



SCHOOL OF CLINICAL MEDICINE NEWSLETTER



<https://www.wits.ac.za/clinicalmed/>

EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues

We have reached the end of a momentous year!

During 2022 we saw the end of the COVID pandemic. Students moved back onto campus after two years of remote learning. We could stop wearing masks and interact fully once again. The requirement for mandatory vaccination was repealed. Life is almost back to normal, as we know it.



Thank you to each one of you for your commitment and resilience which has allowed us to successfully complete our academic year. Congratulations to all our students who have passed this year and particularly to those of you who are graduating. You do us proud!

I wish you all a safe and peaceful holiday season and all the best for the New Year!

Happy reading!

Prof Daynia Ballot
Head of School



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STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

WELL DONE!

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Prof Ismail Kalla with his appointment as Head of Department - Department of Internal Medicine

Dr Aubrey Makgotloe with his promotion to Adjunct Professor

Dr Nqoba Tsabedze with his promotion to Associate Professor

Dr Samuel Agbo with his promotion to Senior Clinical Lecturer

Dr Emmanuel Nweke who received a NRF Y2 rating.

PROF ISMAIL KALLA

Professor Ismail Kalla is an Associate Professor in the Division of Pulmonology and the Division of Critical Care Medicine and has most recently been appointment as the Academic Head of Department of Internal Medicine in the School of Clinical Medicine.

His qualifications include MBBCh (WITS), FCP (SA), Certificate Pulmonology (SA), Certificate Critical Care (SA) and PhD (WITS). Currently, he is the Chair of the Undergraduate Teaching Committee, the Chair of the GEMP 4 portfolio, the Chair of the Supernumerary portfolio, and a senior member of the Post Graduate Committee for Internal Medicine.

He is also the Chair of the GEMP 1 and 2 portfolio for the School of Clinical Medicine.



Prof Kalla has received numerous awards during his career. He was the recipient of the Jock Gear award for the most accomplished registrar during his specialist training, the Asher Dubb Medal for his Specialist Physicians examination, and the Greenblatt Respiratory Prize during his Fellowship in Pulmonology. In 2008, Prof. Kalla was chosen as one the first 10 recipients for the prestigious Discovery Research award from over 2500 applicants, as well as being the recipient of the South African Thoracic Society (SATS) Astra-Zeneca Prize and the recipient of Allergy Society of South Africa (ALLSA) Glaxo Prize for his research thesis in 'Inflammatory Pathways in Asthma'. He was also the recipient of the WITS Bobby Grieve Research award and on completion of his PhD, he was awarded the prestigious T H Bothwell Research prize - the premier research prize within the Department of Internal Medicine.

He has a reputable national and international standing in Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine. He has reviewed manuscripts for multiple accredited national, as well as international journals including the British Medical Journal.

He is a member of the editorial board of the African Journal of Thoracic and Critical Care Medicine and is currently the Chair of Website management and Scholarships and Grants Portfolio for SATS. Prof Kalla been invited as a presenter / lecturer to several national as well as international congresses and symposia and has represented WITS as a Key Opinion Leader at several focused national and international meetings.

Prof Kalla is a senior examiner/moderator/convenor for the Fellowship of Internal Medicine, Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine and represents WITS on the Executive committees for the Colleges Internal Medicine, Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine. His research endeavours include the study of airway diseases and in particular, airway inflammation. Prof. Kalla is a senior member of a research unit dedicated to COVID-19 research with publications in several national and international journals on the impact of SARS-Cov-2 in South Africa. He is also the only Southern African Representative on the Middle East Africa - Asthma Steering Committee tasked with improving outcomes in patients with asthma from Low-Middle Income Countries (LMIC).

He has participated with an international team of distinguished researchers in studying the impact of post-tuberculosis (TB) lung disease and developing appropriate terminology for the description of this illness. He is part of a national collaboration in the study of Pulmonary Hypertension and is part of a national group of investigators attempting to validate a new diagnostic test for the diagnosis of extra-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Prof Kalla is currently supervising 7 higher degrees (MMed, MSc and PhD) research projects relating to various topics in infectious diseases, respiratory and critical care medicine and has supervised several others to completion. To date, he has over 50 peer reviewed publications with more than 35 in the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) accredited journals. His PhD was nominated for the most prestigious PhD award and in recognition for his various contributions to the Department of Internal Medicine.

Prof Kalla was awarded the FJ Milne Teaching and Service Award for distinguished teaching in 2020.

Congratulations

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR NQOBA TSABEDZE

Prof Tshabedze has been the Academic and Clinical Head of the Division of Cardiology for the past five years.



His research niche is focused on heart failure and its respective phenotypes and aetiologies. He has published over 30 peer-reviewed research manuscripts in local and international journals. He is the South African national principal investigator for the ZEUS (global) clinical trial. He has successfully established a translational cardiovascular research group which has attracted over R6 million in research-related funding through self-initiated research projects, PhD student research grants and academic travel grants. His research postgraduate student pool has grown with six registered PhD students within the division of cardiology, eleven ongoing Master of Medicine research projects and one Master of Science student. In addition, he has successfully graduated five MMed students, eight Bachelor of Cardiac Technology students, and one PhD candidate undergoing examination. At CMJAH, he has successfully graduated twelve cardiologists.

Prof Tsabedze is a frequent convenor and examiner of the Certification in Cardiology examination and is involved in reforming the CMSA cardiology examination format. He has successfully increased the number of female sub-specialist trainees and supernumerary fellows, and our Wits cardiology fellows have attained a 100% pass rate. He regularly examines final-year medical students' exit examinations and has been invited to be an external examiner for the MBChB program at UKZN and SMU.

Prof Tsabedze collaborates extensively with industry partners to host numerous academic and scientific meetings, including advisory board meetings. He has been invited to deliver talks as a keynote speaker in the UAE, Mauritius, Kenya, Namibia, Botswana and India. In addition, he has collaborated with organisations such as Cricket South Africa, the South African Civil Aviation Association, and the Health Professions Council of South Africa, where he provides cardiovascular evidence-based guidance. In 2021, he was appointed by the Minister of Health to serve as a member of the National Essential Medicine List Committee (NEMLC) Expert Review Committee (ERC). In this role, he leads the review of the primary health care and adult hospital care cardiovascular chapters.

He is the President-Elect for the Heart Failure Society of South Africa (HeFSSA); the

National Chairperson of the South African Heart Association Registry (SHARE), and a member of the Protocol and Safety Review Team (PSRT) for the 'Sisonke Heterologous mRNA-1273 boost after priming with AD26.COVS.s" study – SHERPA. He regularly participates in radio and television interviews to advocate for cardiovascular disease awareness.

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR AUBREY MAKGOTLOE

Prof Makgotloe began his specialty training in Ophthalmology as a registrar in the Wits group of teaching hospitals in 2001, during which time he was awarded: The Sam and Nora Cohen Award for the young researcher of the year, Best Registrar paper presented at the annual congress of the Ophthalmological Society of South Africa, the Elie Dahan Ophthalmic Surgery Award and the TetJie Pattison award for Ophthalmology. He became a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society in 2005.

He then joined the Division of Ophthalmology as a joint appointment, initially based at St John Eye Hospital as a consultant, and later at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH) as a senior consultant in the vitreoretinal unit.



Prof Makgotloe is the current Academic Head of the Wits Division of Ophthalmology and the Clinical Head of CMJAH Ophthalmology.

He is very passionate about the training of young specialists in South Africa, evidenced by his involvement in the colleges of medicine of South Africa (CMSA) as the current President of the College of Ophthalmologists, Chair of the Board of Examiners in the College of Ophthalmologists, the Hon Registrar of the Education Committee of the CMSA, a Senator and Member of the Board of the CMSA.

He continues to be involved in the prevention of blindness caused by retinal disorders as a member of the Scientific and Medical Advisory Board of RETINA SOUTH AFRICA.

DR EMMANUEL NWEKE

Congratulations to Dr Nweke who received a NRF Y2 rating.

Dr Nweke obtained an MSc (cum laude in Molecular and Cell Biology) in 2015 and a PhD in 2017, both from the University of Witwatersrand. Currently, he is a Researcher and Research Coordinator at the Department of Surgery. His current research interests involve the utilization of multi-omics technologies for biomarker discovery and elucidating the molecular mechanisms involved in the development and progression of pancreatic and gallbladder cancers amongst patients of African ancestry. He is also interested in the applications of precision medicine for cancer diagnosis and treatment.



He is certified by the South African Council for Natural Scientific

Professions (SACNASP) as a Professional Natural Scientist. He serves as the co-chair of the Biospecimen and laboratory analysis committee for the African HepatoPancreatoBiliary Cancer Consortium (AHPBCC) and an executive member of the Surgical Research Society of Southern Africa. Additionally, he is a member of various international and national societies including the European HepatoPancreatoBiliary Association (EAHPBA), the American Association of Cancer Research, the International HepatoPancreatoBiliary Association (IHPBA), the South African Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SASBMB), HepatoPancreatoBiliary Association of South Africa (HPBASA), and Metabolomics Society of South Africa (MSA).

Dr Nweke is the recipient of several awards and grants, including the “First Time Inventor award” presented by WITS Enterprise and the NRF Thithuka grant (2022-2024). Furthermore, he has presented at several international and national conferences including as an invited speaker. He has authored 15 articles and 6 book chapters and is a reviewer for peer-reviewed journals such as Scientific Reports and Journal of Surgical Research. Dr Nweke is passionate about training and mentoring students and is currently supervising several doctoral and master’s degree students.

WELL DONE!



STAFF CONDOLENCES & OBITUARIES

Condolences to the Families, Colleagues and Friends of:

Prof John Milne
Dr Semakeleng Molepo
Dr Peter King
Dr Seohee Mary Lee



STAFF OBITUARIES

In memory of:

DR SEOHEE MARY LEE

Dr Lee was a medical officer in the Department of Anaesthesia at HJH from November 2020. She then started as a registrar based at CMJAH on 1 August 2022.

Dr Lee sustained a head injury on 31 August and passed away on 4 September. Dr Lee was an organ donor and in keeping with her wishes her organs were donated to five recipients. Dr Lee is remembered as being gentle, kind, humble and generous.

She was known for her constant smile and her trademark laugh. She was bright, hardworking and full of potential. She was only 30. Dr Lee is survived by her parents and her younger brother.



Gone Too Soon

Author Unknown

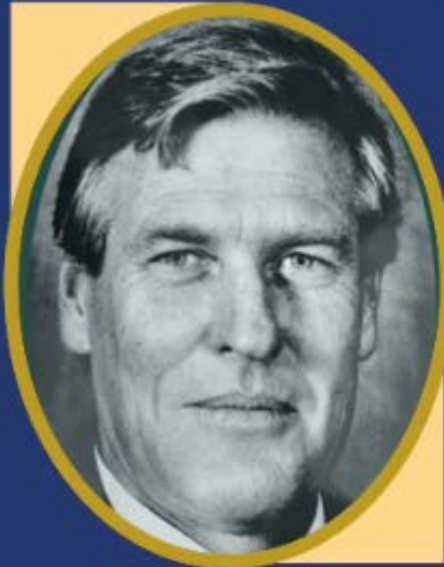
This was a life that hardly begun
no time to find your place in the sun
no time to do all you could have done
but we loved you enough for a lifetime

No time to enjoy the world and its wealth
No time to take life down off the shelf
no time to sing the song of yourself
though you had enough love for a lifetime

Those who live long endure sadness and tears
but you'll never suffer the sorrowing years
no betrayal, no anger
no hatred, no fears
Just love, only love in your lifetime.



In Memory of Prof Milne



JOHN MILNE

December 10th, 1940 - September 27th, 2022

Professor FJ (John) Milne was a full time member of the Department of Medicine from 1968 to 2000. After his registrarship, he joined the Renal Unit and became a principal physician in 1981. He was Professor of Medicine/Chief Physician at Coronation Hospital (now the Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital) from 1983 to 1990, Dean of the Faculty from 1990 to 1991 and then Academic Head of Medicine and Chief Physician at the Johannesburg Hospital from 1992 to 1998. Regarded by many as an outstanding clinical teacher and supervisor, Prof. Milne continued as Academic Head of Medicine in an ad hominem University post until 2000.

The Faculty extends its condolences to the family, friends and former colleagues of Prof. Milne.



SA HEART TRAVEL AWARD

Mrs Nonkanyiso Mboweni-Khondlo is an intercalated MBBCh/PhD student. She recently won the SA Heart Travel Award to attend the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Congress, which took place in Barcelona, Spain.

Supervisors: Professor Muzi Maseko and Professor Nqoba Tsabedze

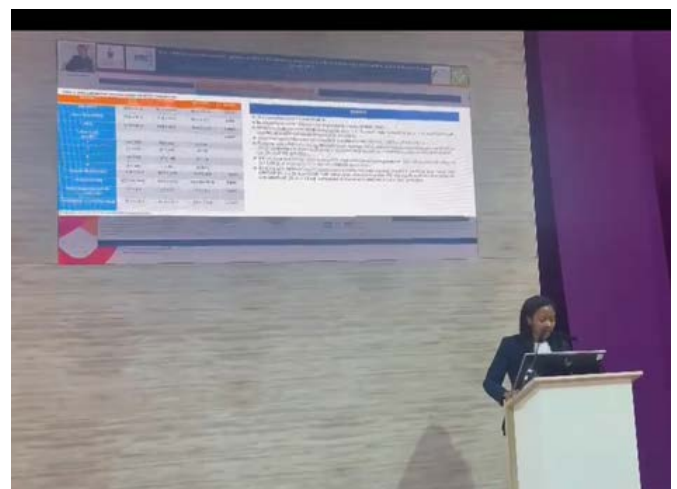
Overview of the conference

The European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Congress 2022 was held from August 25th – 29th, 2022, in Barcelona, Spain. The congress was highly well-organised, from the conference venue to the hands-on training and networking and career development sessions.

The ESC faculty collectively organised the congress into several sessions. Delegates from around the globe presented their work in the cardiovascular basic sciences and cardiology, including (but not exclusive to) numerous new insights into AF catheter ablation, heart failure management and echocardiographic imaging. Since our research focuses on heart failure with reduced ejection fraction and concomitant atrial fibrillation in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as novel biomarkers and imaging, this congress was the ideal platform to present our work in the presence of researchers from around the world and experts in the field.



The abstract we submitted was allocated to a moderated poster session titled 'Interplay between Heart Failure and Atrial fibrillation' chaired by AF expert Prof Douglas Packer of the Mayo Clinic and principal investigator of the CABANA-AF trial. Within the session, I presented our abstract titled 'The Clinical and Biochemical Effects of AF on HFrEF: A Sub-Saharan Perspective'. I was the third presenter on Monday, the 29th of August. During this 10-minute presentation, I presented findings from my PhD work demonstrating the following:



- 1) HFrEF/AF patients in our cohort were significantly older than those in SR but much younger compared to patients in HICs.
- 2) Hypertensive heart disease is a significant cause of HFrEF in our study cohort.

- 3) Of all Caucasians in our study, the majority of them had HFrEF/AF
- 4) Patients with HFrEF/AF were clinically worse off than those with HFrEF/SR.
- 5) Atrial fibrillation was a marker of fibrosis and disease severity in HFrEF.
- 6) Patients with HFrEF/AF had elevated sST2 levels, a morphologically deformed left atrium, and poor tissue doppler function.

Lastly, we presented results on novel left atrial strain using 2D-speckle tracking. Our results demonstrated that HFrEF/AF patients had poor left atrial reservoir function.

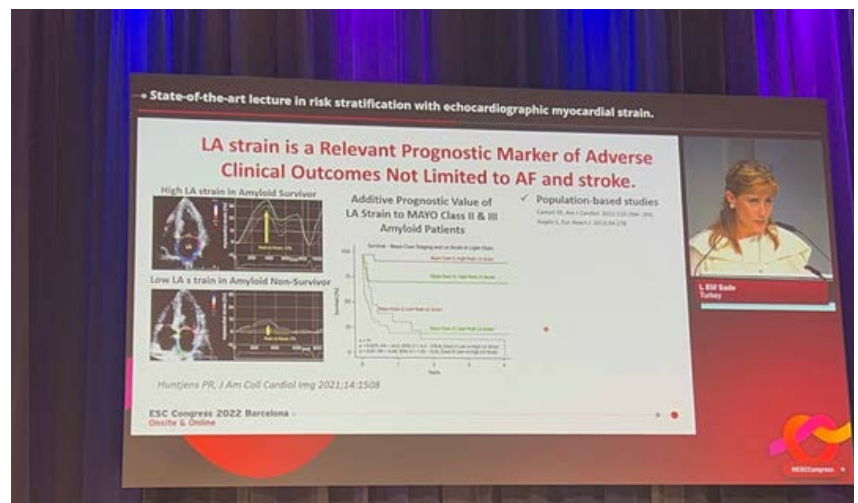
The session was exhilarating! Prof Packer led lively conversations, asked probing questions about various aspects of my research, and expressed a strong desire to see the final paper published. This poster session was, without a doubt, the highlight of my trip!

Attending the congress afforded me an opportunity to establish valuable networks, expand my knowledge, gain new and valuable insights into the current work we are doing and the prospects thereof, and look at my research from a different perspective. It's always quite enlightening and refreshing to see what colleagues are doing on a global scale for two reasons: 1) to appreciate that in South Africa, we certainly are producing high-quality, impactful research and 2) to recognise that there is still so much work to be done; for a young researcher like myself, this is something to be excited about and look forward to!

The congress days were packed and content loaded. Due to clashes in the program, it was often challenging to decide which sessions to prioritise over others. I could not attend all sessions I would have liked to. Nevertheless, those I was able to participate in were worth it!

A few sessions I thoroughly enjoyed :

- When to consider Catheter Ablation: outcome and survival in specific cohorts (HFrEF/AF & HFpEF/AF)
- Oral anticoagulation in AF in extremes of body weight, multimorbidity, frailty and polypharmacy
- Assessment of LV function beyond ejection fraction
- Epidemiological aspects of AF (Poster sessions)
- Risk stratification with myocardial strain
- Young investigator award presentations



I thoroughly enjoyed and found the following presentation/study fascinating and novel:

- ‘The role of 4D flow vorticity and velocity in predicting risk of cardioembolic stroke AF.’
- ‘Biomarkers and more’ abstract session
- Managing HFrEF with experts on the spot: there is no success without action.

In addition to attending sessions, I participated in a 3-day hands-on strain training course. This was another highlight of my trip. It was stimulating to see how very much alive myocardial strain is and just how much clinical utility it's proving to have. When I started my PhD in 2019, there was a paucity of literature and guidelines on 2D- speckle tracking strain. The amount of information accessible now and its clinical utility, particularly for AF patients, was validating and reassuring.



Another highlight of my trip was joining the WomenAsOne community for a networking event. What a fantastic experience! I was pretty hesitant to attend because I am still a medical student and not yet a physician. However, I was well received. I had a wonderful experience engaging in extensive networking and establishing new relationships/friendships, which I hope will lead to fruitful scientific collaboration soon.

Overall, I left the ESC Congress feeling extremely motivated, inspired and revived to push my PhD studies. I look forward to the next chapter of my career, which is already plagued with many ideas and research questions to explore further.

Finally, I would like to thank SA HEART for allowing me to attend the ESC Congress through their travel scholarship, which covered part of my travel expenses. Thanks to my supervisors, Prof. Nqoba Tsabedze and Prof. Muzi Maseko, for their generous support and guidance. Also, many thanks to my brother, Velani Mboweni, for joining me on the trip and supporting my poster presentation.



Mrs Nonkanyiso Mboweni-Khondlo
5/10/2022

MSC 2022/23

A warm welcome to the new MSC 2022/23! We are wishing you a productive and fulfilling term. We are looking forward working with your over the coming year.



MSC 2022/23

PRESIDENT



Onthatile Zikhali

VICE PRESIDENT



Clerance Mahlalela

TREASURER



Karabo Bambo

SECRETARY



Mashao Maake

ACADEMIC OFFICER



Siyabonga Khoza

TRANSFORMATION OFFICER



Lunga Gadala

PROJECT & EVENT OFFICER



Kamogelo Langa



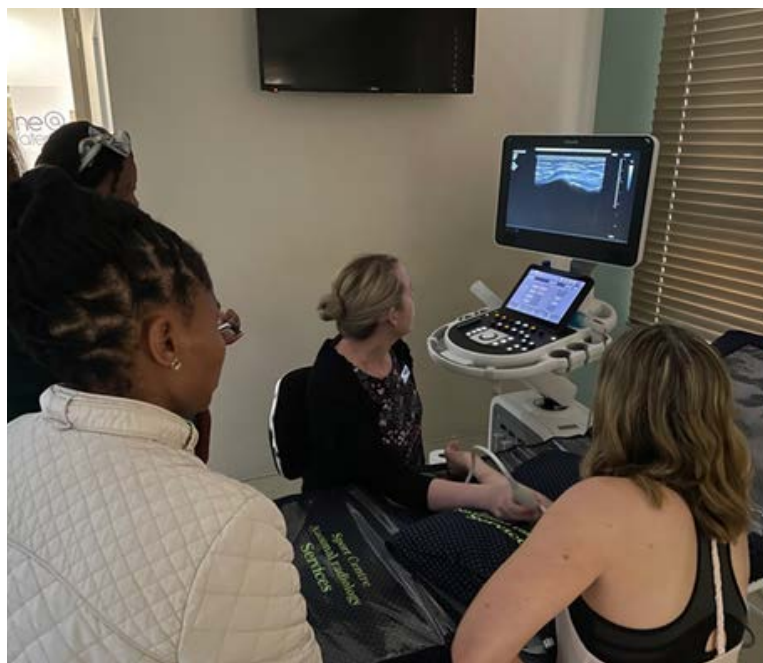
NEWS FROM OUR DEPARTMENTS/DIVISIONS/UNITS/CENTRES

WISH MUSCULOSKELETAL ULTRASOUND COURSE

Wits Sport and Health (WiSH) hosted a successful musculoskeletal (MSK) ultrasound course attended by 50 radiologists, radiology registrars, sonographers, sports medicine physicians and orthopaedists. The course included 4 online lectures held weekly during August and 2 on-site, hands-on sessions held at Waterfall Sports Orthopaedic Surgery on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 September. The theoretical lectures included the scanning technique of joints in the upper and lower limb, muscle, tendon and growth plate injuries, and classification systems.

The course was coordinated by Prof Jon Patricios of the School of Clinical Medicine and presented by renowned MSK sonographer Bev Roos. 5 experienced sonographers assisted with the hands-on sessions which covered the shoulder, elbow, hip, knee, foot and ankle. Live models graciously allowed the delegates to hone their skills under the watchful eye of Bev and the demonstrators.

The course was made possible through a collaboration with Philips who provided 5 state-of-the-art ultrasound machines for use by the attendees. This was the second such course hosted by WiSH and Philips has confirmed its support for 2023.



WITS EMERGENCY MEDICINE REGISTRARS' @ COMRADES 2022

What an amazing brilliant job! Special mention to Mande and Deshin and Nic (ex Witsies).

Also such a feather in the cap for all emergency medicine care workers across the country!

Collaboration between our Faculties at UKZN, Netcare and WITS allows great things to be achieved and many lives to be saved.

Comrades is one of the mass events that our Wits Registrars take part in as part of their registrar training program.

Congratulations to all our Registrars, Mande and the Netcare team on a brilliantly job!



Read more on the: 'I blacked out': Durban runner shares near death Comrades Marathon experience - <https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/i-blacked-out-durban-runner-shares-near-death-comrades-marathon-experience-98f1856a-a43d-4ed4-abdc-e85353ca5f54>

Prof Feroza Motara
Division of Emergency Medicine

DIVISION OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE

Nuclear Medicine Week: 2-8 October 2022

Professor Willy Vangu, Head of Nuclear Medicine (NM) and Radiation Sciences had arranged for renowned international guest speakers, from Harvard University and Stanford University to spend a few days in Wits-Nuclear Medicine as part of local activities during the international Nuclear Medicine week.

The theme of the teaching was based on myocardial perfusion imaging using SPECT and PET imaging. The interactive and latest and up to date educational teaching was expressed as outstanding and transformative by local staff.

Prof Sharmilla Dorbala who is the Director of Nuclear cardiology at Brigham Women's Hospital (BWH) and Professor of Radiology at Harvard school led the team of guests that included Professor Sarah Cuddy, a cardiologist at BWH who trained for multimodality cardiovascular imaging and Professor Kevin Alexander, an advanced heart failure and transplant cardiologist at Stanford Amyloid center.



From right: Professors Alexander, Cuddy, Vangu & Dorbala.

Our guests spent an entire day educating radiographers, registrars, and consultants alike. Day to day imaging and scans reporting sessions took place at the Charlotte

Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH), and actual case based learning models were used.



Prof Willy Vangu with Guests in NM at CMJAH

On Saturday, 8th October, the first faculty cardiac amyloidosis symposium was held at The Venue in Melrose Arch, Johannesburg. The emphasis was based on imaging patients with heart failure and increasing the suspicion of work-up for cardiac amyloid as a differential for heart failure. This condition is under-diagnosed in our setting. With the advent of treatment that improves the prognosis, it is essential to diagnose this disorder in time and thereby improve patient survival and outcome.



Attendees with guests at the symposium.



A view of meeting room at 'The Venue' for the first Africa Cardiac Amyloid Symposium.

What do Wits registrars in NM think of the week?

We had the opportunity to celebrate Nuclear Medicine week from 2-8 October 2022 and what a celebration it was!

As registrars this week has encouraged us to take pride in our profession and recognize and appreciate our colleagues for the hard work and dedication towards the field and for serving the community.

A highly educational week was also in store and we were privileged to have Professor Sharmila Dorbala and her team from Harvard and Stanford Universities as our visitors. A full day teaching program on nuclear cardiology not only broadened our knowledge and understanding of the studies we do, but also showed us that what we learn and apply in our daily clinical practice is of global standard. Prof Vangu allocated a special time for an informative 'nuts and bolts' session for us, alone with the guests, for personal development and growth. We had the opportunity in his absence to ask questions and network with these global leaders in the field.

The week ended off with the Cardiac Amyloidosis Symposium held at The Venue, Melrose Arch in Johannesburg on Saturday. It was the highlight of the week where experts shared their knowledge on the latest advances, again shinning the light on Nuclear Medicine and its ever-growing utility in clinical practice and impact in the lives of our patients.

This memorable week of celebration has made it possible to promote our field once again, to the entire medical community, as well as to the public.



NM Registrars at CMJAH



Wits NM Staff with our guests

BREAST CANCER MONTH

Merchant West had a conversation with Professor Willy Vangu discussing the latest mammography technologies and techniques used within nuclear medicine to detect breast cancer.

Professor Vangu is the Chief Specialist and Head of Nuclear Medicine at the University of Witwatersrand for the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic and Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospitals. [#breastcancerawareness](#)
[#octoberbreastcancerawareness](#) [#Merchant West](#)



You can listen to the conversation on the following link:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/merchantwest_breastcancerawareness-octoberbreastcancerawareness-activity-6990301796187430912-Gem9/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

ART EXHIBITION 10 - 31 OCTOBER 2022

About the Exhibition:

Since time immemorial, mankind has made and been fascinated by the idea of art. Art is an expression of emotion, designed by a human a means of communicating that emotion to other humans. Art is also a form of therapy; it feeds the soul, affording the creator an outlet, relaxation and internal peace second to none. As such, it's small wonder that so many health practitioners, doctors, nurses, therapists and the like are drawn to it, over and over.



There is also a growing trend towards integrating the arts into medical education with the aim of promoting creative and scholarly work at the intersections between the arts, humanities and medicine. According to Martha Fleming: 'Artists and Doctors share highly developed observational skills and a fundamental love for humankind'.

Psychiatry as a discipline is one medical speciality that combines the arts, humanities and medicine so wonderfully in the formulation of disorders, and importantly in the treatment modalities needed. In the past, the Adler museum has hosted art exhibitions under the auspices of the Wits Medics arts society, begun in the 70's by psychiatrist Dr Bernard Levinson. It is hoped that these art exhibitions will continue on an annual basis.

October has been designated mental health month by the WHO and the exhibition was opened on the 10 October 2022 (World Mental health day), running until the 31 October.

Eminent artist and researcher at Wits Medical School, Professor Deborah Glencross delivered a beautiful keynote address.

Featured works, from staff in the Wits Department of Psychiatry as well as registered students, staff and alumni were viewed by invited guests,



against the backdrop of classical piano music from a Registrar in the Department of Psychiatry, Dr Jonathan Tripp.



With gratitude to the Dean - Prof S Madhi, all artists especially from the Department of Psychiatry, Ms Antonia Appel, Ms Didi Mmatladi, Ms Leanne Harwood and of course to the intrepid acting curator of the Adler museum, Mr Sepeke Sekgwele assisted by Ms Lydia Pila.

DIVISION OF UROLOGY



We would like to congratulate Dr Simon Radebe, Dr Shauli Minkowitz, Dr Alain Kabongo-Tshiala and Dr Kadima Tshimanga on successfully passing the FC Urol (SA) Final exams.

We are very proud of them and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Prof Mohamed Haffejee

DIVISION OF PAEDIATRIC SURGERY

SURGEONS FOR LITTLE LIVES ANNUAL EVENT

Congratulations to Dr Leila Hartford who received the Shivon Jugmohan Medal at the Surgeons for Little Lives Annual Event that took place on the 29th of September 2022.

Dr Hartford received prize money to the value of R15 000 towards upcoming and new research.

The Shivon Jugmohan Medal is for the Best Emerging Researcher and the recipients are mainly Paediatric Surgery Registrars.



IMPACT OF WATER RESTRICTIONS

Listen to Mr Ayanda Nyathi (NewzRoom Afrika) and Prof Ballot (Head of School) online discussion on the impact water restrictions have on our academic hospitals (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNfsAlhr3bQ&t=5s>) .



LOREAL-UNESCO AWARD

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)/Wits University Developmental Pathways for Health Research Unit (DPHRU) wishes to congratulate Dr Asanda Mtintsilana, postdoctoral researcher, for receiving the 2022 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Young Talents National programme for South Africa Award.



Each year the L'Oréal-UNESCO Foundation awards six outstanding women scientists for their contribution to science. As part of this recognition, Dr Mtintsilana received a generous grant (R160 000) to cover the costs of her research work entitled “Delineating the role of social vulnerability in the pathophysiology of non-communicable diseases and their prominent risk factors in middle-aged Black South African women”.

“I am thrilled to have won this prestigious award and to become part of this outstanding community of young and emerging women scientists. Having my research work recognised by the Loreal-UNESCO Foundation has boosted my confidence and motivated me to continue conducting research that is centred around addressing health inequalities, especially among vulnerable groups such as Black South African women”, she says.

She explains that social vulnerability refers to the attributes of society (e.g., employment status, years of schooling, household asset score) that make people and places susceptible to natural disasters, adverse health outcomes, and social inequalities. Social vulnerability is assessed using several tools including the social vulnerability index (SVI), which was developed by the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to identify individuals and communities' susceptibility to environmental disasters. Although the SVI was intended for disaster management, researchers have adopted the SVI to describe social vulnerability to other public health threats, including the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity, and non-communicable disease (NCDs). Majority of this research has been conducted in high-income countries, and yet is lacking in countries with high social vulnerabilities such as South Africa (SA).

SA is the most unequal country in the world, with Black South African women being the most socially vulnerable group. Black South African women are vulnerable to poverty and food insecurity, which in turn increase susceptibility to intimate-partner and gender-based violence, higher risk for HIV infection, and NCDs, with the latter being the focus of her study.

She explains that, like many other low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), SA has seen an alarming increase in the prevalence of NCDs. Regrettably, NCDs are the leading causes of death in LMICs. This is the case in SA, where six out of ten leading causes of death in 2016 were NCDs, including diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases (e.g., stroke and heart diseases). Compared to men, NCD-related deaths are higher in South African women. She believes she will be first to investigate the relationship between social vulnerability and biological markers (e.g., glucose, insulin, blood pressure) implicated in the development of NCDs in an African population.

“I am hoping that the results from my research will advance our understanding about the role of social vulnerability in the development of NCDs in Black South African women. I am also anticipating that this knowledge might be used by policymakers and relevant stakeholders to develop evidence-based policies to prevent NCDs and invest in intervention strategies that promote optimal health, development, and lifetime wellbeing in Black South African women,” she explains.

UNIT FOR UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Blessings of a Sabbatical (1st April to 30th September 2022) by Dr Mantoa Mokhachane

I am very grateful for the time afforded to go on sabbatical this year. I have had an amazing time. I was fortunate enough for my research paper titled ‘Rethinking Professional Identity Formation amidst protests and social upheaval: A journey in Africa’, to be one of the forty papers accepted for a paper presentation session at the Association of Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) conference. This paper was subsequently awarded a prize as one of the top ten research papers presented at the conference. The paper has recently been published in *Advances in Health Sciences Education (AHSE)* journal and you can download the article using this link <https://rdcu.be/cYqID>. This was my first in-person AMEE presentation.

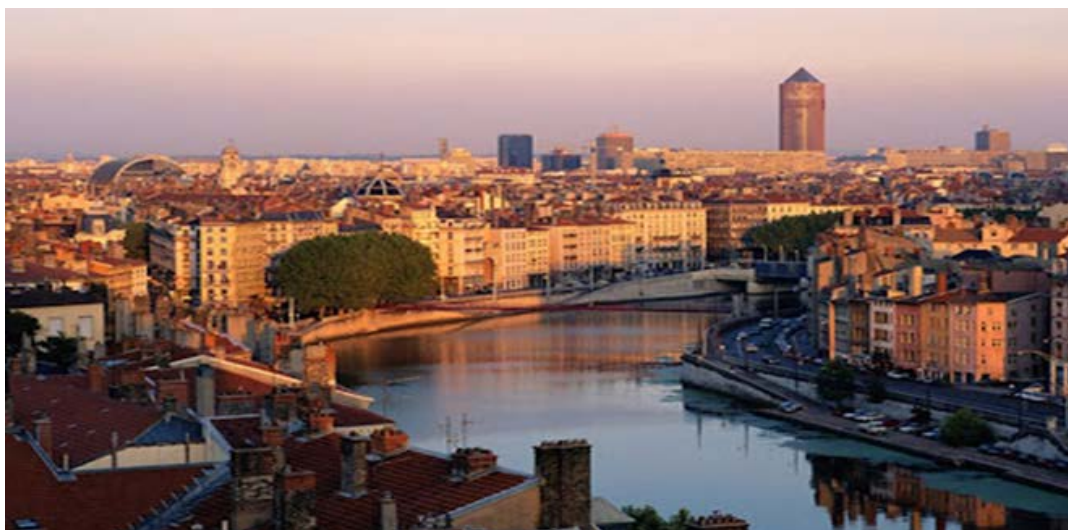


It was a hybrid conference which took place from the 27-31 August 2022 at Lyon, France with the motto 'Redefining Health Professions Education Together'. There were very interesting presentations and discussions, and it was difficult to choose which one to attend and which ones not to attend.

In the picture below is the authorial team behind me, Prof. Lionel Green-Thompson (who encouraged me to register for a PhD when I joined academia), Dr Ann George (an extremely supportive local supervisor), Professor Ayelet Kuper (whom I met when visiting the Wilson Centre, Canada in 2018) and Professor Tasha Wyatt from the United States of America, who recently joined the team. This picture was taken after a working dinner, where had a scrumptuous meal while discussing the submission of the second paper for publication. Ayelet's daughter joined us for dinner and made feel at home as a paediatrician.



Lyon (see the picture below) is a beautiful city in France's Auvergne- Rhône-Alpes region at the junction of Rhône and Saône rivers. It is a writer's paradise, like most beautiful cities in the world, it has a river running through it.



The conference was held at the majestic Lyon Convention Centre, which is sandwiched

between the park, Parc de la Tête d'or, and the Rhône River. Walking to the venue, for those who could, was a therapeutic moment.



The venue had a myriad of eateries that served delicious food and the Lebanese restaurant was the best for me and the picture below can attest to that.



I think there were more than 2 000 delegates at the conference from all over the globe. I learnt, I made friends, and I grew during the interactions in this conference.



Next year AMEE will be in Glasgow, Scotland from the 26-30 August and I do not intend missing this one.

I would like to thank the Head of School, Prof. Ballot, Mr Charles Gilbert, the HR Manager and the UUME Team for affording me an opportunity to go on sabbatical.

Ke a leboha (Thank you).



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THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTERS AND EVERYONE INVOLVED!

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LtoR: Prof Martin, Smith, Dr Terence Carter (Invited Guest Speaker),
Prof Lawrence Chauke & Prof Willy Vangu
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Prof Bonang Mohale (Invited Guest speaker) & Prof Willy Vangu
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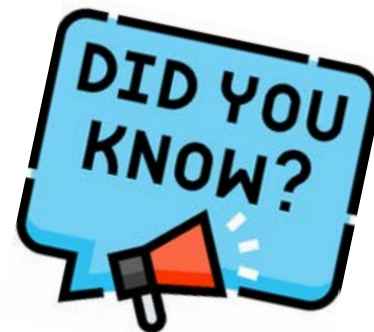


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Prof Pravin Manga (Editor)



SUBMISSION OF CONTENT

The newsletter will be published bimonthly and we welcome all content, staff (academic & professional) achievements, profiles, and student events and achievements. Photos are always welcome. Should you wish to submit any content for publication, kindly send it to: Rita.Kruger@wits.ac.za by 30 January 2023. Walala Wasala!

*(Please note that due to space restrictions content may be edited)

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