

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

Editorial



Prof Daynia Ballot
Head of School

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you, both staff and students, to our first bi-monthly School of Clinical Medicine newsletter.

We live and work in stressful and fast moving times, where it is often difficult to feel a sense of belonging.

Our School is the largest of seven schools in the Faculty of Health Sciences and is spread over several large teaching hospitals which are geographically far apart.

It is therefore difficult to get to know one another. The newsletter provides a forum for sharing School information with colleagues.

Please send items that you would like to be included to: Hilda Potgieter (hilda.potgieter@wits.ac.za).

May I encourage you all to use our new School logo on all letterheads, business cards and other communication.

Congratulations to all those who are featured for their achievements. Enjoy reading.

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Submission of Content:

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:

Hilda.potgieter@wits.ac.za

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

A look at our staff achievements

Academic Headship Appointments:

We extend our congratulations to the following two staff members for being appointed as Academic Heads:

- Dr Nimmisha Govind (Rheumatology)
- Dr Michelle Wong (Pulmonology)

Promotions:

We wish to congratulate the following staff members for their academic promotions:

- Dr Sarah Rayne to Assoc. Professor

- Dr Myint Tun to Senior Clinical Lecturer

Long Service Awards:

It is also with great pleasure that we recognize and thank the following individuals for their long service achievements in the School:

- Dr Loredana Bocchino (10 years)
- Mr Max Maake (5 years)
- Ms Minkie Kente (5 years)
- Ms Nosipho Ludick (5 years)
- Ms Ildi Wainer (5 years)

Visiting and Honorary Staff:

We have the pleasure of

welcoming the following Honorary and Visiting staff to our School:

- Dr Harriet Etheredge
- Assoc. Prof Victor Davies
- Prof Claire van Deventer
- Prof Mohammed Tikly
- Prof Trevor Carmichael
- Dr Anthony Becker
- Dr Mandy Toubkin
- Dr Tamara Stephens
- Dr Priya Ambaram
- Dr Cecil Levy
- Dr Jo-An Epstein
- Prof Kenneth Huddle
- Prof Keith Bolton

(*The above information is as of 28 March 2018.)

Other Achievements:

Prof Kevin Behrens was appointed to the Clinical Expert Advisory Panel of the Council for Medical Schemes as an expert bioethicist from 19 March 2018 to 18 March 2021. He was also elected to the EXCO of ASAWU (Academic Staff Association of Wits University) for 2018 -2019.

Prof Ames Dhai was appointed as the Chairperson of the University Forum and was appointed onto the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO after being nominated by the Department of Science and Technology.

Most Cited Researcher in the Faculty of Health Sciences



Professor Pravin Manga

Professor Pravin Manga qualified at WITS. He was granted a fellowship position in Cardiology at Tulane University in the United States where he completed his Cardiology training.

With his passion for Interventional cardiology he pioneered the first program of balloon valvuloplasty for the treatment of Rheumatic mitral stenosis in the country. It became a major research interest and a focus of his PhD. He is well regarded internationally as an expert on this subject.

He was appointed Chief Specialist, Full Professor

and Academic head of Cardiology in the Department of Internal Medicine in 1995. He was subsequently appointed as Academic Head of the Department of Internal Medicine and was also appointed to the post of assistant head of the School of Clinical Medicine.

Currently he is supervising three PhD students and a number of MMed students. His major research interests include valvular and ischaemic heart disease and has published extensively in these areas. He currently serves as deputy editor of Journal of American College of Cardiology,

the number one rated cardiovascular journal in the world.

Professor Manga has been appointed as a Visiting Professor to the Faculty of Health Sciences. He is founder and Editor of the recently launched WITS Journal of Clinical Medicine and continues to teach and pursue research interests in the Division of Cardiology.

Faculty of Health Sciences Postgraduate Supervisor Award



Dr Deirdre Kruger

Dr Deirdré Kruger is a Molecular and Translational Research Scientist in Surgery and the MMed research coordinator in the Department of Surgery since June 2010.

Her undergraduate degree in Biochemistry was obtained from the University of Pretoria, whereas her postgraduate studies, including a PhD in Molecular Medicine and Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Education, were obtained from St. George's, University of London in the United Kingdom. Working at the intersection of biochemistry, molecular medicine and translational research in surgery, in particular in

patients with vascular disease or cancer, Dr Kruger applies integrative approaches to identify and investigate potential circulating biomarkers of disease.

Dr Kruger has twice been the recipient of the Bert Myburgh Scientific Prize at the multinational Surgical Research Society of Southern Africa conference in 2013 and 2016. She has also presented her work internationally at the European Society of Surgical Research in 2017, the International Vascular Biology Meeting in 2016 and the UK Society of Academic and Research Surgery in 2014. Over the last five years, she has

qualified nine postgraduate degree students, co-authored 13 postgraduate project publications and is currently supervising two PhD and 10 MMed students.

At the recent 2018 Wits Research Excellence Celebration, Dr Kruger was the recipient of the Supervision Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to postgraduate supervision in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

In her personal time, she loves spending time with family and friends, travelling, art and running. Her favourite job is being mom to her two children.

Ethics Alive Symposium 2018: “Justice, Equity and Health”

The Gauteng Mental Health Marathon Project (Life Esidimeni Tragedy) highlights the lack of access not only to clinical and technical resources but also to ethical practice and care for our patients. Equity considerations include the promise of our much anticipated NHI and whether or not progressive universalism will be a reality in light of the current context.

The 2018 Ethics Alive Symposium focused on Justice, Equity and Health. Guest speakers were: Mr Pravin Gordhan, former Finance Minister and current Minis-

ter for Public Enterprises; Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, Health Ombud of South Africa and Professor Elmi Muller, Head of General Surgery, University of Cape Town. Minister Gordhan tackled the question of Social Justice and Health in the broader context of South Africa. Professor Malegapuru Makgoba's presentation was a reflection on lessons learnt from the Life Esidimeni tragedy. Professor Elmi Muller focused on the issues of equity and justice in clinical setting in the context of current realities.



Left to Right: Prof. Tawana Kupe, Prof. Lionel Green-Thompson, Prof. Malegapuru Makgoba, Minister Pravin Gordhan, Prof. Elmi Muller and Prof. Ames Dhai

Returning Nelson Mandela Fidel Castro Collaboration Medical Students

In 1996 South Africa and Cuba entered a bilateral inter-governmental agreement named the Nelson Mandela Fidel Castro Collaboration (NMFC). The aim of this collaboration is to address the critical shortage of doctors in South Africa.

Undergraduate South African Students are sent for training in Cuba for five years after an initial year of Spanish tuition. Their final clinical year is done in South African medical schools. In July 2018 South

Africa welcomes back over 700 medical students for completion of their training. Wits University will receive 140 students this year and continue receiving students for the next four years.

In preparation of their arrival the University has broadened its training platform to include sites in the districts of Sedibeng, Ekurhuleni, West Rand, and Johannesburg Metro in Gauteng. The Dr. Kenneth Kaunda district in the North-West province will also be included. This allows for a

larger academic footprint in the provinces and strengthens ties between the University and the Department of Health. Academic Health Complexes (AHC) for each district will ensure training flexibility, alignment of training and service delivery, logistical management and academic support.

An Academic Governance Committee will oversee the integration of training and service delivery within each AHC. In the months preceding the arrival of the students intensive consulta-

tion and faculty development with take place.

A task team from Wits University is ensuring a comprehensive training program is in place to run parallel with the current medical curriculum, maintaining high quality Wits standards.

The curriculum will focus on ensuring that these students gain the appropriate clinical, procedural and communication related competencies readying them for their first day of internship. They are well schooled in primary health care principles from their Cuban experience and ready to be trained in the management of common case presentations in the South African context.

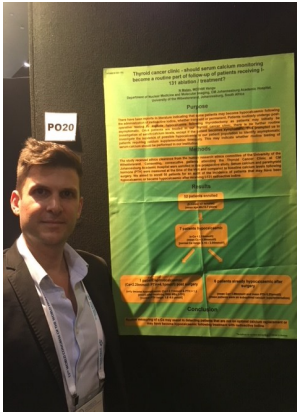
Wits University is proud to be involved in the NMFC collaboration and looks forward to training these returnees towards each student's successful graduation with a Cuban Medical Degree. The graduating doctors will enter the South African internship program and will greatly increase the number of medical practitioners in the country, filling a critical need for medical service delivery.

On 13 June there will be an open forum discussion to address any questions or concerns in the Marie Curie Lecture Theatre. More information to follow.



Dr Richard Cooke and students from the programme

12th Congress of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology



Dr Nico Malan

The 12th Congress of the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology was held in Melbourne, Australia taking place 20 - 24 April 2018.

This event only occurs every 4 years, and covers a wide series of subjects delivered

by prominent leaders in their field.

Around 2000 participants from over 75 countries attended. This was the largest Nuclear Medicine conference ever held in Australia.

WITS Nuclear Medicine was represented by 4 attendees, namely Prof Carlos Libhaber and Drs Nico Malan, Khushica Purbhoo and Lizette Louw.

Drs Malan, Purbhoo and Louw were invited to present their research at this prestigious event.

Dr Nico Malan presented a poster "Thyroid cancer clinic - should serum calcium monitoring become a routine part of follow-up of patients receiving I-131 ablation".

Dr Purbhoo presented a poster "Comparing planar to SPECT Ventilation-Perfusion (VQ) scintigraphy".

Dr Louw presented a poster "Impact of SPECT/CT in oncology- a selection of cases"

Important Meeting Dates

DATE	TIME	MEETING	VENUE
23/05/2018	10h30	Human Resources & Fi-	PPS Boardroom
29/05/2018	15H00	Heads of Departments	PPS Committee Room
18/06/2018	12h00	Cut-off for Staffing & Promotions Submissions	* See note below
20/06/2018	13h00	School Executive Commit-	PPS Boardroom
04/07/2018	14h30	Health Sciences Gradua-	Great Hall
10/07/2018	15h00	Heads of Departments	PPS Committee Room

*Note: Staffing and Promotions Submissions:

- 1) Applicants must submit their documents to their Head of Departments with all the required documents.
- 2) The HoD sends the application to the Head of School
- 3) The HoS send the application to HR. Refrain from sending the application direction to HR as it will delay the process.

Preserving Dignity in Later Life

On the 11th of April 2018, the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics hosted Professor Nancy Jecker from the University of Washington. She is a member of the WHO's Division on Ethics and Population Health project to develop an ethics framework for aging and

health. She presented a Faculty Lecture on Preserving Dignity in later life.



Prof. Nancy Jecker

"Students At Emotional Risk" Workshop

The Counselling and Careers Development Unit will be offering the "Students at Emotional Risk" Training Workshop , specifically for academic and support staff at Medical School.

This course is tailored to identify and deal with students who are facing emotional and psychological distress.

CCDU has agreed to offer the course at Medical School. It has been decided that the workshop will be held in two workshops, one for academic staff and one for support staff.

Each session can take a maximum of 15 participants.

The dates of sessions are as follows:

Academic Staff:

Monday 28 May 2018 from 08h00 to 15h30

Support Staff:

Thursday 05 July 2018 from 08h00 to 15h30

Should you be interested in attending this workshop please contact:

Hilda Potgieter

011 717 2038

Hilda.Potgieter@wits.ac.za

Researcher Spotlight: Associate Professor Lisa Micklesfield

Associate Professor Lisa Micklesfield is a Reader and Associate Director of the MRC/Wits Developmental Pathways for Health Research Unit (DPHRU) at the University of the Witwatersrand.

She holds an Honorary Associate Professor research position within the Division of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine at the University of Cape Town.

Her research expertise and interests include:

- (i) physical activity epidemiology and its association with body composition and metabolic disease outcomes;
- (ii) musculo-skeletal health at the various life stages;
- (iii) the role of physical ac-

tivity in interventions to reduce the risk and prevalence of non-communicable diseases.

She is currently an NRF C2-rated scientist and is the co-principal investigator on a South African MRC/Newton/GSK funded project entitled "Determinants of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) risk in middle-aged black South African men and women: dissecting the role of sex hormones, inflammation and glucocorticoids".

This 3 year study will measure changes in sex hormone levels over the menopause transition in women, and in men of the same age, and explore the effects on body fat distribution and insulin sensitivity and secretion, dissecting the specific roles of glucocorticoids and

inflammatory mediators, in the context of HIV.

Associate Professor Micklesfield will shortly be travelling to Copenhagen, Denmark, as part of the International Network Programme funded by the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education, to discuss future work looking at the role of foetal programming and HIV exposure on type 2 diabetes in black South Africans.

She is part of a new multidisciplinary international group of principal investigators within the Sub-Saharan African Musculo-skeletal Network (SAMSON) funded by the University of Bristol, who aim to submit successful global health funding applications around musculo-skeletal health in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Associate Professor Lisa Micklesfield

The African Paediatric Fellowship Programme (The APFP)

The African Paediatric Fellowship Programme (APFP) aims to develop paediatric specialists that are familiar with the needs of the African continent and its people.

There is a critical skills shortage at present of paediatric staff across the region and the APFP has undertaken to alleviate this shortfall.

The APFP began in 2008 at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Since then, two more African Universities have joined the training network: The University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and the University of Kwazulu-Natal.

Currently 33 institutions from 13 African countries make up the APFP partner network, who choose the candidates for the program and ensure that there are positions available to them upon completion.

The programme is adaptable to suit the needs of the country from where the fellows originate.

After returning home the fellows have shown to become leaders in child health services, training and research. For more information, visit: www.theapfp.org



Photo used with permission from APFP

Collaborations among stakeholders can help save more lives of mothers and children in Gauteng—MEC Dr Gwen Ramakgopa (Press Release)



MEC Dr G Ramakgopa

Innovative partnerships between key role-players in the Gauteng Province could help prevent loss of life of mothers and children - making more families happier and reducing the overall the socio-economic impact of preventable maternal and child ill health and deaths.

Addressing more than 200 delegates at the two-day Gauteng Health Summit which began on Friday 04 May, Gauteng Health MEC, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa, said “a collaborative synergistic approach - beginning from us gathered here from across policy, professional, academic, civil society and stakeholder platforms can save more mothers and children” also improving the overall quality of life of all Gauteng residents.

The Summit, among others, aimed to bring key stakeholders under one roof in a quest to find better and sustained solutions for the improvement of health of mothers and children in the province; something which Dr Ramokgopa believes was achieved as the delegates at the gathering ranged from Maternal

Health Practitioners, Health Systems Leaders, Clinical Specialists in Maternal and Child Health; the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), community representatives and advocacy groups on women and children.

The 2018/19 consultative Maternal Health Summit was held under the theme: “Commitment to Quality Health Services: Accelerating Service Delivery Improvement for Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health.”

Amongst others, the delegates used their wide-ranging expertise to explore innovative strategies, plans and protocols that could be adopted to harmonise and optimise impact on Maternal and Child Health in the province.

Discussions at the Summit included key enablers to achieve impact, models to be adopted to improve accountability for Maternal and Child Health Programmes and Services and improving clinical governance and mitigating risks.

Delegates also spoke about how best could collaborations with internal and external stakeholders help in accelerating access to quality of care for mothers and babies.

Whilst significant progress has been made over the past few years with the control of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, cen-

tral to this vision is the acknowledgement that Maternal and Child morbidity and mortality contribute to the huge burden of disease in our country and specifically in our province - referred to as the Quadruple Burden of Disease, said Dr Ramokgopa.

“Last year, we introduced limited ultrasound which enabled primary health care advanced midwives to identify problems early using ultrasound. We also have research which showed that this intervention has really assisted at the primary care level for early referral, which is a positive outcome for both mothers and children and expands the use of technology.”

“Together, we can work better to promote safe motherhood and safe childhood. Having made great progress over the past few years, our collective effort must result in a greater impact towards achieving our common goals.”

The Gauteng Health MEC added that she was “quite happy about the dedication and passion of the delegates. There is an acknowledgment that we must also do things differently. My greater wish is that the Summit will spearhead an organisational shift that will foster a culture that values and uses evidence for meaningful decision-making.”

The Summit has further enabled the Department to look at the health systems challenges, espe-

cially issues such as the shortage of staff.

Dr Ramokgopa also took time to pay a special tribute to the midwives as the last day of the Summit coincided with the International Midwife Day. “We are grateful for the contributions that midwives make to humankind. We are here to support you and commend you for the sterling work you do. We must ensure that there is a continued effort to remove any rogue element from your noble practice,” said the MEC.

Ramokgopa was adamant that the Summit will not become a talk shop, emphasising that the outputs the Summit must be translated into action plans with timeframes and responsibilities assigned to various role players so that by end of the first quarter of this current financial year officials could account on progress made.

The Organizing Committee for the Summit had wide representation: academic hospitals, clinical clusters, districts, public health and Gauteng Health. Dr Lawrence Chauke, Clinical HOD of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Assistant Head of School of Clinical Medicine (Cluster C) was the chair of the Summit and organizing committee.

International Society for Gynaecology & Endoscopy Conference 2018

The ISGE (International Society for Gynaecology & Endoscopy) in collaboration with AFSG (African Society for Gynaecologic Endoscopy) organized an international congress that took place in Yaoundé, Cameroon from the 23rd to the 27th of April 2018. The congress was attended by approximately 1 100 delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia and America.

Dr A. Chrysostomou, head of Urogynaecology at CMJAH, was an invited speaker in the above mentioned international congress, and was also in charge of a "Postgraduate Workshop in Vaginal Hysterectomy". During this workshop, he lectured and demonstrated a step-by-step the surgical technique of vaginal hysterectomy by performing live surgery.

The workshop was well attended and covered by the Cameroon Media (newspapers and national television).

During the workshop, Dr Chrysostomou stressed the importance of teaching this technique as the best minimally invasive way to perform a hysterectomy, especially in countries with limited resources.

His contribution to the above mentioned congress was considered as an outreach mission in promoting vaginal hysterectomy in Cameroon and other African countries. Dr Chrysostomou was assisted by Professor B. Goolab (SA) and Professor Ellis Downes (UK).

Dr Chrysostomou is an active, life-member of ISGE, and has served as a board

member from 2012 to 2016. At present he is the head of the "task force in vaginal hysterectomy of ISGE" which is responsible for writing the guidelines in

on the topic for the society as well as the step by step surgical technique of the procedure.



Conference venue where attendees viewed the live surgery

WITS/MRC Common Epithelial Cancer Research Centre

The WITS MRC Common Epithelial Cancer Research Centre has been making great strides in the four areas of research that are covered in by the Centre.

In the field of Breast Cancer, the team focuses on breast cancer treatment and outcomes in South Africa.

The team is led by Dr H Cubasch, Dr M Joffe, Prof R Duarte and Prof P Ruff. There are 5 PhD and 5 MSc students enrolled at present.

Thus far they have published 6 articles in peer-reviewed publications for 2017 and 2018. They have also presented 3 presentations and 2 posters at local and international confer-

ences.

The Colorectal Cancer team aims to document colorectal cancer incidence, diagnosis, treatment and outcomes, novel treatment strategies, biomarkers and signalling pathways.

6 Postdoctoral fellows are employed within the group which is led by Dr B Bebbington, Dr J Fabian, Prof S Weiss, Dr C Penn and Prof P Ruff. There have been 5 successful graduates at various levels.

Currently 1 MMed, 3 MSc and 2 PhD students are enrolled on the study. They have published 10 peer reviewed articles in 2017/18, delivered 24 oral and poster presentations at both local and international

conferences.

Under the supervision of Prof M Smith and Prof G Candy, the Pancreatic Cancer team identify clinical and molecular risk factors, screening methods and potential therapeutic options that will lay the foundation for future research.

1 PhD Student graduated has graduated and they have published 1 peer reviewed article published and presented 9 poster and oral presentations locally and internally.

Dr E. Singh is leading the group that is establishing a pilot population-based cancer registry in the Ekurhuleni district of Gauteng to evaluate cancer incidence data and to inform further re-

search and cancer policy interventions.

2 MSc students are enrolled at present. They have published 1 peer reviewed article in 2017/18 and have presented 4 oral and poster presentations thus far locally and internationally.



EVENTS

Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics Faculty Lecture

“Voices of Moral Authority: Parents, Paediatricians and What Will Actually Help”

By Professor Richard Hain

A number of recent high profile cases globally have highlighted two strong but contradictory views of who should make decisions about medical treatment at the end of a child's life. Some believe it is self-evidently the right of parents. Others consider the responsibility to be entirely that of the expert doctors. This talk will explore the origins of moral authority in decision making over children.

About Professor Hain:

Professor Richard Hain specialise in paediatric palliative medicine in 1984 while a medical student at Guy's Hospital (King's College London). After finishing his medical degree, he trained clinically in paediatrics, paediatric oncology and adult palliative medicine and also obtained a Master's and Doctoral degrees in the pharmacology of opioids in children. In 2000, he was appointed as Consultant and all-Wales Clinical Lead in Paediatric Palliative Medicine. He is based in the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital in Cardiff and see patients at home, on the ward, in outpatients, at school and at Ty Hafan children's hospice.

Date: Monday, 4 June 2018

Time: 13h00- 14h00

Venue: Marie Curie Lecture Theatre, Wits Medical School, Parktown

Ethics Points: 1

RSVP: Samkelo.Nsibande@wits.ac.za



UpToSpaed 6

22 – 24 June 2018

Venue:
WITS Medical School
York Road
Parktown

Sessions:

- Haematology/ Oncology
- Cardiology
- Community Paeds/ Stats
- Gastro & Transplants
- Neonates & Ethics
- Pulmonology
- Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital



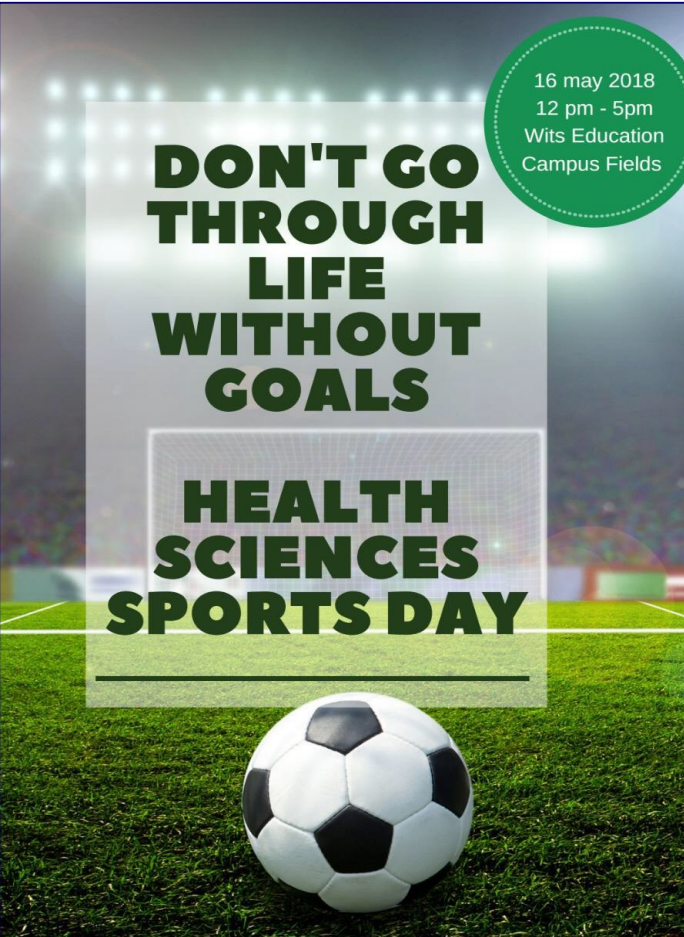
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16 May 2018
12 pm - 5pm
Wits Education
Campus Fields

DON'T GO THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT GOALS

HEALTH SCIENCES SPORTS DAY