**Citation: William Pick**

Professor William Pick Emeritus Professor of the University of the Witwatersrand was born in Cape Town on 17 August 1942. He holds an M.B. (Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery Degree) he obtained at the tender age of 22 and a Master of Medicine Degree from the University of Cape Town. He also attained Diplomas in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene *with distinction* and in Public Health *with Distinction,* from the University of the Witwatersrand.

In 1980 he became a member of the Faculty of General Practice of the College of Medicine of South Africa and in 1988 he attained Fellowship of the Faculty of Community Health (Community Medicine) of the College of Medicine of South Africa.

After graduating from the University of Cape Town he worked at Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) Clinics. He played cricket - won award for the highest Under-21 batting average in Western Province Cricket Board of Control. He represented the Maitland-Parow and Districts Cricket Union at senior level. He played representative rugby for the Northerns Rugby Union

In 1989 he became a Lecturer and Specialist, Department of Community Health at the University of Cape Town. Responsible for the training of Registrars in Community Health in addition to undergraduate teaching. In the period 1990 - 1991 he took up the Takemi Fellowship in International Health, Harvard School of Public Health an advanced training and research Fellowship.

In 1992 he became a Senior Lecturer and Senior Specialist, Department of Community Health, at the University of Cape Town. In 1993 Pick was offered personal Professorship in the Department of Community Health at the University of Cape Town which he declined. In the same year he was appointed Professor and Head of the Department of Community Health at the University of the Witwatersrand. In 2000 Pick was appointed Head of School of Public Health at Wits University an important position at a time when the university was restructuring and repositioning itself as a leading university in South Africa and Africa.

Pick has despite retiring from the university in 2003 continued scholarly publishing in per reviewed journals and contributing book chapters. He also serves as member of the editorial boards of a number of journals including Medicine and Global Survival, Human Resources for Health Development and the African Journal of Reproductive Health. He is also a referee for a number of journals including Lancet, American Journal of Public Health and Australasian Journal of Public Health.

Pick has over more than 20 years been involved in research, training and programmes on a range of public and community health issues in the United States and South Africa beginning with the award for thee Takemi Fellowship a I International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health in the USA. During this fellowship he became a member of the Urban Health Research Group of the Takemi Program in International Health and he convened a seminar on health in a changing South Africa.

He went on to become a coordinator of Khayelitsha Women's Health Research and Khayelitsha Women's Wellness Project. Both were important interventions in impoverished black communities in a health system and apartheid society characterized by inequalities of all kinds. In the same vein he was a member of a multi-country research team investigating the health of poor women in the urban informal economic sector.

Emeritus Professor Pick has also served on multiple occasions at the national and international level in leadership positions because of his acknowledged expertise. In this regard he has twice been appointed as the Acting President of the Medical Research Council of South Africa in 2002 and Interim President 2003, three times as a temporary Advisor on Planning Human Resources for Health Care in 1998, the implementation of ethical guidelines in HIV/AIDS research in 2003 and on Poverty and Health in 2000 to the World Health Organisation and Chairperson of the Council of Medical Schemes.

For his knowledge, expertise and research Pick has been recognised through awards, membership of prestigious scientific and professional associations and fellowships which include the King's Fund Fellowship in 1995, Visiting Fellowship in International Health, the Royal Society of Medicine, the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences in 1996, New York Academy of Sciences in 1994, the Academy of Science of South Africa in 2004, Gold Medal for Exceptional Service by the University of the Witwatersrand Faculty of Health Sciences in 2012, the Public Health Association of South Africa Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2013, the President of the Convocation Medal of the University of Cape Town in 2014. Pick has also been awarded Honorary Professorship at the Universities of the Western Cape and Cape Town

It is befitting that the University of the Witwatersrand bestow on Emeritus Professor William Pick the degree of Doctor of Medicine Honoris Causa.