

WITS SCHOOL OF CLINICAL MEDICINE NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND
JOHANNESBURG

SCHOOL OF
HEALTH SCIENCES

WITS
SCHOOL OF
CLINICAL
MEDICINE



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EDITORIAL

Dear Staff & Students

I hope you remain well and safe, as we come to the close of an extremely turbulent year.

Despite all the challenges, our School has successfully completed our Academic programs - MBChCh/GEMP, NMFC and BCMP in the Undergraduate degrees as well as our MMed and other Postgraduate degrees. A sincere thank you to every one of you who made this possible through your ongoing commitment to the School. We produce the largest number of interns and specialists annually in South Africa, so your dedication has a hugely positive impact on the health of our nation.

Once again, our staff and students have excelled. Congratulations to all of you - those who achieved academic promotions and those who completed degrees. You make us proud!

I wish all of you a peaceful holiday season and all the very best for the coming year.

Prof Daynia Ballot
Head of School





PROMOTIONS



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Dr Denise Evans with her promotion to Reader
Dr Palesa Motshabi with her promotion to Associate Professor
Dr Yael Kadish with her promotion to Adjunct Professor
Dr Ifongo Bombil with his promotion to Associate Professor
Dr Ismail Kalla with his promotion to Associate Professor
Dr Ruchika Meel with her promotion to Associate Professor
Dr Joel Francis with his promotion to Senior Researcher
Dr Boitumelo Phakathi with her promotion to Senior Lecturer

PROMOTION - READER DENISE EVANS

She is a Principal Researcher at the Health Economics and Epidemiology Research Office (HE2RO), a division of the Wits Health Consortium with more than 10 years of research experience in optimizing HIV, TB, and drug-resistant TB treatment outcomes. She also holds a joint appointment in the Department of Internal Medicine, School of Clinical Medicine at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand. She is currently the technical lead of HE2RO's TB Research area and the Senior HIV/TB Research Advisor for HE2RO's current five-year USAID award called EVIDENCE: Evaluations to Inform Decisions using Economics and Epidemiology. She holds a doctorate in Biomedical Technology from the University of Johannesburg and is an NRF C-rated scientist with over 100 publications.

Her research interests include interventions to improve ART adherence, low-cost monitoring of HIV in resource-limited settings (RLS), and evaluations and innovative approaches to improve outcomes, specifically among vulnerable populations such as children, adolescents, and young adults living in South Africa. For the past 5 years, she has been the co-PI on a SA-MRC and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded project for an intervention study to improve early childhood development and a sub-study to measure neurocognitive development in a sample of infants in Mopani District, Limpopo Province, South Africa. She is also the PI on a behavioral insights test designed to "nudge" community healthcare workers to improve TB preventative therapy uptake and completion among children under 5 years living in rural Limpopo, South Africa. Denise is the PI for the socio-economic sub-study of TB Sequel (<http://www.tbsequel.org/>), which aims to describe the social consequences of TB (including the impact of TB on health-related quality of life, psychological distress and stigma), the economic costs of TB to patients and their households before, during, and after treatment, and the costs incurred by the health system for treating TB. In addition to her research activities, she has supervised 19 Masters/MMed/MPH and 3 PhD students, and 1 post-doctoral student.



PROMOTION - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PALESA MOTSHABI



Associate Professor Palesa Motshabi is the Head of the Department of Anaesthesia at the School of Clinical Medicine, University of the Witwatersrand. She holds a PhD in Cardiac Anaesthesia from the University of the Witwatersrand.

She is the current President of the Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anaesthesia Society of Southern Africa (CASSA). She serves on the International Committee of the Society of Cardiovascular Anaesthesiologists (SCAIC) and is a member of the Regional Anaesthesia for Cardiothoracic Enhanced Recovery Special Interest Group (RACER SIG). She is the Founder of the CASSA Joint Perioperative Cardiothoracic and Vascular Congress. She is also the Chairperson of the upcoming 19th ICCVA - CASSA - JPC Congress to be held in 2023.

She is a recipient of the 2021 Female Academic Leadership Fellowship (FALF) at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Her research interests are in cardiac surgery-associated perioperative outcomes and paediatric surgery outcomes with publications in these areas. She has been invited as a speaker nationally and internationally in the field of cardiac anaesthesia and as a leader in the area.

She supervises research in the Department of Anaesthesiology at Masters and PhD level. She serves as the Chairperson of the CMJAH and Cluster Research. She is also a member of the Premier's Advisory Committee on COVID.

PROMOTION - ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Yael Kadish

Her first professional training is as a Clinical Psychologist at the University of the Witwatersrand. She has subsequently trained as a Psychoanalyst through the South African Psychoanalytic Association (SAPA) and the International Psychoanalytic Association (IPA). She is currently the only Psychoanalyst in South Africa who is also a Clinical Psychologist working in state and in the university setting.

She is the Principal Clinical Psychologist at the Tara H. Moross Academic Hospital, since 2018. Her role is both clinical and academic and includes participation at different levels of management, oversight, planning and provision of clinical services and research, multi-disciplinary collaboration, and the supervision, teaching and training of intern psychologists and psychiatry registrars in ward rounds, lectures, and in the academic space on the Wits training platform. She is a member of the Wits circuit Psychology committee for curriculum development and compliance with HPCSA training guidelines. The committee has a training program that keeps abreast of current research and mental healthcare trends and challenges. She has been instrumental in developing contextually responsive psychological interventions, for example in 2018, devising and leading the MDT team in a multi-disciplinary trauma debriefing intervention at Tara Hospital for family members of the Life Esidimeni tragedy.



Prior to her current role, she was a senior lecturer in the Department of Psychology at the Wits School of Human and Community Development (Faculty of Humanities) from 2011 to 2018. In this role she worked in the MA Clinical Psychology training team, as well as the PhD including publication programme. She has been involved in academic administration roles, such as course coordinator of the Honours in Psychology programme for several years, and the coordinator of the Seminars in Professional Psychotherapy (SPP) programme. She was a member of the SHCD Transformation committee. She has taught many courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and still teaches and supervises trainee psychologists in their clinical work. She supervises research at Masters and PHD levels.

She is a Faculty member of the South African Psychoanalytic Association (SAPA) and assists with training psychoanalytic candidates and psycho-therapists. She is the Chair of the South African Psychoanalytic Association's (SAPA) Membership Committee. She is also the co-chair of the South African Psychoanalytic Confederation's (SAPC) Ethics Advisory Committee.

Her research interests include clinical and theoretical topics. Her current project is on the topic of psychotherapeutic work with adult patients who were sexually abused in childhood. Her PHD (Wits) was in the area of eating disorders. It presents a new understanding of the etiology, conceptualisation and formulation and treatment of eating disordered patients based on comprehensive clinical case studies. She has six sole authored publications on eating disorders, five of which are published in peer reviewed international journals and one has been re-published in an international book on eating disorder treatment published by Routledge. She has published five other papers in accredited local and international journals as sole author or leading author, on the topics of cross-racial psychotherapy, psychosis in the family, Psychology and women's health, the ethics and techniques of online psychotherapy, and, the history of psychoanalytic psychotherapy in South Africa. She publishes and presents her research locally and Internationally.

Most recently in May 2021, she was a keynote speaker at the (online) Ukranian Conference on Virtual Psychotherapy in the time of Covid-19, and is working with the conference organisers to publish a book.

PROMOTION - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IFONGO BOMBIL



Associate Professor Ifongo Bombil was born on the 25th December 1966 in Kinshasa, the capital city of the Democratic Republic of Congo. He obtained his medical degree in September 1993 with distinction at the University of Kinshasa.

After completing his internship in June 1995 at Boksburg Benoni Hospital, he joined the senior house officer rotation in Johannesburg general hospital. Through Wits circuit, he obtained the fellowship of the College of Surgeons of South Africa in October 2003 and was appointed as Specialist Surgeon at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital ever since. From November 2011, he served as acting Head of the Department of Surgery for 16 months at Sebokeng hospital.

In 2013, he was appointed Clinical Head of Endocrine Surgical Unit at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, a position he occupies currently. Beside Endocrine Surgery, he has a special interest in upper GIT, soft tissue sarcoma, complex ventral hernia and minimal access surgery. He obtained the diploma of Laparoscopic Surgery from the University of Strasbourg in France in 2013 and he is a member of the European Institute of Telesurgery (EITS). The acquisition of laparoscopic skills has led him to change the practice of certain special procedures such as adrenalectomy, esophagectomy and thymectomy that are more rewarding through minimal access surgery.

In July and October 2015, he respectively obtained the Mastery of Surgery at the University of the Witwatersrand and the fellowship of the American College of Surgeons in Chicago, Illinois.

He currently serves as the alternate governor of the American College of Surgeons (South African chapter), the co-chair of the transformation committee of the School of Clinical Medicine and the chair of the Wits endocrine surgery group.

Teaching is his passion and besides his commitment to the undergraduate committee, he provides special support to the GEMP 3 and 4 students in the exam preparation.

He is a mentor, supervisor of MMED (Master of Medicine) and he is currently a PhD student at the University of the Witwatersrand. He is also actively involved in research and has published in local and international journals. He has been a speaker at national and international surgical congresses.

He is married to Andiswa Careen Bombil and has two daughters, Destinee and Immaculee.

PROMOTION - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ISMAIL KALLA

Professor Kalla is an Associate Professor in the Division of Pulmonology and the Division of Critical Care Medicine - Department of Internal Medicine in the School of Clinical Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS).

He is qualified with 5 degrees: MBBCh (WITS), FCP (SA), Certificate Pulmonology (SA), Certificate Critical Care (SA) and PhD (WITS). He is the Chair of the Undergraduate Teaching Committee, a senior member of the Post Graduate Committee and is the Chair of the Supernumerary Postgraduate portfolio for Internal Medicine.

Prof Kalla has received numerous awards during his career including the Jock Gear award for being 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, he was chosen as one of the first 10 recipients for the prestigious Discovery Fellowship award from over 2500 applicants. His research project resulted in him receiving the South African Thoracic Society (SATS) Astra-Zeneca Prize and the Allergy Society of South Africa (ALLSA) Glaxo Prize. He was also the recipient of the WITS Bobby Grieve research prize. On the completion of his PhD in Inflammatory Pathways in Asthma, he was awarded the prestigious T H Bothwell research prize - the premier research prize within the Department of Internal Medicine.



Prof Kalla has a reputable national and international standing in Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine. He has peer-reviewed manuscripts on behalf of multiple accredited national, as well as international journals including the British Medical Journal, and is a member of the editorial board of the African Journal of Thoracic and Critical Care Medicine. Prof. Kalla is an executive member of the scientific committee for the Southern African Thoracic Society (SATS), the Critical Care Society of South Africa (CCSSA) and the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine (WFSICCM). In addition to reviewing abstracts submitted to SATS, the Union World Conference on Lung Health, the CCSSA and the WFSICCM congresses, he has been the adjudicator for the best abstract presentation at SATS and WFISCCM. Prof Kalla is currently the chair of website management and Scholarships and Grants Portfolio for SATS and has previously been the Chair of the Physician Update committee for WITS as well as the Africa Health Internal Medicine Update Symposium. Prof Kalla has 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 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 has successfully been awarded several national and international research grants to fund various research and teaching projects. His other publications thus far have been related to the field of critical care medicine and infectious diseases regarding hemodynamic assessment, fluid resuscitation and various infections and their impact on critically ill patients.

Prof Kalla was chosen to represent the CMJAH ICU as part of the Vula program that provided intravenous artesunate to critically ill patients with severe malaria. This program was instrumental in the Department of Health (DOH) registering this life-saving therapy as part of the national health formulary. Currently, he is the Principal Investiga-

tor (PI) for several multinational collaborative studies in COVID patients including the WHO – Solidarity, REMAP-CAP, ACCCOS and RECOVERY trials. 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). Prof Kalla is currently supervising 6 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 45 peer-reviewed publications with more than 30 in the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) accredited journals. Prof Kalla's PhD was nominated for the most prestigious PhD award based on the strength of the reports from his examiners. In recognition for his various contributions to the Department of Internal Medicine, Professor Kalla was nominated and awarded the FJ Milne Teaching and Service Award for distinguished teaching in 2020.

PROMOTION - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RUCHIKA MEEL



Associate Professor Ruchika Meel is a General Cardiologist and Head of the Echocardiography laboratory at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital with an interest in clinical cardiology and cardiovascular imaging.

She has a passionate interest in research with to date 1 book publication, four book chapters and 31 original research articles and 50 congress presentations.

Her Masters of Medicine research dissertation was awarded cum laude, entitled: 'Time to fibrinolytics for acute myocardial infarction and reasons for delays at Steve Biko Academic Hospital, Pretoria'. Her PhD thesis was an investigation of myocardial mechanics in chronic rheumatic mitral regurgitation. She is currently involved in a research project entitled: 'HIV-associated ascending aortic aneurysms: clinical features and natural history'. She is currently supervising 7 MMED students and 5 cardiology fellows.

She is a member of the Cardiac Imaging Society of South Africa and has recently actively participated in providing cardiac imaging guidelines in patients with COVID-19. She is a Fellow of the European association of cardiovascular imaging. She has received multiple awards for conference presentations and was the recipient of Carnegie doctoral and post-doctoral awards and is part of the emerging clinician-scientist cohort in South Africa.

Most recently, she was awarded the prestigious TH Bothwell research prize in Internal Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand - School of Clinical Medicine annual awards ceremony.

PROMOTION - SENIOR RESEARCHER

DR JOEL FRANCIS



Dr Francis is an Epidemiologist, and Senior Researcher at the University of the Witwatersrand, School of Clinical Medicine, Department of Family Medicine, and Primary Care.

Prior to joining WITS, he worked as a research scientist with the National Institute for Medical Research in Tanzania and a research fellow with the Department of Global Health and Population at Harvard T.H.Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University.

He holds a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree (equivalent to MBBCh) from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and an MSc in Epidemiology from Harvard University, USA, and a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of London (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), UK.

He is involved with research supervision and mentorship of undergraduate, Master, and PhD candidates in Epidemiology, Family Medicine, and Public Health. His health research areas of interest: HIV, Alcohol and Other Drug Use, Mental Health, Implementation Science and Epidemiology (Surveys, Case-Control Studies, Cohort studies, Systematic review and meta-analysis, Cluster Randomized Trials, Randomized Control Trials).

He serves on the editorial boards of three BMC series journals (BMC- Public Health & BMC – Global Health Research and Policy, BMC -Infectious Diseases), the PLOS One journal, a statistical editor for the Health Policy and Planning Journal, an editorial advisor at the BMJ Open journal and the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.

In addition, he has been appointed to the Data Safety and Monitoring Board (DSMB) of two ongoing randomized trials in South Africa and Tanzania.

His an honorary lecturer at the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. And a member of the International AIDS Society.

Links:

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=OZDKpMcAAAAJ&hl=en>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/joelmfrancis/>

PROMOTION - SENIOR LECTURER DR BOITUMELO PHAKATHI



Dr Boitumelo Phakathi is a Specialist Surgeon, Clinical Head of Breast and Endocrine Surgical Unit at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital and the Senior Lecturer at the University of Witwatersrand, Faculty of Health Sciences. She obtained a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) in 2006 from the University of KwaZulu Natal. She further obtained her certificate from the Fellowship of the College of Surgeons (FCS), SA in 2014 and her Masters in Surgery from the University of Pretoria. She completed her PhD in Surgery through the University of Witwatersrand with the thesis titled: 'Intrinsic subtypes in HIV positive and negative patients with breast cancer. She has co-published several manuscripts around Breast Cancer and HIV and has presented her research findings at national and international conferences.

In 2017, she was awarded the Prof Bongani Mayosi Clinical Scholarship, previously known as Hamilton Naki Clinical Scholarship, to assist with the completion of laboratory work for her PhD. She also received the Margot Lachmann Travel grant in 2019. She further won the Scales Antrobus Research Prize at the 48th Surgical Research Society of Southern Africa (SRSSA) annual virtual conference in July 2021. She then won the 2nd best prize at the 2021 SOCM Biennial Research day and the prize for the best student presentation at the Department of Surgery Bert Myburgh Research Forum 2021. She was previously recognized among the 40 under 40 influential women by Destiny Magazine in 2015, among the 200 Young South Africans by Mail and Guardian in 2018 and won a 2nd runner-up award for an Emerging Leader, awarded by the South African Health Excellence Awards in 2019.

In 2018, she was appointed a Council member of the National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI) and she currently serves as the Chairperson of NACI Transformation Committee. In 2020, she was appointed as a Council member of the College of Surgeons, SA. She is the former Vice-president of the South African Clinician Scientists' Society (SACSS), the society which aims to advance clinical CARE through Translational research.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to the following staff:

Honorary Lecturer

Dr Gaontebale Matlhaga
Dr Shaakirah Moosa
Dr Popikana Maphalala



OTHER STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS



Prof Nasreen Mahomed

Prof Nasreen Mahomed Academic Head of Division of Radiology, University of Witwatersrand has been nominated and appointed as the Chair of the Academic Heads Committee of the Radiological Society of South Africa (RSSA) in November 2021. She will now also serve on the Executive Committee of the RSSA.

Well done Prof Mahomed!

Congratulations to the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital Paediatric Intensive Care Team, under the leadership of Prof Rudo Mathivha. They successfully qualified four paediatric intensivists during 2020 and 2021:

1. Dr Lucy Hindly
2. Dr Darren Calleemalay
3. Dr Sipho Dube
4. Dr Mashudu Mugeru (for George Mukhari)
5. Dr Marlize Reynders (DGMC)



Prof Rudo Mathivha



RESEARCH ENTITY IN THE SCHOOL



WITS SPORT AND HEALTH (WISH) RESEARCH GROUP

WiSH was registered in 2019 as a research group within the University Research Committee (URC). WiSH is also an established entity within the Wits Health Consortium (WHC), its brief from the Faculty of Health Sciences being to initiate, oversee and coordinate all aspects of research, academic teaching and clinical services in the field of sport and exercise medicine (SEM).



Strategy

SEM is the newest speciality registered with the HPCSA and has recently been established as the 29th Specialist College within The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa. In this context, WiSH will ensure that Wits is at the forefront of research in SEM. WiSH will also provide clinical services and academic training (specifically for specialists in SEM), and its pivotal role will be supported by a new Division of Sport and Exercise Medicine in the Department of Family Medicine and Primary Care. Expertise in SEM exists across multiple disciplines in the faculty and also in the private medical sector. WiSH has initiated collaborative interactions between experts to enable research, teaching and clinical services in SEM in the greater Johannesburg area. Establishing high calibre academic training programmes and an effective clinical network will facilitate quality research in SEM.

Leadership

WiSH spans the Schools of Clinical Medicine and Therapeutic Sciences. The management committee includes Professors Daynia Ballot, Hellen Myezwa, Richard Cooke and Jon Patricios, Drs Siyabonga Kunene (Physiotherapy), Brad Gelbart (Orthopaedics) and Robin Saggars (Paediatrics) and, Jean Durandt from WHC, Michael Dick (Director of Wits Sport) and our administrator Nadine Petersen (nadine.petersen1@wits.ac.za). 20 interest groups have also been established, each with a chairperson who coordinates academic and research activities in their area of expertise.

Research projects

Since 2019 WiSH has published over 20 papers in peer-reviewed journals locally and internationally. Many of these are collaborations with well-established SEM units. Currently, there are over 15 research projects being undertaken under the auspices of WiSH, from undergraduate to postgraduate level. These include:

Genetics

- A whole Genome Sequencing Approach to Anterior Cruciate Ligament Rupture

COVID-19

- Athletes With Acute Respiratory InfEction (AWARE) Study: An international, multicentre, collaborative research project
- Working out: lockdown's lessons to increase physical activity (accepted for publication)
- Small steps, strong shield: Directly-measured, moderate physical activity in 65 361 adults is associated with significant protective effects from severe COVID-19 outcomes (submitted for review)

- The impact of physical activity on AD26.COVID.2s COVID19 vaccine effectiveness
- Sport-Related Concussion (SRC)
- Anxiety and Depression as modifying factors in Sport-Related Concussion (SRC) in South African Adolescents.
- Children's Head Injury Longitudinal Diagnostic Study in Sport (CHILD SPORT)
- Prevention, detection and management of concussion in rugby: Evaluation of multisystem involvement.
- A systematic review of sleep disturbances following sport-related concussion(SRC)
- A review of Chiropractic interventions in sport-related concussion (SRC)

WiSH will also be represented in the systematic review process for the Concussion in Sports Group in October 2022 culminating in the development of new guidelines in SRC.



WiSH Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Workshop October 2021

Para-athletes

- Developing a model of care for athletes living with disabilities in South Africa

Physical activity

- A global pandemic we continue to ignore. The disease burden of physical inactivity – a South African perspective

Psychiatry

- The psychosocial work conditions and mental wellbeing of South African School Heads

Rugby

- Caught on camera: A video assessment of concussion and other injury events in female Rugby Union

Sleep

- Can Fitbit data replace manual sleep diaries in the assessment of sleep and insomnia?

Undergraduate (GEMP) Projects

- Ocular manifestations of sports-related concussion in a rugby player
- A Cross-Sectional Study Exploring the Mental Health of South African Elite Athletes
- Myositis Ossificans in a Child Athlete: A Case Study

Academic initiatives

The faculty aims to establish an MMed (SEM) training programme within the next year. Many of the current WiSH-led initiatives will assist in developing this specialist training. WiSH has supported the development of two postgraduate diplomas in physiotherapy to begin in 2022. These are the PGDips in Sports Physiotherapy and Neuromuscular Medicine.

During 2021 WiSH ran an online short course in sports physiotherapy and a successful hybrid series in musculoskeletal ultrasound (4 online lectures and 2 days on onsite hands-on training) that was attended by Wits Radiology registrars and consultants as well as sonographers and clinicians in private practice.

The WiSH online webinar series is now well established and has raised the profile of the group, the Faculty and the University as it is attended by a broad South African and international audience. The series can be accessed at <https://www.wits.ac.za/wish/wish-webinars-/>

In March 2022 WiSH will host a conference featuring 3 international speakers as well as collaborators from across the WiSH network.

Clinical Services

The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed the initiation of planned WiSH-led clinical services in SEM. However, 2022 will see an expanded Sports Clinic on the Education Campus as well as the initiation of Johannesburg's first Sports Casualty. WiSH also aims to provide much more extensive sports medicine support to Wits Sport. We aim to grow the interest groups into specialist referral units to support training and drive research in these niche areas of SEM.

Awards

In its short existence, WiSH has been recognised for its impact. Dr Siyabonga Kunene featured in the British Journal of Sports Medicine (BJSM) as an emerging and impactful young researcher and clinician leader (<https://bjsm.bmj.com/content/55/10/566>) and was also recognised by Wits as Head Physiotherapist for the South African Paralympic Games team. Dr Robin Sagggers received recognition at the Wits Sports Awards for the excellent webinar series he has coordinated.



LtoR: Drs Robin Sagggers and Siyabonga Kunene receiving their awards from Wits Sports



DIVISION OF RADIOLOGY NEWS



The Division of Radiology, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa which is the largest training Radiology circuit in Sub Saharan Africa consisting of 69 registrars, with 7 affiliated hospitals held the annual Wits Radiology Year End Awards and Research Event on 17 November 2021. It was highly successful with 85% of all Radiology registrars attending.

Wits Radiology also acknowledged the contribution made by the Honorary Wits Radiology Lecturers who contributed to the Electronic Academic program including tutorials and lectures, assisted in supervising MMed students and were examiners in the CMSA FC Radiology exam. This public-private collaboration has been highly successful in our Department.



Dr Daniel Prince awarded the Researcher of the Year 2021 Radiology award by Prof Nasreen Mahomed with passing his MMed with distinction, 3 international publications and 2 poster presentations in international congresses

Dr Besley Mojapelo awarded the Senior Radiology Registrar of the Year 2021 by Prof Nasreen Mahomed



OTORHINOLA- RYNGOLOGY (ENT)/HEAD AND NECK SURGERY NEWS



The Division of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery has had numerous events and activities over the last three months.

The highlight of these events was the 57th National ENT Congress that was hosted by the Wits ENT department chaired by Prof Shivesh Maharaj and the Scientific committee chair, Dr Shahpar Motakef.

The Annual Scientific Meeting or Medical congress is often the highlight of the year for many medical professional societies. It is a platform through which colleagues can network, collaborate, share knowledge and experiences. There is also a significant representation from the medical trade and other stakeholders within the industry.

Like many other national associations, the South African Society of Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, in conjunction with the South African society of Rhinoplasty, hosted its first-ever hybrid national congress from 27-31st October 2021. There was tremendous excitement and enthusiasm regarding the new format, which provided education and collaboration via a sustainable, high-quality, user-friendly platform that was aimed at increasing our academic network and keeping colleagues connected during the pandemic.

Over 340 delegates attended and benefitted from a scientific programme consisting of 21 accomplished speakers. Two parallel sessions ran on the virtual platform, covering all the major topics and incorporating panel discussions, case presentations, videos and poster presentations.

There were also smaller on-site groups for some of the sessions. This allowed for a much-needed social element to the congress that allowed colleagues to interact with each other apart from using this digital space. There were numerous high-quality podium and poster presentations.

Congratulations to Dr R Chiware on being awarded the best registrar podium presentation for her topic titled: "Post-COVID Syndrome in Otorhinolaryngology".

The Department also hosted a National vestibular masterclass in Johannesburg and Cape Town in conjunction with Prof M Strupp from Germany and Dr L Hofmeyr.



LtoR: Ms T Reddy, Prof Shivesh Maharaj, Dr Shahpar Motakef -Local organizing committee South African National Otorhinolaryngology Congress 2021



LtoR: Prof Micheal Strupp, Prof Shivesh Maharaj, Mrs J Pieters - National ENT congress 2021



On site Rhinoplasty workshop with Dr Cameron McIntosh



Hands on Rhinoplasty course



LtoR: Dr's S Mungul and M Ogonowski at the Hybrid vestibular workshop

The course succeeds in demystifying a problematic topic in medicine. It was very positively received and different sources have expressed the desire to continue hosting it in alternating years. Those that attended and benefitted from it included audiologists, neurologists, ophthalmologists, ENT surgeons, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, general practitioners and students in these disciplines.

Prof Shivesh Maharaj
Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery





WITS & NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP

4 November 2021 - Wits University

The extended partnership will enable partners to advance critical areas in child health.

Wits University and the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital today renewed and entrenched their longstanding commitment, through the signing of a collaboration of agreement, to give effect to Madiba's vision to care for children and to advance the high-level academic and clinical skills to save the lives of the children of Africa.

The NMCH, a tertiary and quaternary hospital, will now be recognised as a Wits-affiliated academic hospital, with Wits serving as the academic lead. "This collaboration will see Wits academics, specialists, clinicians, surgeons and other healthcare professionals provide specialty and sub-specialty clinical, educational and research expertise to the public and private paediatric patients of the NMCH," says Prof. Zeblon Vilakazi, Wits Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

"We will work together to ensure the delivery of high-quality clinical services; the teaching and training of health care professionals; the advancement of knowledge; healthcare advocacy; and community outreach."

Wits as the lead academic Institution and partner to the NMCH, is responsible for overseeing the activities conducted under the auspices of the clinical training platform. This includes the delivery of high-quality clinical services; teaching and training of health care professionals, advancement of knowledge through research.

"The collaboration agreement between Wits and the NMCH is a milestone in that it enables the vision of Madiba to have a world-class facility able to provide quality and affordable high-tech healthcare to children from across the continent, irrespective of their socio-economic background. This agreement will also assist in the training of the next generation of specialists in child healthcare," says Shabir Madhi, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Professor of Vaccinology at Wits University.

The NMCH is located on Wits' premises on the Parktown Campus close to the Faculty of Health Sciences. It admitted its first patient in June 2017. The hospital is a dedicated paediatric referral facility serving the children of southern Africa, irrespective of their socio-economic standing, and operates on the basis that no child will be turned away due to an inability to pay.

Ms Konehali Gugushe, COE of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund says having Wits as a partner makes it easy to operationalise Madiba's vision. "Ultimately this institution must not only provide for the needs of children but also provide for the skills pool and expertise that we need in the country and the contribution that we need to make to the region." We always ask people what will you do to serve like Madiba and Wits has certainly done that and is showing us that they are a partner and will walk with us."

Collaborating for the good of the country and the continent is a shared goal.

"This is yet another milestone for our hospital and a great step towards advancing our academic ambitions. As a national asset, whose mission is to provide quality care grounded in evidence-based research, NMCH is honoured to now be officially affiliated with Wits University. We look forward to growing this partnership together with other institutions in the region to pave the way for future specialist training", says Dr Nonkululeko Boikhutso, the Interim CEO of NMCH. Children had a special place in the heart of Tata Nelson Mandela, the globally respected statesman and father of democratic South Africa. His quote "there can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children" are part of the values that guide the hospital.



SOCM RETREAT 2021



All the different Academic Departments and Divisions within the School of Clinical Medicine met on 10 November 2021 at the Houghton Golf Club for the annual School retreat. This is the one occasion when our extremely large School gets together in a single venue to reflect on various issues. It is also an occasion to get to know one another.

Although 2021 was another particularly difficult year, the whole School worked together as a team and overcame our difficulties.



This was demonstrated in the positive feedback from the School's recent Quinquennial Review (QQR). This year we based our discussions on the recommendations from the QQR.

We should be extremely proud of our achievements and we will take this spirit of teamwork and cooperation forward into 2022.

Prof Daynia Ballot
Head of School

SCHOOL GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Research Coordinator Profile: Dr Ekene Nweke - Cluster A: Surgery

Dr Ekene Emmanuel Nweke obtained an MSc (cum laude in Molecular and Cell Biology) in 2015 and a PhD in 2017, both from the University of Witwatersrand. Throughout his postgraduate and postdoctoral fellowship, he won several awards, grants, and prizes, including the "First Time Inventor award" presented by WITS Enterprise. Currently, he is a 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.

Dr Nweke 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 Bio-specimen 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), and the International



HepatoPancreatoBiliary Association (IHPBA), South African Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SASBMB), HepatoPancreatoBiliary Association of South Africa (HPBASA), and Metabolomics Society of South Africa (MSA).

Furthermore, he has presented in numerous international and national conferences including as an invited speaker. He has authored 14 high-impact articles and 4 book chapters and is a reviewer in 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. In his spare time, he loves hiking, bingeing series, consuming suspicious amounts of tea, and reading.



WITS JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MEDICINE



The Wits Journal of Clinical Medicine is a peer-reviewed, Open Access scientific research journal published triennially, and was established to provide a forum to showcase scientific research from the School of Clinical Medicine at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg as well as from other institutions nationally and internationally. Please note that Volume 3, Issue 3, November 2021 is now available online.

The Wits Journal of Clinical Medicine is now PUBMED Central accredited!
Submissions are welcomed and the journal has a particular focus to encourage clinical and translational research especially from new academics, including students, registrars, fellows and junior consultants.

The Wits Journal of Clinical Medicine also provides a space where the various Departmental Research Day abstracts can be shared.

WJCM publishes original papers, review papers, case reports and letters to the editor. Send your manuscript to: PAM SINGH (pam@wjcm.co.za).

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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 2022.

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