



# SCHOOL OF Clinical Medicine NEWSLETTER

## EDITORIAL



Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2019. I hope this will be a happy and successful year for everyone. Safety of students and staff is a priority.

Please be sensible about cell-phones and valuables. MySOS SA is a free app which links in to Wits Campus Protection Services: <https://www.wits.ac.za/mywits/mysos/>

In this issue, we share the success of many colleagues and also introduce you to WISH (Wits Institute of Sports & Health).

There is also an update on the Mandela Castro Collaboration Students.

The School of Mining started teaching Anatomy in 1919 so we are celebrating 100 Years of Teaching in the Faculty of Health Sciences. Please look out for various events commemorating this.

Happy reading!

Please send items that you would like to be included in our next newsletter to Rita Kruger ([rita.kruger@wits.ac.za](mailto:rita.kruger@wits.ac.za)) by : Friday 29 March 2019.

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## A LOOK AT OUR STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS:

We extend our congratulations to Prof Bernard Janse van Rensburg as the Assistant Head of School, Cluster B and Prof Ugasvaree Subramaney as Academic Head for the Department of Psychiatry.

### Promotions:

Prof Mags Beksinska to Research Professor

Dr Kebashni Thandrayen to Adjunct Professor

### Visiting and Honorary Staff:

We have the pleasure of welcoming the following Honorary and Visiting staff to our School:

Dr Hopewell Ntsinjana as Honorary Associate Professor  
Dr Pedro Pisa as Honorary Associate Professor  
Prof Eckhart Buchmann as Honorary Professor  
Ms Allysse Kowalski as Honorary Associate Researcher  
Dr Fatima Jeenah as Honorary

Lecturer  
Prof John Hasenkam as Visiting Professor

Dr Lefu Leshoele as Honorary Lecturer

(\*The above information is as of 31 January 2019. )

### Other Achievements:

Dr Jaclyn Jonosky (Urology Medical Officer at HJH Urology) received the Service Excellence award and certificate for the best medical officer at HJH (2018).

Dr Chris Christofides (Urology Registrar at HJH Urology) received the Service Excellence award and certificate for the best Registrar at HJH (2018).

Prof Ahmed Adam (Urology Consultant at HJH Urology) received the Service Excellence Award (1st Prize) for the best Head of Unit at the Helen Joseph Hospital (2018) - and an

accompanying floating trophy.

Dr Lawrence Chauke received a SAMA award for Outstanding Contributions to Obstetrics and Gynecology (SAMA Gauteng North—2018).

Dr Lawrence Chauke was a finalist in the Leadership Excellence Award by Clinix and South African Clinical Scientists Society Inaugural Health Care Excellence Awards— 2018.

Dr Yentl Van Heerden, Senior Registrar (Paediatric Surgery) attended the Colorectal Symposium in the Netherland in December 2018 and received the price for the best case report: 'Multi-modal therapy for HIV associated anogenital warts'.

### Faculty Awards 2018 Exceptional Service Awards

Dr Carol Hartman, Lecturer (UUME)

Ms

Cynthia Kwinika, Secretary Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Rahima Moosa Hospital  
Mr Andile Sithole the GEMP 1 and 2 Administrator (UUME)

### Long Service Awards:

#### 5 Years

Miss Shingirai Kagodora  
Miss Aviwe Mgobozi  
Mrs Andile Sithole



Left to Right: Prof Daynia Ballot and Mrs Andile Sithole

#### 10 Years

Dr Caroline Dickens

Miss Therese Dix-Peek  
Dr Carol Hartmann



Left to Right: Prof Daynia Ballot, Dr Caroline Dickens, Ms Jani Erasmus and Ms Therese Dix-Peek.

### 15 Years

Dr Amina Cassim  
Ms Johanna Erasmus  
Mrs Linda Malan

## A NEPHROLOGIST WITH A VISION FOR JUSTICE IN HEALTH CARE

By Wacango Kimani



Dr. Nolubabalo Unati Nqebelele

Dr Nqebele has been awarded a PhD in nephrology. She is the first black woman to earn a PhD in Internal medicine at Wits University.

She is a specialist in Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and has also been recognised as this year's recipient of the Ken Huddle Clinical Role model award.

With a heart for social justice in medical and health care, Nqebelele says physicians are not only about treating individual patients. "We also must pursue universal health care for everyone as a fundamental human right. The unacceptable inequalities in health care are a moral, political, social, and economic obligation of every doctor.

Her achievement is no small feat. Nephrologists holding PhDs in South Africa are a select group of fewer than 10 physicians.

Nqebelele follows in the footsteps of other medical women firsts at Wits, including

legendary Wits alumnae Dr. Mary Susan Malahlela and recently elected Chancellor, Dr. Judy Dlamini.

While she is proud of her achievement, Nqebelele wonders why it has taken so long for women at Wits. "There have been many women before me who could have achieved the same qualification. Women doctors face social pressures and professional prejudices on their path to becoming specialists," she says.

She knows for sure that one way to boost the number of women doctors moving beyond their first degree into specialisations is through mentoring. "Even though it is not easy to be what you haven't already seen, a mentor's encouragement makes a big difference. Because women are traditionally encouraged to pursue non-science careers, when one person stands out, that inspires others. Even though the road is tough with barriers and hurdles, winning against many odds inspires others to dream; to have limitless ambition," says Nqebelele.

Nqebelele is grateful for the support and encouragement from her mentor, Emeritus Professor Saraladevi Naicker in the School of Clinical Medicine, under whose guidance and support she realised the importance of mentorship. From her own experience, and recognising the value of mentorship, she is a host mentor for the International Society of Nephrology's Fellowship programme, whose goal is to provide relevant nephrology training to specialist physicians from countries in the global South.

She has mentored doctors from Uganda, Mozambique, and Nigeria who successfully completed their studies and have become Fellows of the International Society of Nephrology.

Kindly refer to the following link for the full news letter article: [https://www.wits.ac.za/news/latest-news/our-people/2018/2018-11/a-nephrologist-with-a-vision-for-](https://www.wits.ac.za/news/latest-news/our-people/2018/2018-11/a-nephrologist-with-a-vision-for-justice-in-health-care.html)

[justice-in-health-care.html](https://www.wits.ac.za/news/latest-news/our-people/2018/2018-11/a-nephrologist-with-a-vision-for-justice-in-health-care.html)

## NRF NEW AND RE-RATED SCIENTISTS 2018

Prof Glenda Gray, Clinical Medicine: Perinatal HIV—Rating A1

Dr Ans Baeyens, Clinical Medicine—Rating C2

Dr Oluwafemi Adeagbo, Clinical Medicine: Perinatal HIV—Rating Y2

## GRADUATION NEWS



Four students from the Hepatitis Virus Diversity Research Unit (HVDRU) in the Department of Internal Medicine, School of Clinical Medicine, directed by Prof. Anna Kramvis (currently on Sabbatical leave), graduated on Friday, 07 December, 2018.

From left to right, with each of their co-supervisors, are the three MScMed graduates, Mr Khudani Nekhwevha, Dr Trevor Graham Bell, Ms Trodia Zitha, Dr Alice Chen, Mr Daniel Simelane and Dr Aurelie Deroubaix. Karl Allies, also supervised by Dr Deroubaix, was awarded his BSc (Hons) degree. A proud and rewarding moment for all!

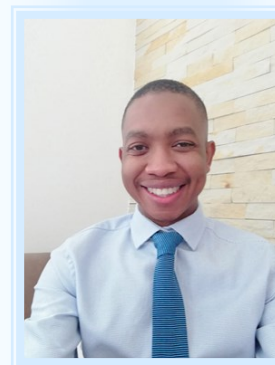
## THE DIVISION OF CARDIOLOGY CELEBRATES TWO NEW QUALIFIED CARDIOLOGISTS

South Africa, and indeed sub-Saharan Africa are facing an emerging epidemic of non-communicable diseases, led by cardiovascular disease. Never before has there been a greater need to have more cardiologists to serve our population of 55 million citizens.

With this great unmet need in mind, the Division of Cardiology would like to recognise and honour our Dr Robert Leibbrandt

and Dr Mmuso Mogwera for completing their training in the division and successfully acquiring their certification in cardiology from the college of physicians in the CMSA.

There are less than 200 practicing cardiologists in South Africa, and we are proud to have added two more specialists to this number.

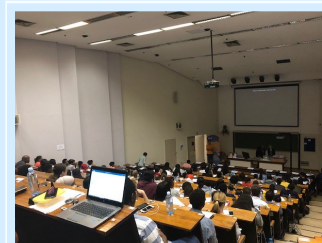


Dr Mmuso Kgosi Mogwera



Dr Robert Mark Leibbrandt

## GAUTENG NEONATAL CLINICIAN'S FORUM SYMPOSIUM



The first Gauteng Neonatal Symposium was held on 26 January 2019 at Wits Medical School.

Medical School Officers, Paediatricians, Neonatologists and Nurses gathered to learn about the latest topics in neonatal care.

Invited speakers were from all three Gauteng Universities –Wits University, University of Pretoria and Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University .



From Left to Right:  
Prof Ballot, Dr Chirwa, Dr Masemola and Dr Naidoo

**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES GRANTED A WISH**



Despite many pharmacological and surgical advances, exercise as an intervention remains the most powerful tool in disease prevention and intervention and sport is one of the most formidable means of building social cohesion.

Yet one of the areas that the Wits Faculty of Health Sciences has not fully explored is that of sports medicine and exercise science.

Johannesburg has a flourishing sports medicine fraternity with a number of acclaimed referral centres and pockets of excellence in sports injury management, rehabilitation and orthopaedics but little in terms of a cohesive network and academic training programmes.

The Deanery recently approved a proposal for the establishment of the Wits Institute for Sport and Health

(WISH). The concept proposes to coordinate sports and exercise medicine (SEM) service delivery around Johannesburg and on the Wits campus, establish postgraduate academic programmes in SEM and boost research in areas related to exercise.

**The 3 pillars of WISH are:**

*Clinical service delivery*

A university “Sports Hub” situated on the Education campus and comprising a sports medicine clinic, chronic disease rehabilitation and peak performance training gym.

A network of high quality, multi-disciplinary specialised units will integrate faculty-based expertise and some of the expert services available in the private sector. In addition, a Sports Casualty will offer emergency care for sports injuries after hours and on the weekend.

Centres of Recognised Excellence (“CORE” units) will be accredited by the institute as specialised referral centres which will also form part of postgraduate training rotations.

Collaborative Networks of Excellence (“CONES”) will be multidisciplinary networks focusing on specific areas (e.g. knee, tendons, concussion etc.) that will link regional experts with international

colleagues who will offer input on clinical cases, academic issues and collaborative research.

*Academic programmes*

The main focus of the programmes will be a specialist training programme (MMed and Fellowship) in SEM and the integration of Sports Physiotherapy into a Postgraduate Diploma and MSc programmes. In addition, it is hoped that PhD studies in exercise science and master’s degrees in biokinetics will be supported and that exercise medicine will infiltrate the undergraduate medical and physiotherapy curricula.

*Research*

WISH aims to not only encourage research in each area of its clinical network but also to promote research into the role of exercise in a host of medical conditions. To this end collaboration with each of the faculty’s schools will be driven by the WISH leadership.

A Management Committee with Prof Hellen Myezwa as Chair has been established and Directors of the Clinical Services (Dr Brad Gelbart), Academic (Prof Demetri Constantinou) and Research (Prof Benita Olivier) pillars have been appointed.

Strong relationships are being forged with Wits Sports so that WISH can ultimately provide

acute and rehabilitative sports medicine care to a range of university teams while using students as research subjects.

The Wits Health Consortium is building a business case for WISH that aims to make the institute self-sustainable.

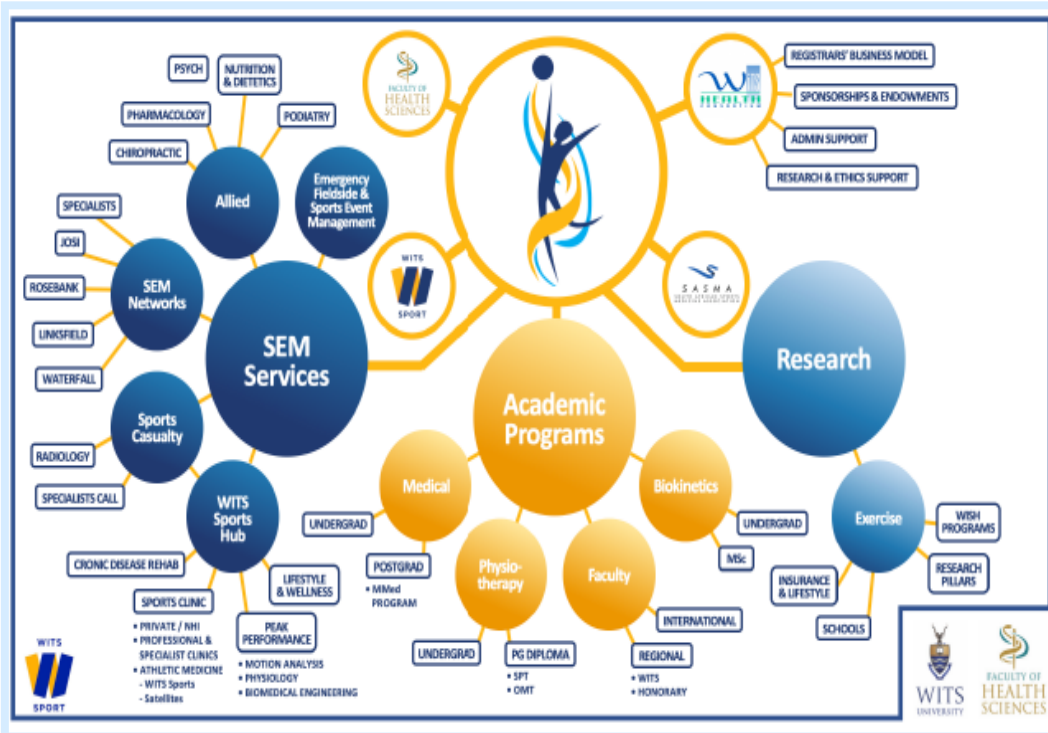
From a clinical and research perspective, the integration of exercise medicine into each of the faculty’s schools and departments will be encouraged.

A meeting of all stakeholders and interested parties will be held soon and WISH officially launched later in the year with the first training programmes scheduled to start in 2020.

WISH and Wits Sport are co-hosting a sports performance conference on the campus from 5-6 June 2019 with a number of multidisciplinary panels and sessions dedicated to sports concussion, tennis injuries and golf rehabilitation.

The WISH concept is an exciting addition to the offering of the faculty and the university that aims to further enhance the faculty’s standing by integrating pockets of excellence in private and academic medicine into a cohesive clinical, academic and research network.

Jon Patricios  
Director of WISH  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Health Sciences



## HEALTH SCIENCE WSSS



Top: from left to right, Ruvimbo Chiswo (Outreach Executive); Cassandra Mbanje (President); Kelsey Hills (Vice-President)

Bottom: from left to right, Connor Mercer (Events & Sponsorship Executive); Karabo Ramathoka (Social Media & Sponsorship Executive); Jayden Gelman (Skills Executive)

The Wits Students' Surgical Society has been a leading Undergraduate Student Society since its formation in 2010 and functions as a subcommittee of the Medical Students' Council at the University of the Witwatersrand. Through the support of both the Departments of Surgery and the Faculty of Health Sciences in its entirety, we've been able to offer events that not only provide information on different fields of surgery, but also give insight into the life of a surgeon. Furthermore, we provide workshops that teach basic surgical skills to our members at a very small cost.

Ultimately, our society was formed out of a love and curiosity for surgery as a medical specialty. Therefore, we like to view ourselves as a bridge between surgeons and students and, as such, strongly believe that any and every student who shares our passion for this field should be provided the opportunity to network with surgeons and like-minded students without a membership fee.

Lastly, we've come a long way since our formation with regards to the events that we offer. In fact, this year we have been given the honour of host-

ing the 2019 Southern African Students' Surgical Society Conference here, at Wits.

To learn more about who we are as a society, what we do as well as for more information on the above-mentioned conference, please follow the social media links below:

Website: [wsss.health.wits.ac.za](http://wsss.health.wits.ac.za)  
 Facebook: Wits Students' Surgical Society  
 Instagram: @witssurgsoc  
 Twitter: @WitsSurgicalSoc

### WITS RHI TO LAUNCH THE FIRST HPV VACCINE IMPACT EVALUATION PROJECT IN AFRICA

Wits RHI is the successful recipient of two awards from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia for over the next five years.

These will fund a study to evaluate the impact of 2-dose and 1-dose human papillomavirus vaccination schedules on community level HPV prevalence in South African adolescent girls. Cervical cancer is caused by human papillomavirus (HPV)1 and is the leading cancer among women aged 15–44. In 2014, the National Department of Health introduced HPV vaccination as a central strategy for cervical cancer prevention in South Africa.

The current vaccine schedule requires administration of two doses. However there are a number of barriers to the administration of the second dose in particular, and there is growing interest in the potential of a single dose of HPV vaccine to provide enough protection.

The results of this study will have important implications for future programming; if a single dose is as effective as two doses in preventing HPV infection this may translate into increased cost savings and im-

proved vaccine coverage which ultimately lead to better cervical cancer prevention and control.

In February and March 2019, the research team will conduct an HPV vaccine catch up campaign using a single dose of HPV vaccine in a population of adolescent girls in Grade 10 in Lejweleputswa District of the Free State, who would have been too old to receive the vaccine in 2014 when it was introduced.

To evaluate the impact of the HPV vaccine in reducing HPV infection, the team will establish a network of eight sentinel surveillance sites. These will include five primary health care clinics in Lejweleputswa and three others in Gauteng, Mpumalanga and North West provinces. The team will conduct a series of HPV prevalence surveys in 2019, 2021 and 2023 in these clinics among women aged 17-18 years attending family planning services. Through these repeated surveys, the team will measure changes in the prevalence of HPV infection in age cohorts that were not eligible for vaccination compared to those that were, and received either one or two doses of vaccine. The project is led by Professor Sinead Delany-Moretlwe. The final study results are anticipated in the first quarter of 2024.

#### About Wits RHI:

The Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (Wits RHI) is a leading African research institute focusing on HIV, sexual and reproductive health and vaccine preventable diseases. It is the largest research institute of the University of the Witwatersrand and has contributed to health policies in South Africa. It is also a Medical Research Council-collaborating centre, a World Health Organization-collaborating centre, as well as a United Nations Popula-

tion Fund strategic partner.

#### Media Contacts

##### Wits RHI:

Dr Admire Chikandiwa,  
[achikandiwa@wrhi.ac.za](mailto:achikandiwa@wrhi.ac.za) Tel: 011 358 5856 Prof  
 Sinead Delany-Moretlwe,  
[sdelany@wrhi.ac.za](mailto:sdelany@wrhi.ac.za) Tel: 011 358 5414 1. Bosch FX,  
 Burchell AN, Schiffman M, et al. Epidemiology and natural history of human papillomavirus infections and type-specific implications in cervical neoplasia. *Vaccine* 2008;26 Suppl 10:K1-16. doi: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2008.05.064

2. Olorunfemi G, Ndlovu N, Masukume G, et al. Temporal trends in the epidemiology of cervical cancer in South Africa (1994-2012). *Int J Cancer* 2018 doi: 10.1002/ijc.31610

### EXCITING NEWS FROM THE SIMULATION LAB ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> (AREA 4B20) FLOOR OF MEDICAL SCHOOL

We now have 4 paediatric manikins 'Advanced Mega Code kids' that can help educators implement advanced lifesaving skills and emergency skills including CPR, ACLS, trauma, first aid and child conditions in-hospital settings.

MegaCode Kid has a realistic airway for insertion of airway devices, defibrillation and pacing capabilities, allows drug administration and intraosseous infusion to help teach the critical skills for managing



paediatric emergencies.

We also have a high fidelity newborn simulator developed to meet the challenges of neonatal resuscitation and specialist care in real environments, true ventilator support, real patient monitoring.



The sim lab staff will assist you put together simulation scenarios that promote skills teaching, communication

skills and team work to achieve your students learning outcomes in a safe and learner centered environment.

Contact us to set up a simulation . Hilary Thurling and Kerry-Ann Singaram

011 7172548

### NELSON MANDELA FIDEL CASTRO (NMFC) COLLABORATION PROGRAM:

#### PHASE III: 2019

INFORMATION SHEET:  
COMMUNICATION NO. 7

#### Phase III:

The academic year kicked off on 14 January 2019, one week later than planned.

The major factor for the delay was due to unforeseen site-readiness complications and logistical issues.

After a monumental team effort from both Faculty and GDoH the program was up and running by mid-January.

The students were allocated to their designated departments and participated in clinical activities immediately. They were well received all-round and made to feel at home.

We have to commend the group on their professionalism and resilience for entering spaces not familiar with accommodating students.

Preliminary reports from clinicians on the ground have been very positive and the students are contributing to service delivery.

Reports from students have been equally encouraging.

#### New Additions to the NMFC Team

We would like to welcome five new members to our academic team:



Dr. Anastasia Ugwuanyi joins the Clinical Educators team. Originally from Nigeria, she has an extensive background in Family Medicine and an impressive academic portfolio. She has already established a good rapport with the students and will no doubt be a valuable asset to the program.



Mr. Neo Talenyane, a Clinical Psychologist specializing in Youth Development as well as health and wellness, will be involved in the wellbeing of Wits medical students. He is working in conjunction with the Office of Student Support.



Mr. George Makubalo is our Education Expert. He has a background in Academic Literacy Development, Teacher Education, as well as under and postgraduate teaching. He will be guiding our academic program with emphasis on Blended Learning and Research.



Mrs. Fikile Mafuya, a familiar face at Wits, has joined the program as Senior Administrator. Her experience and leadership skills have proven invaluable in her short time with us already.



Dr. Saber Mosam is a well-

established General Practitioner from Klerksdorp. In private practice since 1990, and with a special interest in Cardiology and Echocardiography, he brings a wealth of experience with him. He is no stranger to Tshepong Hospital where he has been actively involved in the Internal Medicine Department.

#### Work-Place-Based-Assessments (WBA)

Our academic model centers around WBA.

Faculty Development has and is underway introducing WBA's amongst clinicians in the periphery. Although apprehensive at first the tool is being adopted by all departments and proving to be a valuable assessment vehicle.

The Clinical Educators have been active on the ground at all sites helping with assessments and identifying and addressing strengths and weaknesses.

Relationships with the various departments are strengthening and the vision of an extended academic footprint is evolving faster than expected.

#### Reflection on the last few weeks

Block 1 is drawing to a close and the first round of formal assessments will commence in the first week of March.

Faculty has been approached to help with the setting of MCQ papers to ensure Wits standards. We will be approaching specialists from the local departments as well as Faculty to help oversee the individual assessments. If anyone would like to participate it will be greatly valued.

Thank you

Certain central departments have accepted the responsibility of training the NMFC students, notably Psychiatry.

A very big thank you for your participation and efforts.

At sites where both GEMP and NMFC students interact we are very happy to report amicable integration and comradery.



#### IMPORTANT MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER:

#### 2019 School of Clinical Medicine Town Hall meetings

Dear Students

You are invited to the following 2019 Townhall meetings with the Dean (Prof Veller), the Assistant Dean of Teaching and Learning (Prof Judith Bruce) and Head of School for Clinical Medicine (Prof Daynia Ballot) as part of the Faculty's ongoing commitment to facilitating communication with students:

Date: \*17 April 2019  
Time: 13h00  
Venue: Lecture Theatre 3, 5th Floor, Medical School

Date: 2 October 2019  
Time: 13h00  
Venue: Lecture Theatre 3, 5th Floor, Medical School

Please send any issues you wish to be discussed to Rita Kruger at [Rita.Kruger@wits.ac.za](mailto:Rita.Kruger@wits.ac.za) at least five days before each meeting.

\*New date

#### 2019 1st Semester School Meetings

##### Head of Departments

12 March 2019  
9 April 2019  
7 May 2019  
11 June 2019  
\*Starts at 15:00 in the PPS Boardroom

##### HR & Finance Committee

27 March 2019  
17 April 2019  
15 May 2019  
19 June 2019  
\*Starts at 10:30 in the PPS Boardroom

##### Executive Committee

27 March 2019  
15 May 2019  
\*Starts at 13:00 in the PPS Boardroom

A WONDERFUL 2019 TO ALL  
OUR READERS!

UNIT OF UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION GEMP 1 BRAAI

On 11 January 2019, we celebrated the spirit of UBUNTU with the GEMP 1 class. The intention of this braai was to allow students to meet and greet their peers under relaxed conditions. This class has students that started in MBBCh 1 and the graduates who joined them this year. It is important for them to realise that although they come from different streams, together they are a very strong team and that they are one family. They need to know that each one of them bring light and strength into this new big family. We encourage them to be there for one another, to elevate and support each other and to know that, as the Unit of Undergraduate Medical Education, we are there to assist them in reaching their highest potential.



*Prof. Schoeman, Ms Sithole and the braai masters*



*Sharing a meal*



*Getting to know one another*

The MSC and senior students were also there to welcome the new GEMP 1 Family. We are looking forward to a peaceful, successful year. Siya phambili! All the best to our students.

Dr Mantoa Mokhachane

MFC



*Students and UUME teachers celebrating Ubuntu*



## EVENTS &amp; ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics in the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, invites you to the 2019 Ethics Alive Imbizo entitled:

## QUALITY HEALTH CARE in South Africa: Ethics, Responsibility, Accountability

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**Professor Laetitia Rispel**  
DST/NRF Chair and Professor of Public Health, Centre for Health Policy, School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand

**RESPONDENT**  
**Mr Mark Heywood**  
Executive Director, Section 27

**PANELISTS**



- Ms Siyanda Giba - Chairperson, Wits Students' Bioethics Society
- Mr Russel Rensburg - Programme Manager, Rural Health Advocacy Project
- Dr Rajesh Patel - Head of Benefit and Risk, Board of Healthcare Funders

**Date:** Thursday, 14 March 2019  
**Time:** 18h00  
**Venue:** Public Health Auditorium, Wits Education Campus, Parktown

Ethics CPD: 2

**RSVP:** Samkelo.Nsibandane@wits.ac.za

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND JOHANNESBURG | FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES | Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics

Celebrating 100 years of "teaching" at Wits with  
Professor Abass Alavi lecture on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

*Abass Alavi currently holds appointments as Professor and Director of Research Education in the Department of Radiology, Perelman School of Medicine, of the University of Pennsylvania and Professor, Head of Research & International Relations, Dept. of Nuclear Medicine, Odense University Hospital, Dept. of Clinical Research, University of Southern Denmark.*

**Title:** "Evolving role of PET in the management of infectious and inflammatory disorders".  
**Time:** 8h00 am

**Venue:** Neurosciences Lecture Room, Area 458, CM Johannesburg Academic hospital

Professor Abass Alavi, A giant in Nuclear Medicine, will be a guest at the department of Nuclear Medicine for a week (1-5 April 2019) of teaching and collaboration organized by Prof Wily Vangu.


Prof Alavi is a master of modern molecular imaging with a sharp focus on F-FDG PET to the benefit of millions of people around the world. He trained in internal medicine, hematology and oncology but turned to radiology and nuclear medicine in a search for new knowledge and better methods to benefit patients and society.

Abass Alavi had no plans of retirement and continued his professional career when he turned 80 on March 15, 2018 after 46 years in nuclear medicine at the University of Pennsylvania that resulted to a large and admirable network of students and colleagues across all five continents.

His scientific work continues to grow and his "multinational scientific family" steadily increases all over the world as does the application of PET in the shape of PET/CT or PET/MRI. His contributions to the scientific literature has more than doubled within the last decade making him one of the most cited researchers at the University of Pennsylvania with a production of more than 1,200 articles, a similar number of published abstracts and close to 58,000 citations according to Google Scholar, of which about 20,000 since 2012 when he was 74.

He was a pioneer in using iodine-123 in thyroid cancer, MIBG in pheochromocytoma, radiolabeled white blood cells in infection and F18-FDG PET for the demonstration of recurrent brain tumors.

Prof Alavi is a recipient of multiple awards and personifies the polymath, a species rarely found today. He discusses and produces science in diverse areas as brain, cardiovascular, and musculoskeletal diseases, inflammation, cancer and many more disorders that plague humanity, and he has a clear eye to make results clinically useful.



Wits Students' Bioethics Society




## ESSAY & ART COMPETITION!

### Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics


**Topic: "The Crisis within the South African Health System."**

*Listen Up, Friends!*

- Write an essay on the crisis within the South African healthcare system *OR* Present a piece of artwork in any form on the same topic (**no videos**).
- Closing date: **07 March 2019, 23:59**
- Got questions? Ask Siyanda -> [siyandagiba@gmail.com](mailto:siyandagiba@gmail.com)
- For more details visit our social media:

 @wits\_bioethics  Wits Students' Bioethics Society  @BioethicsSoc

**1<sup>ST</sup> Prize Essay – R 5000.00 ||| 1<sup>ST</sup> Prize Artwork – R 1000.00**




Thyrotropin alfa for injection

## Save The Date



**Thyroid Cancer Workshop**  
in collaboration with  
Charlotte Maseke Nuclear Medicine Department

**Professor MDT Vangu**  
Saturday 6 April 2019  
Sandton

Invitations will follow soon

For more information please contact: Elana Webb at [elana.webb@sanofi.com](mailto:elana.webb@sanofi.com)

SANOFI GENZYME 

0224 7916 19 81 8112

## 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](mailto:Rita.Kruger@wits.ac.za) (Please note that due to space restrictions content may be edited)