the structures of the knee, became the standard methods for this type of orthopaedic research.

Mike Bird presented many of his research findings in his inimitable artistic way. He illustrated the knee cartilages and their microstructure with his own drawing and paintings, amounting to works of art in their own right.

At Christmas time, he used to decorate the orthopaedic wards of the Johannesburg Hospital and helped to organise parties for children and other in-patients. And he sang for them too. We used Mr Bird’s linguistic knowledge to polish some of our Polish colleagues’ English skills. Some cynics have commented on the result of these language courses, in that Mike had become almost fluent in Polish – such was his art of communication.

Long after his retirement, we often saw Mike Bird on his daily walks from his home in Westcliff to his office in the Department at the Medical School in Parktown, his rucksack slung over his white coat, walking with good strides, accepting lifts from friends and colleagues only in inclement weather. On one of these walks his heart stopped.

We have wonderful memories in his scientific posters and other pieces of art. Thank you, Mike, for merging art and science of orthopaedics into our professional life.
Professor Einhard HW Erken, Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Wits.
The Faculty’s Honours Celebration is scheduled for the afternoon of 30 November 2011. There are four different forms for your completion, should any member of staff be either:
- retiring or retired during 2011: academic, administrative, technical and support staff members
- new senior appointments
- academic promotions with reference to adjunct and associate professor, personal professor or reader and senior and senior clinical lecturer posts
- special achievements during 2011

The forms can be obtained from Jennefer Hesk email: jennefer.hesk@wits.ac.za. The completed information must include, postal addresses, email addresses and contact telephone numbers. The names being submitted for the Service Excellence Award should include a motivation letter. The names will then be submitted to the Deanery for its decision on the awardees.

All forms must be submitted on or before 30 September 2011 to allow sufficient time for such persons to be contacted. Please call Jennefer if you have any questions or queries on (011) 717-2060.

INVITATIONS

You are invited to attend a LUNCHTIME WORKSHOP on ACCREDITATION OF TRAINING presented by Professor Robert Woollard, University of British Columbia, looking at approaches to and issues in accreditation of medical schools and other educational programmes for health professionals.

Date: Monday 3rd October 2011   Time: 12:30 – 14:00
Venue: Department of Family Medicine Seminar Room (10N03), 10th floor, Medical School

Bob Woollard is past chair of the Committee on the Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools and the Committee on the Accreditation of Continuing Medical Education and sat on the Executive of the international Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). He has chaired senior committees, councils and task forces for the BC Medical Association, Canadian Medical Association and the College of Family Physicians of Canada in the areas of medical education, environmental health and ethical relations with industry.

RSVP (for catering purposes): Sizwe Dhlamini on sizwe.dhlamini@wits.ac.za or 011 7172131.
International Symposium

Hepatitis B Virus Genotypes
Global Diversity & Evolution

Opening lecture & reception
Date: 28th September 2011
Venue: Marie Curie Lecture Theatre, Wits Medical School, Parktown, Johannesburg
Opening speaker: Prof. Adriano Biocin as part of the Alumni Diaspora Programme
Time: 17:30

Symposium
Date: 29th - 30th September 2011
Venue: Sunnyside Park Hotel, Princess of Wales Street, Parktown, 2041, Johannesburg, South Africa
Tel: +27 (0) 11 640 0400 | Fax: +27 (0) 11 640 0519
E-mail: sunnyside@legacyhotels.co.za
Website: www.sunnyside.co.za
Time: 09:00 - 17:00

Organizers:
- Prof Avino Kramida, Hepatitis Virus Diversity Research Programme, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- Prof Toshito Tanaka, Nagoya City University, Japan
https://www.wits.ac.za/health/hvdrp

For more information, refer to our website http://www.wits.ac.za/health/hvdrp
AND FINALLY ...

SPRING BOK DAY: 1 SEPTEMBER 2011

There was no lack of ‘gees’ in the Faculty as staff turned out in green and gold to welcome the first day of spring which was also the day that the Springbok rugby squad left for the World Cup 2011 in New Zealand! The WHSL staff made a strong showing in the rugby ‘gees’ competition, with four out of five finalists drawn from their ranks! The Vice Dean, Professor Merryll Vorster, declared the winner to be Phindile Bekwa from WHSL. Well done Phindile!

Photographs: (above) Staff in green and gold attire; (below) The finalists Devind Peter, Khosi Mathole, Phindile Bekwa, Cecilia Ford, Tabitha Magethi; Reverie Kuschke in her grandfather’s 1906 jersey: enough to send shivers down the spine of any rugby loving person!

NEXT ISSUE OF HEALTH SCIENCES REVIEW: 14 OCTOBER 2011

Please submit news and photographs by 12 October to email:
adler.museum@wits.ac.za or rochelle.keene@wits.ac.za