

Professor Ian Jandrell, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Systems and Operations, cordially invites you to the



Inaugural lecture of Prof. Heleen van Aswegen

Department of Physiotherapy, Faculty of
Health Sciences, Wits University

Title:

Physiotherapy in Intensive Care: Illuminating Practice and Exploring Patient Outcomes

SHORT SUMMARY:

Physiotherapy is recognised globally as an essential service for patients admitted to intensive care units due to severe illness. Treatment delivered to patients in ICU involves sedation, mechanical ventilation, antimicrobial therapy, and in some cases surgical interventions. This predisposes many patients to developing impairments in physical and cognitive function resulting in delayed recovery after discharge. Historically there is a scarcity of physiotherapy research expertise in South Africa that focuses on the management of patients with severe illness. In this lecture, I will share how my research has bridged this gap by defining practice standards for physiotherapy in ICU, investigating the effectiveness of various patient management strategies used for rehabilitation in ICU, and exploring the health-related quality of life outcomes of patients as they recover from critical illness.

PROFESSOR HELEEN VAN ASWEGEN – BIOSKETCH (short)

Heleen van Aswegen is a Personal Professor in the department of Physiotherapy in the Faculty of Health Sciences. She teaches cardiopulmonary physiotherapy at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and has supervised 28 postgraduate students (MSc and PhD) to completion of their degrees. Her research interest is physiotherapy in the fields of critical care and trauma. She has published 65 articles in peer-reviewed journals and 10 book chapters. Heleen edited a textbook titled 'Cardiopulmonary Physiotherapy in Trauma: An Evidence-based Approach' published in 2015. She has been an invited speaker at numerous physiotherapy, critical care and trauma congresses and has research collaborations with colleagues in Sweden, New Zealand and Australia.

Date: Wednesday, 23 August 2023

Time: 17h00

Venue: Senate Room, 2nd Floor, Solomon Mahlangu House
Braamfontein Campus East, Wits University

Register here for in-person attendance: shorturl.at/ghyl9

Join here for Live Stream: shorturl.at/awAOS

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