RECENT EVENTS

THE PASSING OF PROFESSOR HELEN LABURN

Dear Colleagues

Professor Helen Laburn died this morning. Helen’s contribution to our Faculty, over more than three decades, was extraordinary and included a period being Head of the School of Physiology, followed by being the Dean of this Faculty from 2006 until 2010. A lot of where the Faculty is today can be ascribed to Helen’s committed and innovative leadership. In particular, her passion for research and the resultant drive to promote this is reflected in the Faculty’s recent successes.

All who had interactions with Helen will have been struck by her remarkable attention to detail, her compassion and her willingness to proactively engage the many significant challenges that faced the Faculty. Few of us will forget the many storms that met her when she started her tenure as Dean and how she addressed these astutely, resulting in the Faculty emerging from this being both stronger and more cohesive.

Our thoughts are with Ted and her daughters. They have lost a wonderful wife and mother. The Faculty has lost an outstanding academic, leader and friend.

The Faculty of Health Sciences extends its heartfelt condolences to Ted, Julia and Erica.

Martin Veller
Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Helen’s Achievements

Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and former Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Helen served as a member of Wits University’s Senior Executive Team, and its Senate and Council. She dedicated a substantial portion of her life to the University, with her association spanning approximately 45 years, when she first enrolled as a medical student in 1969. She opted to complete a Medical BSc (1973) and then read for a BSc Honours degree (1974), before graduating with a PhD in Physiology in 1977. She joined the University as a member of staff in 1978 as a part-time lecturer and steadily advanced through the ranks.

In 2001, she was appointed as Head of the School of Physiology, and in July 2006 as Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences. In 2011, Helen assumed the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research. She stepped down from this post in 2013 when she fell ill.

Professor of Thermal Physiology at Wits, Helen was an accomplished researcher who was widely published. Her research focused on the physiology of temperature regulation in mammals and humans, with particular interest in the foetus and newborn. She also researched the physiological mechanisms underlying fever and the associated changes in non-thermal physiology. She published approximately 70 papers in international peer-reviewed scientific journals, including 12 chapters in books.

Internationally recognised, Helen was a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa, a Member of the Physiological Society (London), an Honorary Fellow of the Physiology Society of Southern Africa, a member of the Academy of Sciences of South Africa and a Member of the Thermal Physiology Commission of the International Union of Physiological Sciences, amongst her other affiliations. She served on the National Advisory Council on Innovation and was a member of the National Biotechnology Advisory Committee.

Over the years, she served as a director of the Wits Health Consortium, Wits Enterprise, the Origins Centre Association and the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre.
The Wits Centre for Rural Health held a celebration to pay homage to its Wits Initiative for Rural Health Education (WIRHE) alumni from the North West. The event was held in Mahikeng, North West Province (NWP) on 15 August 2014. Guests included NW MEC for Health, Dr Magome Masike; the acting Head of the NW Department of Health, Kgosi Konrad Motlhabane; officials from the Department at Provincial and District levels; academics from North West University, University of Pretoria and Wits; and alumni and their families.

Maryke Bezuidenhout, a physiotherapist in rural KZN and who was named as one of the Mail and Guardian’s Young South Africans for 2014, was the guest speaker. She encouraged the alumni to be bold enough to stand up for what they know needs to be changed and not be apathetic.

Three of the graduates, Justice Mautjana (medicine), Onkarabetse Maboitshego (occupational therapy) and Tshepo Ramotshele (pharmacy), spoke of the difference that WIRHE had made to their lives by allowing them to pursue health professional training and the impact they are making to health care in their rural communities.

The WIRHE programme is an excellent example of meaningful collaboration between the provincial department of health and academic institutions which addresses the issue of human resources or lack thereof by using the scholarship as a retention programme. The alumni, most of whom graduated from Wits, are a vibrant force of young people ready to make a difference to the health of the people in the NWP.

Report by Papikie Makhuba. Photograph: The Honourable Dr Magome Masike, MEC, poses with graduates at the celebration.

GERMAN TRAVELLING FELLOWS: 16 – 17 August 2014

Dr SK Magobotha and Dr G Firth write: ‘Professor Ramokgopa and the Wits Department of Orthopaedic Surgery hosted visiting German Travelling Fellows on 16 and 17 August 2014. The travelling fellowship is an exchange programme between the South African Orthopaedic Association and the German Orthopaedic Association. The German fellows visiting South Africa are Dr Maike Hoberg (Arthroplasty Surgeon) and Dr Jan Siewe (Spinal Surgeon).

On arrival they were taken on a tour of Soweto and had dinner in Vilakazi Street. They valued their visits to the famous sites there. The Academic Programme took place at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital with the Mortality and Morbidity meeting hosted by Sport and General Unit and chaired by Dr Firth. They attended the spinal grand ward round where Dr Siewe found the pathology and discussion extremely interesting. Dr Hoberg attended the arthroplasty ward round at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital with Dr Mokete.

The programme culminated with talks and presentations by the visiting fellows and two of our Consultants (Dr Pietrzak - Arthroplasty and Dr Ramushu - Spine). This Academic meeting was chaired by Dr Magobotha and attended by the whole Orthopaedic Department staff where fruitful discussions and engagement took place.

The travelling fellows continued touring the country for a month and culminated their visit by attending the annual SAOA conference in Cape Town.

Thanks to the sponsors: Macromed, BMG and Smith and Nephew for making this Academic Programme possible.’
DISSECTING THE EBOLA EPIDEMIC: WHAT LESSONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH? 29 August 2014

The outbreak of the dangerous Ebola virus can only be successfully curbed if the chain of transmission is interrupted, said Professor Lucille Blumberg, head of the Division of Public Health, Surveillance and Response at the National Institute of Communicable Diseases and honorary professor in the Wits School of Public Health, who was addressing an academic meeting examining the topic Dissecting the Ebola epidemic: what lessons for public health? with co-discussants Dr Frew Benson, Chief Director in the Department of Health, and Professor Sharon Fonn from the Wits School of Public Health.

For details and to listen to the presentations please go to: Wits Weekly issue 34, 3 September 2014.

Photograph: Dr Frew Benson, Professors Lucille Blumberg, Laetitia Rispel and Sharon Fonn; Angeline Zwane, Senior Operations Manager, SPH; Dr Charles Chasela, Senior Lecturer, SPH

FAREWELL: PROFESSOR DET PROZESKY: 5 September 2014

Professor Mkhululi Lukhele spoke on behalf of the School of Clinical Medicine and the Faculty. In his response, Professor Prozesky recalled how when he first joined the Faculty he was surprised at the level of debate and discussion in Faculty meetings and how he had enjoyed and appreciated it. Inette Smit, a GEMP II student and a classical pianist, provided background music during the afternoon. Accompanying Professor Prozesky were his wife, Stella; daughter, Pamela and son-in-law, Steve.

We bid Det farewell and every happiness, good health and fulfilment in his retirement and future activities.’

Photograph: Professor Trish McInerney, Dr Lionel Green-Thompson, Professors Ian Couper, Det Prozesky, Mkhululi Lukhele, Haroon Saloojee

THE 2014 ANNUAL WITS RURAL HEALTH WEEK: 9 – 12 September 2014

Papikie Makhuba writes: ‘The international visitor for this year’s Rural Health week, organised by the Centre for Rural Health, Professor Jusie Lydia Siega-Sur (known as Chichi), from the UP-Manila School of Health Sciences in the Philippines, inspired and captivated most of those who were privileged to hear her speak. In addressing the week’s theme of “Transforming students to transform lives”, she spoke about the community-based, socially accountable curriculum, incorporating the concept of universal educability that they use to train community health worker midwives, nurses and physicians in a ladder programme.
Her schedule took her to Port Elizabeth and Potchefstroom, where she was hosted by the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan and North West Universities respectively, both of which are embarking on curriculum reform and possible development of medical training.

At Wits, she gave four presentations over three days to a variety of audiences, including discussing the development of students as change agents, interprofessional education, and faculty development using the concept of bridging leadership.

A Faculty symposium on 10 September focused on how best to equip students for their role as change agents, one of the outcomes recommended by The Lancet Commission and the WHO Guidelines on Transforming Health Professions Education. Chichi was joined by Faculty members from Wits CLTD, NWU and UKZN, who presented on initiatives that are driving the concept of change agents. There were also presentations by a number of student groups describing what they do, some of the challenges they face and the key areas needing to be addressed in order to support student organisations seeking to make a difference. The outcome of the ensuing discussion will be developed into a document for presentation to faculty.

The high point of the week was the 6th annual Centre for Rural Health seminar, which took place in the Adler Museum on the same evening. The theme of the night was transforming health care systems through training. The guest speakers included Professors Chichi, Hoffie Conradie from the Ukwanda Rural Clinical School at the University of Stellenbosch, and Wits Vice-Chancellor Professor Adam Habib. In addition, Mr Craig Parker, a 5th year medical student, presented a summary of the key issues arising from the morning symposium.

Professor Chichi explained the “experiment”, ultimately successful, that they embarked on to address the brain drain, embedding community service in their ladder program and offering multiple points at which a graduate can exit as a functional health care professional. Professor Conradie described the experiences of their students who work in rural district hospitals for a year, noting that their learning is balanced by making a great contribution to the communities, developing values for themselves, commitment to patient care and teamwork. Professor Habib responded with the challenge that Wits is facing as a public institution needing to serve the whole nation, urban and rural, as well as public and private health care systems. He argued that “boutique programmes” within existing curricula will have little impact, and thus serious consideration should be given to developing specific rural faculties.

The Health Week ended off with an internal discussion by the Rural Health Advocacy Project as well as a workshop hosted by the Centre for Health Science Education on 11 and 12 September respectively.

Photographs: (previous page): Participants in the morning symposium on students as change agents included Dr Richard Cooke (CRH), Annelize Bonthuys (NWU), Ms Kershree Padayachee (CLTD), Professor Jusie Siega-Sur (UPMSHS), Dr Bernhard Gaede (UKZN), and Professor Ian Couper (CRH); (above: Speakers at the 6th annual CRH seminar: Mr Craig Parker, Professors Mkhululi Lukhele, Hoffie Conradie, Adam Habib, Jusie Siega-Sur, Stephen Tollman, Ian Couper

DEATH BY STEALTH: 2014 STEVE BIKO LECTURE: 12 September 2014

Professor Bonita Meyersfeld, Director of the Wits Centre for Applied Legal Studies, delivered the annual Steve Biko Bioethics lecture on the 37th anniversary of Biko’s death. The lecture is hosted by the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics and was titled: Death by stealth: the rights of foreign nationals to health care in South Africa. In it, she said that denying foreign nationals health care breaks the law, and spoke harsh words against the “many bureaucratic platforms” discriminating against foreign nationals in South Africa.
South Africa’s public health care practitioners make decisions daily that carry the weight not only of an individual life but of an entire system of structural inequality and poverty. Twenty years after our first democratic elections, inequalities in health care continue to exist but it is a difference based not on race but on national identity. Although the South African Constitution clearly protects the rights of all people to health care the reality is a disquieting system of differentiation between citizens and foreign nationals.

Audio files of the lecture and discussion can be downloaded from the Wits website: http://www.wits.ac.za/newsroom/newsitems/201409/24670/news_item_24670.html

Photograph: Kurium Govender, Professors Bonita Meyersfeld, Ames Dhai (Director: Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics) and Laetitia Rispel (Head of School: Public Health)

**AJ ORENSTEIN MEMORIAL LECTURE: 15 September 2014**

In a beautifully crafted and presented lecture, David Salant, Professor of Medicine and Chief of Nephrology at Boston University Medical Center, a Wits Medical School alumnus (MBBCh 1969) and prominent international health care professional, described his personal journey in the search of the protein that is the target of a common form of autoimmune kidney disease. The discovery has yielded a simple means to diagnose the condition and may lead to more specific treatment than cortisone and other immune suppressant drugs commonly used today. It was the 47th annual AJ Orenstein Memorial Lecture and was titled: *Serendipity and the journey to a human autoantigen*.

The lecture addressed one of the persistent conundrums of modern medicine: the so-called collagen or autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis, lupus erythematosus, rheumatic carditis and various forms of nephritis, where the body’s immune system attacks and destroys healthy body tissue by mistake. Identifying the target in the organs under attack has been considered a holy grail of medical science. He was among the first to identify the podocyte as the primary target of injury in antibody-mediated glomerular injury and he and his colleagues recently identified the major target autoantigen in human membranous nephropathy.

The lecture and the speaker were introduced by Professor Zeblon Vilakasi, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Photographs: Professors Mkhululu Lukhele, Joe Veriava, David Salant, Zeblon Vilakasi; Professors Salant, Graham Paget, Sarala Naicker, Dr Claudia Do Vale

**FACULTY RESEARCH DAY AND POSTGRADUATE EXPO: 17 September 2014**

Every two years, the Faculty hosts a Research Day and Postgraduate Expo. This year the theme was *Translational Research: From Bench to Bedside*. Themes for the day were: Clinical sciences and therapeutics for health; Diseases of lifestyle; Education, policy and systems; Infectious diseases and Molecular and comparative biosciences. The purpose of the day is to expose postgraduate students and researchers to leading research work taking place in the Faculty; to share emerging results from ongoing research taking place in the Faculty and to strengthen collaboration, and coordination of research efforts among research entities and individuals working in the field of health sciences and related disciplines.
As the herald of Research Day, a plenary lecture entitled “Disease causing adhesion deficiencies modelled in transgenic mice” was delivered by Professor Reinhard Fässler, the Director of the Department of Molecular Medicine at the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry in Martinsried, Germany. This took place on the evening before (16 September 2014).

The programme was chock-a-block with 90 oral and 250 poster presentations as well as round table discussion sessions. The day started with a plenary lecture by Professor Roy Zent, Thomas F Frist Professor of Medicine, Cell Biology and Cancer Biology, Vice Chairman of Research, Department of Medicine, Vanderbilt University whose lecture was titled: Targeting fibrosis from molecule to man. The first Phillip V Tobias Plenary Lecture was presented by Professor Bernard Wood, University Professor of Human Origins, George Washington University and Adjunct Senior Scientist at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution whose lecture was titled: Reconstructing human evolution history. There was a constant stream of staff, students, visitors and sponsors which filled Medical School and created the most wonderful buzz! Schools, Departments and Research entities hosted stands, giving existing and prospective postgraduate students the chance to see what research programmes and projects are available. Others present included the NRF, pharmaceutical and medical companies, the Faculty’s Postgraduate and Research Offices, the Wits Health Sciences Library and the University’s International Office.

A full report will appear in the next Research Office Newsletter, as well as a list of prize winners. We did, however, want to share some of the excitement of the day and extend our congratulations to Professor Elena Libhaber and the Research Day Organising Committee, and to Professor Beverley Kramer, Assistant Dean, Research and Postgraduate Support, for this hugely successful event.

Photographs: Professor Reinhard Fässler; (above): Entrance to Medical School with a small exhibition of highlights of the last 20 years prepared by the Adler Museum of Medicine; (below): Professors Elena Libhaber, Bernard Wood, Roy Zent, Beverley Kramer, Zeblon Vilakazi

CONGRATULATIONS!

THE ‘AT RISK OFFICER’: DR CONSTANCE KHUPE

It was with pride and pleasure that the Assistant Dean: Student Support, Professor Thakor Parbhoo, announced the appointment of Dr Constance Khupe as the ‘At Risk Officer’ for the Faculty. Her functions will include the strengthening of existing support structures, the development of systems to identify students who may be at risk and the monitoring of appropriate interventions.

As per directive from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Andrew Crouch, Dr Khupe will be attending all undergraduate Faculty committee meetings, as well as the Teaching and Learning Committee, in order to provide and improve communication between the committees and the Office of Student Support and the various entities in the Faculty.

Dr Khupe graduated with a Certificate in Education (1988), BEd (1994), Postgraduate Diploma in Science Education (2003) and MEd in Science Education (2007), all from the University of Zimbabwe. She taught in high schools, headed schools and lectured at a teacher education college in Zimbabwe. She moved to South Africa in 2008 to pursue PhD studies and joined Wits in August that year as a postgraduate student. She has worked and studied at Wits since 2008 and joined the Office of Student support in January 2013. She graduated with a PhD in July 2014.
We were delighted to spend some time with her and share her thoughts:

This is a new role in the Faculty. How do you see it developing? I think it will lead to greater communication with Departments of the Faculty, and to greater support particularly for First Year students. Part of what I am going to be doing in this new role I have been doing anyway, but now there will be better visibility. Now that this initiative is coming from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), every Faculty will have such an office which will lead to greater communication amongst Faculties themselves and the sharing of ideas across the University. People are being appointed and facilities are being set up presently. Our Faculty is leading in terms of student support, so while other Faculties are setting up facilities, we are actually strengthening our service.

What kind of matters will you be dealing with? Any kind of situation that impacts negatively on the learning of our students. Poor performance is traced and tracked in order to support our students in every way, be it travel (living too far from campus), family issues, financial or emotional needs, or other personal problems – whatever they are prepared to share. Students have the opportunity for one-to-one consultation in a non-threatening environment, and where necessary we refer them for further help.

What was the subject of your PhD and do you think it will impact on how you will think about the Office of Student Support? My thesis is on ‘Indigenous Knowledge and School Science: Possibilities for Integration’. Findings from my thesis are helping me think about how students learn or how students prefer to learn. I am interested in understanding if students’ learning styles are informed by their socio-cultural backgrounds.

Dr Khupe is married and has two children: one in university and another in high school. In her private time she enjoys cooking and experimenting with new recipes. She will be based in the Office of Student Support, 1st Floor, PV Tobias Building. We wish her well for her term of office!

PROFESSOR BEVERLEY KRAMER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF IFAA

We are delighted to congratulate Professor Beverley Kramer, Assistant Dean: Research and Postgraduate Support, on her recent election as President of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA). This took place at the recent Congress of the IFAA held in Beijing, China from 8 to 10 August, 2014. The Conference is held every five years, the previous one being held in Cape Town in 2009. Professor Kramer will serve a five year term of office as President until the next Congress in 2019 which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey.

It is a great honour for the Faculty and indeed for Wits and South Africa as it is the first time in the history of the Federation that a woman and an African has been elected to this highest office of IFAA.

NEWS FROM THE STUDENTS

MSC ALS ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE

Inspired by the explosion of ALS Ice Bucket Challenges taking place in August, the Medical Students’ Council hosted an Ice Bucket Challenge on 27 August 2014. It is intended to raise awareness and funds for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, a severely debilitating disease that is not widely discussed or researched, partly because of its relatively low incidence.

An introduction was given, as well as a brief talk on ALS, after which MSC members participated, each nominating an entity. Those nominated included members of the Faculty of Health Sciences, the SRC, medical student organisations at other South African institutions, the Homeopathic Association of South Africa and every medical student present.

With a charge of R50 per challenge and a donation bucket present, over R2 600 was raised in an atmosphere of excitement and screams at the sheer cold of the icy water. Proceeds went to the Clinical Trial by Dr Anthony Windebank at the Mayo Clinic.
Tegan Chain writes: ‘Collaboration is the coming together of people for the sake of a purpose, to evoke change through inspired events. Both my mother and grandmother were diagnosed with breast cancer during 2011; Nicholas Makgamatha lost his father to an adenocarcinoma last year and Ashley Mawere wants to reach out to others in whatever way he can. We are all fourth year medical students and decided it was time to evoke change.

Nicholas lost his father due to a late diagnosis: earlier detection could have saved his life so we set forth to raise funds for the Cancer Association of SA and also to create awareness of this so called ‘silent killer’.

Our collaboration then extended and I express sincere appreciation to many people: Faheem Meer, President of the Medical Students’ Council who arranged for this event to take place at short notice; Jonathan De Blocq, a second year medical student and a member of the Wits Surgical Society who convened second year students to hold a Suit-Up-Day and contribute the funds raised to our cause; Pari Heeralal, President of the Physicians’ Society was an omnipresent figure on the day, helping out in every way she could; Ann van Staden and Jeanne-Marie Koekemoer from the BHSc Council enthusiastically offered free pancakes to all those who bought bandanas and also sold pancakes which raised R800.

Thanks also to students and Faculty members who supported the event and Tarryn Human, a member of the CANSA organisation, who helped make this event a reality. It is with great pride that we raised R5240.85 for the CANSA account.’

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**OBITUARIES**

**PROFESSOR MERVYN SUSSER**

Sadly, Dr Mervyn Susser, a renowned epidemiologist and colleague, passed away on 14 August 2014. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Zena Stein, their children and their families.

In his quiet and gentle way, Dr Susser together with his wife Dr Zena Stein, leave a legacy that is still unfolding. Influenced as young South African medical students in the late 1940s by Drs Sidney and Emily Kark in social medicine and the comprehensive primary care model, Mervyn started his career at the Alexandra Community Health Centre. Central to this model of care was the collection of reliable statistics on the community, including births and deaths and epidemiological analysis so as to inform preventive actions in the community as well as personal care. With the demise of the community health centre initiative in the late 1950s, he left South Africa for the UK where he specialised as a Physician and practiced Social and Preventive Medicine. From there he went to the USA and from 1966 to 1978, he was professor and head of Epidemiology, Columbia University Faculty of Health Sciences in New York. In 1978, he founded the Sergievsky Center and served as Sergievsky Professor of Epidemiology until his retirement in 1990.
Not forsaking South Africa, Mervyn and Zena have been continuously engaged in supporting, advising and assisting where possible. In April 1990, Mervyn and Zena were instrumental in organising a conference in Maputo, Mozambique bringing together public health experts from inside South Africa, from the exile community and from the United States to focus on the imminent possible impact of HIV on South Africa. In the early days of the first post-Apartheid government, they advised the Minister of Health, Dr Nkosasana Zuma, who had declared her intention to restore primary health care from its current desolate condition. Mervyn and Zena provided invaluable advice to Dr Derek Yach in setting up the SAMRC’s Centre for Epidemiological Research in Southern Africa (CERSA). He served on the advisory panel that reviewed the SAMRC in 1994, giving direct guidance to the research programme CERSA and emphasizing the importance of a research programme to reduce the potential impact of HIV/AIDS. Together with Zena, he worked closely with Professor Salim (Slim) Abdool Karim and submitted the first successful application to Fogarty in 1993 to build strategic, sustainable scientific capacity to enhance the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland. This programme has contributed to the scientific capacity in the region and is now in its 20th year with Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim of CAPRISA as PI. Up until 2009, Mervyn and Zena visited South Africa every year and spent time at CAPRISA interacting with past and current Fogarty and CAPRISA fellows. They usually visited Cape Town and kept contact with researchers in the SAMRC, with particular interest in the challenges of the national mortality statistics. In 1999, Mervyn and Zena served as joint directors of the newly-founded Africa Centre for Population and Reproductive Health Research that had been set up by the SAMRC in collaboration with the University of KwaZulu-Natal in the rural setting near Hlabisa. They nurtured the Centre through a critical phase in its infancy.

Mervyn will be missed by friends, colleagues and family throughout the world. His hallmark of rigorous science, social justice and caring will ensure a lasting legacy. Hamba kahle Mervyn.

We are grateful to Professors Debbie Bradshaw and Glenda Gray for this obituary.
Photograph: Wits Reporter 19 July 1993

There have been several expressions of condolence in the Faculty:
Professor John Gear writes: ‘Mervyn and Zena were beacons of hope and encouragement in the dark days. They provided support to many of us in different ways.’

Professor William Pick writes: ‘It was Mervyn’s book (Susser and Watson) which I discovered in London as long ago as 1977 that inspired me to pursue a career in Public Health. He had a profound influence on many of us. [Sociology in Medicine, written with the anthropologist William Watson, the book explored the role of family and community in disease.]


PROFESSOR LOUIS SOLOMON, MD FRCS ENG FRCS ED
(\* 31.05.1928 in Keimos, Northern Cape; † 19.08.2014 in Bristol, UK)

Professor Einhard HW Erken FCS(SA)Orth, Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, writes: ‘In the leader of the Festschrift for the 50th Anniversary of the Wits Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in 2012, Professor Louis Solomon looked ‘Through a Window Brightly’ (the title of his contribution), and asked: ‘How many acorns do you have to plant to grow a forest of oaks? One? A thousand?’ (www.orthowitsalumni.co.za)

Louis Solomon was educated at the South Africa College Schools (SACS) in Cape Town, and studied medicine at UCT. He became an orthopaedic surgeon, training in London, UK and Boston, USA. Professor Jock Edelstein, the first incumbent of the Wits Chair of Orthopaedics, appointed Louis as a consultant orthopaedic surgeon in his Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1966. Solomon took over the Chair of the Department in 1968 and headed it until 1986.

Louis had the rare gift of bringing out the best ideas and passion in the people with whom he started new developments in an academic department. There were no facilities or staffing for basic research, but clinical orthopaedics had already spread its net far and wide: from the old Johannesburg General Hospital, to TMH, the JG Strijdom Hospital, Baragwanath Hospital, Coronation Hospital and the Hope Convalescent Home for Crippled Children. Fully
skilled and dedicated orthopaedic surgeons were already working in these six teaching institutions. They were the chiefs of the teaching and training units including those for hand surgery, paediatric orthopaedic, trauma, bone and joint sepsis, spinal surgery, arthroplasty centres and a metabolic bone disease unit.

Louis Solomon widened our orthopaedic horizon when he started a Bone Tumour Registry, a Rheumatism and Arthritis Unit, and later the Chris and Daphne Petrow Orthopaedic Research Laboratories and the Cartilage Research Laboratories. In 1982 he founded the South African Arthritis Foundation. He roped into his department the talents of colleagues and scientists from other academic disciplines, including paediatricians, physiotherapists, haematologists, occupational therapists, geneticists, anatomists, paleoanthropologists, rheumatologists, plastic surgeons, nephrologists, metallurgists, microbiologists, epidemiologists, nurses, social workers, statisticians and accountants. Some called it Solomon’s menagerie. Visitors to our department were amazed, often gaped and asked: ‘Does such a melting pot of academia, science, craft, art and healing still exist?’ It did. It was truly Solomonic.

*Look, feel, move* became a popular guide for the physical examination of patients. It had been introduced into the teaching of clinical methods by the late Alan G Apley, first into the FRCS courses at Pyrford and later into a printed textbook of *Apley’s System of Orthopaedics and Fractures* in the mid-1950s. Louis Solomon co-authored the sixth edition (1982) of this popular textbook and added to it his rich and colourful South African experience. The text was designed to be used by under- and postgraduates and their teachers, trauma casualty officers, general practitioners who sought further understanding of their orthopaedic patients, and by colleagues in allied professions. It has been enlarged by many co-authors, has grown in size (and price) to its 10th edition. One can take from the book the *‘look, feel, move’* as cues rather than imperatives, taking it from the lecture theatre to the fellowship and examination rooms to the patients.

We did not realize that he taught us to think in a hierarchical way rather than stringing pieces of knowledge together on a continuous line. He convinced us that language begets thinking and made us think *orthopaedia*.

In 1982 he gave the Robert Jones Lecture at the 7th Combined Meeting of the Orthopaedic Associations of the English-Speaking World in Cape Town. The title was ‘Osteoarthritis – Peeling the Onion.’ There he peeled off layer after layer of the patient’s disorder or illness, to lay bare the core: the person behind the disease.

‘What do you think of the Professor?’, the lady, who had just been ‘fitted’ with a total hip replacement prosthesis, asked her bed-neighbour. ‘You know, the Grand Round, chatter, chatter, chatter, medical jargon and stuff. But the Professor always treated me like a human being; he is a real mensch.’

‘Great oaks from little acorns grow’ Geoffrey Chaucer, the father of English literature, 1385; this was Louis Solomon’s vision for his Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Wits. He wrote in his contribution for our 50th Anniversary in 2012: ‘I believe we did start to grow a forest’.

He left Johannesburg 28 years ago, first to take up the Foundation Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery in Bristol, and later, after retirement, to contribute to academic orthopaedics in the orthopaedic communities of the English-Speaking World.

He is survived by his wife Joan, his daughters Caryn and Joyce, his son Ryan, and his grandchildren.


**PROFESSOR LOUIS SOLOMON MD FRCS ENG FRCS ED 1928 -2014: COMMEMORATIVE MEETING**

Dear Colleagues, Members and Friends of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Wits

It is with heavy hearts that we tell you that Professor Louis Solomon passed away on 19 August 2014 in Bristol/UK, aged 86 years. He was the third incumbent of the Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery at Wits, from 1968 to 1986 (18 years). In his department he founded and innovated many scientific, research and clinical units which established the department’s reputation as an outstanding orthopaedic academic centre worldwide.

We will celebrate Professor Solomon’s professional and academic life at Wits in a Commemorative Meeting on Saturday 11th October 2014 in the Marie Curie Lecture Theatre at Wits Medical School, Parktown, at 08:00. You are invited to add to the lustre of the occasion by your attendance.

Professor Einhard HW Erken, Professor Emeritus of Orthopaedic Surgery, Wits
Professor MT Ramokgopa, Head, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Wits
Professor M Lukhele, President, South African Orthopaedic Association
With Ron Tucker's passing, South Africa lost one of her most distinguished physicians. He matriculated at Germiston High School in 1946 and, passionate about medicine but lacking the finance to go straight to Medical School, trained as a medical technologist at the then SA Institute for Medical Research. He went to work on the copper belt in what was then Northern Rhodesia and after four years had saved enough to enrol at Wits Medical School where he graduated in 1959. He soon stood out, serving on the Students’ Medical Council and on the Rag Committee, playing tennis and squash for Wits, and was awarded the Cottrill Prize for academic achievement and service to the student body. During these years Ron and I played tennis and squash together and were in the same group throughout our clinical years. Whether on the courts or at the bedside, he had the extraordinary ability of being in the right place and making the right decisions all the time. One great decision was to woo and win Barbara Louw. They married in 1957 and were blessed with three sons and a daughter – all professionals now.

Ron specialised in Internal Medicine and quickly achieved the Fellowship of the College of Physicians, after which he super-specialised in Cardiology. He remained in the Cardiac Unit of the Johannesburg General Hospital until 1968, and served both the Johannesburg and National Cardiac Societies. He was one of the pioneers of coronary angiography.

In 1968 he started a private practice and soon attracted the “who is who” of Johannesburg as patients, and all attested to the thoroughness of his clinical approach and his unfailingly caring attitude. He also advised life insurance companies and was Chairman of the International Medical Advisory Panel of the Asbestos International Association for twelve years.

Ron was co-opted to the Council of the Colleges of Medicine which he faithfully served for 34 years, active on many of its committees, as an examiner, Mace Bearer, Vice-President for two terms and President from 1992. He received Honorary Fellowships from Colleges and Associations in America, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, London and Ireland. In 1997 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the University of the Witwatersrand on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Medical School.

If a person’s life is to be measured by his contributions to society and the positive effects on the people with whom he came in contact, then Ron’s was a life supremely well lived.

He is deeply mourned and lovingly remembered by his wife Barbara and his four children Michael, Gavin, Clive (MBBCh 1989) and Claire Louw (nee Tucker, BSc (Physio) 1987) and 11 grandchildren.

*We are grateful to Professor Olliver Ransome (MBBCh 1959, MA 2004) for this obituary and Claire Louw for the photograph*

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**ANTHONY PROMNITZ (1955 – 2014)**

Douglas Anthony Promnitz (MBBCh 1979, F ACCP, FRCPSG, FRCP, FMCSA) died from prostate cancer on 27 June 2014. He was a consultant physician in general and respiratory medicine at the Ipswich Hospital. Prior to leaving South Africa in 1996 he held several positions, including that of principal specialist and head of the division of pulmonology at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital. He worked in Scotland and at the Hitchingbrooke Hospital before joining the Ipswich Hospital in 2003 until his illness forced him into early retirement in August 2012. He leaves his companion Barry.

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**CHANGES IN THE HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (MEDICAL) SECRETARIAT**

After 18 years, Anisa Keshav has left Wits for family reasons. Zanele Ndlovu (telephone: 71252, 72700) has taken over helped by Erin Gobey (telephone: 72700).

The HREC(Medical) office in the P V Tobias Health Sciences building has moved from a small room in the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics on the 3rd floor to a lovely large one in the south-west corner of the 2nd floor (it has no number yet).
Call for applications: Research Methods Course in Sexual Reproductive Health; HIV and Gender-Based Violence

17 -28 November, 2014 in Johannesburg

Are you a clinician, researcher or other professional in the field of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) or HIV looking to improve your research skills? Are you currently conducting or planning to conduct SRH or HIV research in the near future and need to update on research methodology?

The Research Methods Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health, HIV and Gender-Based Violence will give you a unique opportunity to strengthen your research skills and your contribution to increased capacity for SRH and HIV research on the African continent. The course is taught by world class researchers, with international reputations in their fields of study.

At the end of this intensive two-week course (10 days of full attendance) you will be able to:

- Initiate and participate in qualitative and quantitative research
- Critically appraise research findings
- Understand the major SRH/HIV issues affecting the African region
- Access a network of other professionals in your field for information exchange and research collaboration

Applicants who already hold a MPH exceed training provided by this course but may be considered for the course on provision of a letter of special motivation advancing benefits they hope to gain by attending.

Course fees and how to apply:
The tuition fees are ZAR 11, 000; a limited number of partial scholarships for tuition fees are available by competitive selection. For more information on the application process please contact Tshepo Mashao at researchmethodscourse@wrhi.ac.za or phone + 27 11 358 5453

Closing date for applications: 30 September 2014.

About the Research Methods Course
Established in 1997, this annual course has an alumna of 400 students and is organised by the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute, the Medical Research Council and the Population Council. Wits RHI is a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre.

INAUGURAL LECTURE: PROFESSOR PAUL MANGER

JUST HOW SMART ARE DOLPHINS AND WHALES IN REALITY?

Professor Paul Manger from the School of Anatomical Sciences in the Faculty of Health Sciences will be presenting his inaugural lecture on: Just how smart are dolphins and whales in reality?

Dolphins and whales are often considered to be very intelligent animals, proposed to be second only to humans in terms of complex cognitive abilities. This thinking is based on behavioural observations and the size of the dolphin and whale brain and has led to the idea that dolphins and whales should be considered non-human people in terms of rights to life and liberty – an idea that has been accepted into law by the governments of Chile, Costa Rica, and India. But just how smart are whales and dolphins?

The talk will examine the behavioural capacities of cetaceans, the interpretation of these and cetacean brain structure. This will lead into a discussion regarding the evolution of the cetacean brain, and why these creatures have large brains. The conclusion reached is that there is no scientific evidence to support the populist take on cetacean intelligence, and that rather evolutionary pressures related to thermal challenges in their environment provide a more pragmatic explanation of dolphin and whale brain structure, function and evolution.

Date: 22 September 2014  Time: 17:30 for 18:00  Location: Marie Curie Lecture Theatre, Wits Medical School  Contact: 011 717 1193; Rechelle.Tsunke@wits.ac.za
Albertina Sisulu Memorial Lecture - 2014

“The Human Face Behind Disasters”

Dr Imtiaz Sooliman

Founder and Director of Gift of the Givers Foundation, the largest disaster relief group in Africa. Dr Sooliman works in the field of humanitarian aid, transcending the boundaries of race, religion, culture, class and geography, for which he has received national and international awards.

Date : Tuesday, 30 September 2014  Time : 16:30 for 17:00
Venue : Marie Curie Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Health Sciences,
University of the Witwatersrand, 7 York Road, Parktown,
Johannesburg
RSVP : Mrs Irene Janse van Noordwyk – 011 717 2063;
rene.janse@nwu.ac.za

Pre-lecture drinks will be served and refreshments afterwards.
HEALTH PROFESSIONS ART GROUP 39TH ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION and MEDICAL STUDENTS’ COUNCIL ART COMPETITION opening: 1 October 2014

The 39th Annual Health Professions Art Group Exhibition will take place in the Adler Museum of Medicine from 1 – 22 October 2014 with an opening function on Wednesday 1 October at 17:30 for 18:00.

A joint opening function in conjunction with the Medical Students’ Council Art Competition will take place on that evening.

The Health Professions Art Group invites all health professionals to display the works that they create in their spare time. Artworks may include all the visual arts including sculpture, photography, printmaking and drawing. Application forms can be obtained from the Adler Museum or requested via email from adler.museum@wits.ac.za

Dates to diarise:

Exhibition period: 1 – 22 October 2014
Opening event: Wednesday 1 October 2014 17h30 for 18h00
Delivery of artworks to Museum: 25 – 26 September 09:00-15:30
Collection of artworks: 23 – 24 October 09:00-15:30
Number of artworks: 4 i.e. 3 of one’s own choice and the 4th to respond to this year’s chosen theme: “Twenty years of democracy in South Africa.”

Please note that there are no selection criteria but there are exhibition space limitations.

Cost: A hanging fee of R100 per person which should be paid on delivery of the artworks.

Disclaimer: Whilst every effort will be made to ensure the safety and security of your artwork/frame, neither the Health Professions Art Group, nor the Adler Museum of Medicine can accept any responsibility for loss or damage to your artwork while it is housed at the Adler Museum.

For further information please contact: Jenny Marcus 083 452 4843 (jennymarymarcus@gmail.com) or Cheryl-Anne Cromie 011 717 2067 (adler.museum@wits.ac.za)
CENTRE FOR RESPIRATORY DISEASES AND MENINGITIS

In commemoration of World Pneumonia Day in November, please join us for a talk by Professor Keith Klugman entitled “Opportunities to save children’s lives from pneumonia - perspective of the Gates Foundation” on Friday 14th November at 12:00 in the PRF auditorium, National Institute for Communicable Diseases of the National Health Laboratory Services, 1 Modderfontein Road, Sandringham.

In 1990 there were 20 million children who died during the year before reaching their 5th birthday. In 2013 that number has reduced to less than 7 million children, but this remains a staggering number of deaths, not discussed daily in the media, or attracting major research or operational funding. The leading cause of these deaths is pneumonia. Nearly half of the children who die do so in one month of those 5 years – the first month of life. The prevention of those deaths is the mission of the Gates Foundation which will be explained in this talk for World Pneumonia day.

Professor Keith Klugman is the Director of Pneumonia at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He holds an academic appointment as the William H. Foege Chair of Global Health in the Hubert Department of Global Health at Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia, where he is also Professor of Epidemiology and Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases. He is a Visiting Researcher in the Respiratory Diseases Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. In addition, he still serves as Honorary Professor in the Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Professor Klugman is currently the Past - President of the International Society of Infectious Diseases, Treasurer of the International Symposium of Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases Board and a past Chair of the International Board of the American Society for Microbiology. Keith has chaired or served on numerous expert committees for the World Health Organization (WHO), the Wellcome Trust and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He serves as an editor or member of the editorial board of 12 journals.

An outstanding scientist, Professor Klugman has made major contributions to the field of pneumococcal disease. His work, including the demonstration of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine efficacy in the developing world, has led to interventions that have saved millions of lives especially in Africa. He has published more than 500 scientific papers which have been cited more than 23,000 times to date. His current position allows him the opportunity to contribute to the mission of the Gates Foundation to reduce deaths from pneumonia in children, thus allowing them the chance to lead healthy and productive lives.

(Phoo: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)
A reminder about the annual Cystic Fibrosis Fundraising Initiative which is taking place on 2 October 2014.

Please support this worthy cause.

Tables are selling fast … so don't be disappointed – book yours today!!

Contact:
Annell: 0728990552 or Miekie 0829361827

Tickets are R170 per person.

**OUR FACES ARE RED!**

In the August 2014 issue of Health Sciences Review we referred to DR Lionel Green-Thompson, Assistant Dean: Teaching & Learning as PROFESSOR. We hasten to apologise for this error and wish to reassure the Dean that we are not assuming the Staffing and Promotions function for the Faculty!