



# SCHOOL OF Clinical Medicine NEWSLETTER

## EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues

I hope you are well and safe.

Welcome to new staff and students who have just joined the School of Clinical Medicine.

We are proud to have you and wish you a happy and productive time with us.

Our School ranks within the top 100 Medical Schools in the World.

This time last year marked the start of the COVID pandemic in South Africa. A lot has changed since then. We have become used to blended learning, hand sanitizing, social distancing and masks. Our staff and students demonstrated remarkable resilience during this unprecedented challenge. We will celebrate the COVID champions among us in each edition of the newsletter. There is some hope of respite as vaccination of healthcare workers has started, soon to be followed by the rest of the population.

In this newsletter, we congratulate Prof Mer on his appointment as HOD of Critical Care and we feature Prof Raal's Carbohydrate and Lipid Research Unit. We learn about the public private partnership in Emergency Medicine training.

Sadly, we also remember those we have lost, may their souls rest in peace. We wish their families strength and comfort.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent Quinquennial Review.

I wish you all the best for the academic year ahead.

Prof Daynia Ballot (Head of School)



## A LOOK AT OUR STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

### Staff Promotions

#### Congratulations to:

Prof Mervyn Mer with his appointment as Academic Division Head for the Division of Critical Care. (see page 2)

Dr Jacqueline Bezuidenhout with her promotion to Senior Clinical Lecturer.

Dr Amy Wise with her promotion to Senior Lecturer.



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**Welcome to:**

Dr Vaishak Vinod

Dr Nokukhanya Ngubane-Mwandla

Honorary Researcher

Dr Lervasen Pillay

Dr Shona Fraser

Dr Lynnsay Dickson

Dr Jarrad Van Zuydam

Honorary Lecturers

Dr Karen Eva

**PROF MERVYN MER**

Prof Mer currently presides as a principal specialist at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital. He also serves as Clinical Head of the Adult multidisciplinary Intensive Care Unit at CMJAH.

Prof Mer's academic background includes a MBBCh degree from the University of the Witwatersrand, as well as a Dip PEC (South Africa), FCP (South Africa), M Med (University of the Witwatersrand) and a PhD (University of the Witwatersrand). He has a Pulmonology subspecialty as well as Cert Critical Care (SA). He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians - FRCP (London, UK) and a Fellow of the College of Chest Physicians - FCCP (United States). He is involved in various aspects of clinical research, is a hands-on clinician, and has participated in more than 950 lectures and presentations. He is extensively involved in postgraduate and undergraduate teaching and serves as an examiner for the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa in several disciplines. Prof Mer has published numerous journal articles, at regional and international level, has been a contributor to book chapters, consensus documents,



various national guidelines and is the author of the booklet, Antifungal Pocket Guide for Systemic Fungal Infections. He is also one of the editors of the recently published book "Clinical Examination Skills in the Adult Critically Ill Patient". He has been an invited reviewer for several peer review journals.

Prof Mer is a past President of the Critical Care Society of Southern Africa (CCSSA), having served three terms. He also served as Secretary of the CCSSA for 17 years. He previously ran the portfolio of Continuing Medical Education for the South African Thoracic Society (SATS) for more than a decade and was a founder-member, and is current vice-President of the Southern African Society of Thrombosis and Haemo-

stasis (SASTH). Prof Mer is the current Chairperson of the Global Intensive Care Working Group of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) and has been integrally involved in the ALIVE Sepsis project. He is also an invited member of the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) (USA) and ESICM venture that is currently addressing sepsis in developing countries. In 2018, he was invited to become a panel member of the next international Surviving Sepsis Campaign guidelines, as well as to be a contributor to the new international mucormycosis guidelines. He serves as a Council member of the recently formed African Sepsis Alliance.

...continue...

In 2018, Prof Mer was invited to be a Visiting Professor at the world-renowned Amsterdam Medical Center and University of Amsterdam. He has received numerous awards, including the Surgeon General Commendation Award, the Phillip V. Tobias and Convocation Clinical Award for

Distinguished Teaching, The FJ Milne Department of Medicine Service and Teaching Award, the President's Award of the Critical Care Society of Southern Africa and the Sam Naidoo Award for the best clinician, conferred by the Southern African Society of Thrombosis and Haemosta-

sis. Most recently, he was the first recipient of the Hilda Datnow Jacobson award (awarded to the most competent, caring and capable doctor in the profession, irrespective of field of interest). Additionally, Prof Mer has a wide array of interests outside of medicine. ...End...

## OTHER STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Prof Nasreen Mahomed, the Academic Head for the Division of Radiology, University of Witwatersrand was one of 50 international Radiologists, and one of 2 South Africans invited as a speaker at the Global Radiology Conclave held online in December 2020. She shared the platform with world renowned Radiologists in all specialties.

This was one of the biggest congresses held in 2020 using the electronic platform. As an invited speaker Prof Mahomed was able to secure 30 complementary registrations for Wits Radiology Registrars for the full congress. Prof Mahomed has put the University and



Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital on the global map for Radiology.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS — PHD GRADUATE



*Congratulations!*

Congratulations to Nirvana Morgan who Graduated with her PhD in Psychiatry and Physiology on 14 December 2020.

Dr Morgan was the first recipient of the Cassandra Miller-Butterworth Fellowship for a clinician-scientists PhD (2017-2020).

Her study titled, 'A prospective cohort study of heroin users attending rehabilitation: assessing psychiatric comorbidities, DNA methylation and treatment outcomes,' was the first prospective

cohort study of nyaope (heroin) users in South Africa. She has produced four publications from this study.

Her main findings were that nyaope consumption combined with cannabis, was unique in the world, that nyaope users presented with many psychiatric comorbidities, and that current treatment in public health care facilities were inadequate. Dr Morgan's study was also supported by a South African National Research Foundation Thuthuka Grant.

Her supervisors: Professor U Subramaney and Professor W Daniels



## TRIBUTES TO OUR FALLEN HEROES

### Dr Rudolf Kgopotso Mononyane



Our community mourns the loss of one of its sons, Rudolf Kgopotso Mononyane, who passed on Thursday 21st January 2021 when a Netcare 911 helicopter crashed enroute to retrieve a COVID patient for ECMO.

Rudolf was the second born of 5 children. He had his humble beginnings at Mmatlhame Primary school in Hamman-skraal, and matriculated with flying colours from Sekitla High School. He started his medical career by completing degrees in Pharmacy and Medicine at the University of Witwatersrand (Wits). He then did his internship in Pretoria at 1 Military (2003) and community service at Mankweng Hospital, Polokwane (2004). Rudolf had a burning desire to further his education and joined the Wits circuit as a registrar in Anaesthesiology. He graduated as a specialist in 2009, and continued to serve the Baragwanath community until 2012 when he then went into private practice.

"He was in the vanguard of the cohort of Black consultants that emerged from our department, and who are now rising to heights throughout the country."

In his time in our department he showed an amazing interest in airway management, and was extremely proactive by meeting with all the companies and getting Bara to acquire the newest pieces of equipment. He pioneered a wildly successful airway workshop at the FCA Refresher course. Furthermore, he trained as a cardiac and transplant anaesthesiologist before leaving to private practice.

Throughout this time he made contributions to the lives of many. This was through teaching, always striving for academic and clinical excellence, pushing boundaries and continually challenging himself. Rudolf was an FCA 1 examiner, renowned airway specialist who shared his expertise internationally. He was a South African Society of Anaesthesia (SASA) council member where he was known to have "integrity, ethics, a strong sense of right and wrong, and an intolerance of anything that compromised quality patient care". He remained part of the DGMC transplant team and joined the Milpark Cardiothoracic and ECMO retrieval teams.

Despite his many achievements and com-

mitments family always remained pivotal to Rudolf. He lived a fulfilling life as a son, husband and father. He was an avid sportsman having completed the 94.7 cycle race and Comrades marathon on multiple occasions. The greatest lessons his life has taught us is not to let circumstances limit your life experience, to live our lives to the fullest without reservation, and at all times give of your best. Rudolf is survived by his wife Kgomotso; two children Kgopotso Jnr and Kgatliso; his parents and 2 brothers and 2 sisters.

He will be remembered with great respect and admiration, and his legacy will live on. He was always a trendsetter. He knew no fear. He is a life cut far too short. We are all left to consider what might have been. We will remember him with incredible fondness and admiration.

Palesa Motshabi Chakane OBO  
Department Of Anaesthesiology

Quotes: Paul Abrahams and Palesa Moganane



## Dr Molefi Hans Mapela

Dear Family Mapela, Friends and Colleagues,

It is with sadness in my heart that I pay tribute to Dr Molefi Hans Mapela.

Dr Mapela joined the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Wits on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2017. Since the time that he started it was clear that he was a real gentleman. He was always smiling. A smile that would bring joy and warmth to everybody around him. He would lighten up a room when he entered even when he was post call.

Dr Mapela was not shy to share his view on patient care and was willing to argue the point even with his seniors. He always did it in a respectful manner. To me this was a quality I wanted to see in registrars, an inquisitive mind.

His dedication to his family was clear from the start. He often told me that he was going to drive to his home in Potchefstroom to be with his family. I was worried that he would be safe on the road especially when he was post call.

The workload in the Wits circuit is hard. This is especially so for the older registrars. Despite this difficulty his family supported him throughout.

Dr Mapela was dedicated to his patients. His patient care was of a high standard. He was loved and respected by his patients. His last action before he got ill was to put his patient's life above his own health and safety. This was a true reflection of his dedication and commitment.



Dr Fredericks and I was his supervisors for everyone. Let's not forget. his MMed project. At times Dr Mapela liked to ignore our advice but despite this it was fun to work with him. I remember him sitting in my office and working with me on his protocol. I enjoyed spending this time with him.

There was something special about how he communicated with me. He would always start the conversation in Afrikaans and often discuss the patient or problem in Afrikaans. Even during our last few calls when he was ill this was the same.

Fair well to our friend Dr Mapela. You will be missed by

Prof Hennie Lombaard  
Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology



*'The brave die never, though they sleep in dust: Their courage nerves a thousand living men.'*

*Minot Judson Savage*

## NETCARE FOUNDATION MEDIA RELEASE: PUBLIC PRIVATE TRAINING PARTNERSHIP TO HELP GROW SA'S EMERGENCY MEDICINE EXPERTISE YOUNG SPECIALIST READY TO BOLSTER EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE IN NORTH WEST - 16 FEBRUARY 2021

Newly-specialised emergency medicine physician, Dr Shivani Pillay who completed her registrar training through the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in October 2020, is helping to make a lifesaving contribution to the practice of emergency medicine in North West.

Dr Pillay is the first of three young doctors awarded a bursary to complete the emergency medicine specialist physician qualification through the Wits Division of Emergency Medicine in partnership with the North West Department of Health (NWDoH).

The Emergency Medicine Registrar Programme is funded through Netcare's corporate social investment (CSI) arm, the Netcare Foundation, with the aim of building healthcare expertise and capacity in South Africa, as the qualified specialists will apply their specialised skills in the public sector.

"We warmly congratulate Dr Pillay on her achievement. She has taken on the responsibility for setting up the emergency department at Klerksdorp Tshepong Hospital Complex in North West province, adding to the specialised skills available in the public health sector in the province," says Mande Toubkin, Netcare's general manager emergency, trauma, transplant and CSI.

"Dr Pillay has already served the community during her specialist training through the Wits emergency medicine registrar academic rotation, which provided her with invaluable experience in the emergency departments at both public and private sector hospitals, namely at Klerksdorp Tshepong Hospital Complex and at

Netcare Union Hospital in Alberton."

Professor Feroza Motara of the Wits Division of Emergency Medicine commended the Emergency Medicine Registrar Programme and Dr Pillay. "This initiative shows that public private partnerships really do work. Netcare's ongoing support is enabling us to train doctors who will then work in the public sector, and this will be especially valuable in rural areas of the country, where their skills are desperately needed. Dr Pillay has shown remarkable dedication throughout her training and has demonstrated her commitment to advancing emergency medicine," Professor Motara says.

Dr Pillay thanked Professor Motara and the Wits Division of Emergency Medicine for the training she received as a registrar, and the Netcare Foundation which funded the Emergency Medicine Registrar Programme. "I am privileged to have learned from, and been inspired by, so many renowned leaders in the field of emergency medicine. I would also like to thank my parents, my family and my husband for their unwavering support throughout my career," Dr Pillay says.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to



Dr Shivani Pillay

help improve and expand the practice of emergency medicine in the North West province. I hope to motivate, guide and mentor young professionals and equip them with the skills and knowledge to provide exceptional standards of emergency care to our communities." On behalf of the Netcare Foundation, Toubkin wished Dr Pillay every success for the future.

"As the first person to attain this qualification funded through the Netcare Foundation's academic programme, we look forward to seeing Dr Pillay's continued professional growth in her new capacity at Klerksdorp Tshepong Hospital Complex. In this public health role, she will have the opportunity to help strengthen emergency care in the province."

End .



## COVID CHAMPIONS —DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

Despite the challenges of the Covid pandemic, undergraduate teaching in the department reached new heights under the superb leadership of Dr Pralene Maharaj (coordinator of the GEMP 3 programme), who notes that the biggest challenge was a switch to a 7 day programme; Dr Wendy Friedlander (UG committee chairperson and GEMP 4 Coordinator) and Dr Craig Bracken (our NMFC student coordinator). Together with a very united consultant body, to whom I am eternally grateful, we saw a successful launch of a blended learning programme, new assessment methods (for GEMP 4 this was a switch to additional case presentations, and paper based case for the final clinical case) and superb administration. On line voice over powerpoint presentations were made available on the student website, and I look forward to the project website currently under construction. I am grateful to Ms Chantal Lambert, our sole professional staff member who bravely accepted and implemented all radical changes with ease.

We were proud to see the following PG students graduate with MMEDs. A huge shout out to Dr Ralf Brummerhof for his warm and compassionate leadership on our programme. Craig Bracken has been steadily steering us towards workplace based assessments for a few years now, which promises to hold us in good stead with both the UG and PG teaching arenas.



Graduates MMEd in Psychiatry:

Back L to R: Dr Prinesh Miseer, Dr Sheila Lutaaya, Dr Yuna Minty, Dr Vuyani Nxumalo

Front L to R: Prof Ugasvaree Subramaney (Head of Department), Dr Peacemake Mngomezulu

(Not present Dr Corinne Johnson, Dr Omphefmetse Mahuma and Dr Spongile Nkhahle who also graduated).

Whilst it is virtually alien for psychotherapy as well as the supervision thereof, to be undertaken remotely, the COVID pandemic created new opportunities for this approach. My appreciation goes out to Prof Cora Smith and the division of clinical psychology, who provide our registrars with most of the psychotherapy supervision, a requirement for the CMSA portfolio of learning. Again, the steering command of Craig Bracken, chairperson of the psy-

chotherapy training committee is acknowledged.

We celebrated the promotion of Dr Lesley Roberson to Adjunct professor in November 2020

The Dean's award for exceptional service was bestowed upon Prof Bernard Janse Van Rensburg, (posthumously) at a special online faculty honours celebration.

Prof Ugesh Subramaney  
Department of Psychiatry



Back row L to R:

Indhrin.Chetty, Pralene Maharaj

Third row L to R:

Samantha Naidoo, Tando Melapi

Second row L to R:

Vuyani Nxumalo, Vijaylyn Moodley and Tiaan Schutte

Front row L to R:

Mpumi Sotobe Mose and Eugene Erasmus.



## COVID CHAMPIONS—DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

### This Week's Feature: **Internal medicine**



Internal medicine bore the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic. Already the biggest specialty before COVID-19 struck, the department had to rise to the challenge of planning and managing the bulk of patient care during a pandemic caused by a new, unfamiliar, and often lethal disease.

The uncertainty surrounding every aspect of the disease in early 2020 made it an elusive foe. Only as a result of painstaking research, first in China, then in Europe and then elsewhere, did the virus give up some of its secrets. Every aspect was opaque at first. How was the virus spread? What personal protective equipment combination offered sufficient protection? How lethal was it? What treatments would work? Where would we put all the patients?



In the face of tremendous uncertainty and anxiety, the internal medicine departments at all Wits-affiliated hospitals showed great fortitude, level-headedness and leadership. The hospitals, patients, and staff were divided up into "COVID", "non-COVID" and "COVID status unknown" areas. Protocols were drawn up. Staff were trained and upskilled in COVID management. Bed capacity was expanded. ICU and high-care equipment was procured – and often had to be used in general wards when there was no space.

Staff within internal medicine took up key advisory, administrative, and academic roles within the provincial and national Department of Health, and places on provincial councils, the ministerial advisory committee, and national guidelines committees. And in the midst of all this chaos, Wits-affiliated hospitals also led the way with research, including the multinational WHO Solidarity trial that has helped give definitive answers on therapeutics to clinicians around the world.

Many of the colleagues in the division, some of whom lost loved ones to COVID, are heroes of the Wits pandemic response.

Don't forget to submit your good news stories to the Wits  
#CovidChampions Campaign.  
Email [antonia.appel@wits.ac.za](mailto:antonia.appel@wits.ac.za)



## 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 2, Number 3, November 2020 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:

[rita.kruger@wits.ac.za](mailto:rita.kruger@wits.ac.za)

For more information, visit the official website of the journal: <https://journals.co.za/content/journal/wjcm>

Please click here to sign up for direct alerts on new articles and issues:

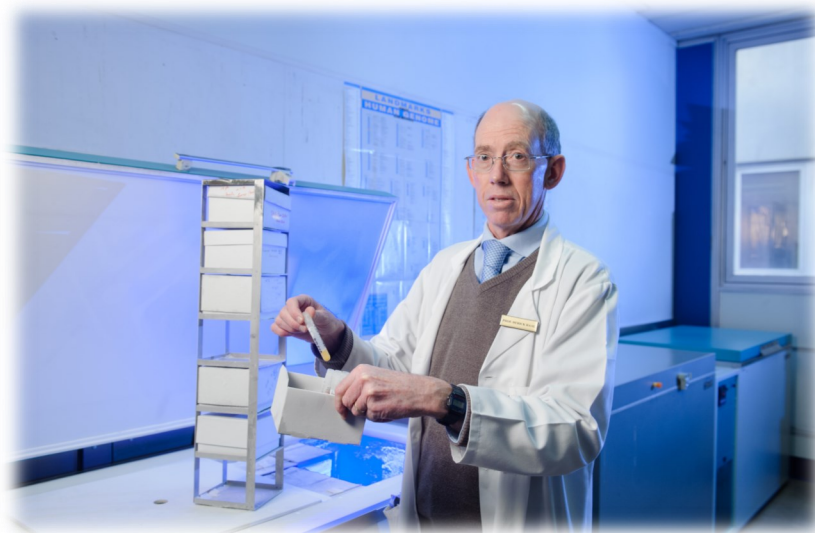
<https://journals.co.za/registration/personal>

Prof Pravin Manga  
(Editor)



## RESEARCH ENTITIES IN THE SCHOOL

### CARBOHYDRATE & LIPED METABOLISM RESEARCH UNIT



Unit Director: Professor Frederick Raal (Derick)

The focus of the Unit's research includes the epidemiological, clinical and biochemical aspects of common diseases affecting lipid, and glucose metabolism in the different ethnic groups of Southern Africa.

These include **familial hypercholesterolaemia and other dyslipidaemias, insulin resistance, diabetes mellitus** as well as other related metabolic disorders.

The Unit is well recognized both nationally

and internationally for their work on familial hypercholesterolaemia, and has one of the largest cohorts, if not the largest cohort, of homozygous FH patients in the world. The Unit has contributed, and continues to contribute to the management of these unfortunate patients.

The Unit continues to research novel therapies such as antisense apo B-100 and PCSK9-inhibitor monoclonal antibody therapy and more recently siRNA PCSK9-inhibitor (inclisiran) and ANGPTL3-inhibitor (evinacumab) therapy in this patient group. The results of such studies were published as lead articles in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2020 with Professor Raal as first author.

Professor Raal has contributed to several reviews on the management of homozygous and heterozygous FH, side effects of

statin therapy as well as a consensus statement on LDL-lipoproteins being the cause of atherosclerosis published in the *European Heart Journal* and has written several editorials on aspects and treatment of familial hypercholesterolaemia. Professor Raal is a committee member of the homozygous FH International Collaborators (HICC) registry as well as a member of the steering committee of the European Atherosclerosis Society FH Studies Collaboration (EAS FHSC). Professor Raal is also a task member of the EAS Task force on rare lipid dyslipidaemias recently published in the *Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology*. Professor Raal gave late breaker oral presentations at the virtual ACC, EAS and AHA Congresses in 2020.

#### SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2020

Professor Raal has been the most cited researcher in the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand for the past 4 years.

Professor Raal was listed as one of the most highly cited researchers who have produced papers ranking in the top 1% of citations in their field worldwide by the **Web of Science Group** for 2019-2020.

Professor Raal has received certificates for outstanding contribution in reviewing from both *Atherosclerosis* and the *Journal of Clinical Lipidology* 2017-2020 and is on the Editorial Board of *Atherosclerosis*.

Professor Raal is a board member of the International Atherosclerosis Society (IAS) – member at large – for 2019 to 2021.

Professor Raal is a committee member of the homozygous FH International Collaborators (HICC) registry as well as a member of the steering committee of the European Atherosclerosis Society FH Studies Collaboration (EAS FHSC).

Professor FJ Raal is a member of the European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel which has developed new guidelines on the management of heterozygous and

homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia, statin intolerance, rare dyslipidaemias as well as consensus statements on LDL-lipoproteins as the cause of atherosclerosis, for Europe. Following a generous donation to the value of R16 000 000.00 from Evan Stein, a Wits graduate, the Evan Stein Centre for Familial Hypercholesterolaemia (FH) was established and became fully operational in 2017. To date over 1000 FH patients and their family members have been screened.

The Division presented posters and/or oral presentations at the American Cardiology Congress (ACC), the European Atherosclerosis Society meeting (EAS) the American Heart Association (AHA) and the National Lipid Association (NLA) virtual meetings in 2020. Professor Raal gave late breaker oral presentations on novel therapies for FH at all four of these meetings.

Dr Reinhardt Hess is completing his MMED entitled “Machine learning on biochemical data for the prediction of mutation presence in suspected familial hypercholesterolemia cases”.

This project is being co-supervised by Professor Raal and will assist with the identification of Black Africans with FH based on laboratory lipid profiles. Dr Hesse received the outstanding abstract award (1st place) at the American Association of Clinical Chemistry 2020 session for this work.

#### Wits Collaborations

Prof M Ramsay, Sydney Brenner Institute

Ms N Smyth, Faculty of Health Sciences

Dr C Penny, Department of Medicine

Dr L McNamara

Prof N Crowther, Department of Chemical Pathology, NHLS

Dr C Padoa

Dr N H Naran

Dr T Snyman

#### National Collaborations

Prof A D Marais, Division of Lipidology, University of Cape Town

Dr D Blom, Town Health Sciences Faculty

#### International Collaboration

Dr Evan Stein, Division of Cardiology, University of Chicago, Chicago, USA

Dr Traci Turner, Medpace Reference Laboratories

Dr El Mustapha Bahassi, Cincinnati, Ohio

Prof Bart van de Sluis, University Medical Centre Groningen

Prof Jan Kuivenhoven, Netherlands

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Professor Raal was nominated for the Innovators in Science Award in Rare Diseases, New York Academy of Sciences and was awarded the 2020 Paper of the year in the Late Discovery category by the Oligonucleotide Therapeutics Society.



Prof Rob Hegele, Robarts Research Institute

Dr A McIntyre, London, Ontario

Prof R A Wevers, Radboud University Medical Centre, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Prof Sotirios Tsimikas, University of California

Xiaohong Yang, San Diego, USA

Dr Alana Brennan, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

## HIGH IMPACT UNIT PUBLICATIONS 2020

1. **Raal FJ**, Kallend D, Ray KK, Turner T, Koenig W, Wright RS, Wijngaard PLJ, Curcio D, Jaros MJ, Leiter LA, Kastelein JJP. Inclisiran for the treatment of heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia. *N Engl J Med* 2020; 382:1520-1530. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1913805. **Impact factor**

**74.699**

2. Ray KK, Wright RS, Kallend D, Koenig W, Leiter LA, **Raal FJ**, Bisch JA, Richardson T, Jaros MJ, Wijngaard PLJ, Kastelein JJP. Two phase 3 trials of inclisiran in patients with elevated LDL cholesterol. *N Engl J Med* 2020; 382:1507-1519. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa12387. **Impact factor** **74.699**

3. Hovingh GK, Lepor NE, Kallend D, Stoekenbroek RM, Wijngaard PLJ, **Raal FJ**. Inclisiran durably lowers low-density lipoprotein cholesterol and proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 in homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia. The ORION-2 pilot study. *Circulation* 2020;141:1829-1831. DOI:10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.119.044431 **Impact factor** **23.603**

4. **Raal FJ**, Rosenson RS, Reeskamp F,

Hovingh GK, Kastelein JJP, Rubba P, Ali S, Banerjee P, Chan K-C, Gipe DA, Khilla N, Pordy R, Weinreich DM, Yancopoulos GD, Zhang Y, Gaudet D. Evinacumab for homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia. *N Engl J Med* 2020; 383:711-720. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2004215. **Impact factor** **74.699**

5. **Raal FJ**, Bahassi Em, Turner TA, Stevens B, Stein EA. Cascade screening for Familial Hypercholesterolemia in South Africa: The Wits Find-FH Program. *Atheroscler Thromb Vasc Biol* 2020;40:2747-2755. DOI: 10.1161/ATVBAHA.120.315040. **Impact factor** **6.607**

Professor Derick Raal  
Unit Director

## SOCM MEETING DATES

### Head of Department meeting

| Date       | Time  | Venue           |
|------------|-------|-----------------|
| 09/03/2021 | 15h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 06/04/2021 | 15h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 04/05/2021 | 15h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 08/06/2021 | 15h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 06/07/2021 | 15h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 17/08/2021 | 15h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 14/09/2021 | 15h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 05/10/2021 | 15h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 09/11/2021 | 15h00 | Microsoft teams |

### SOCM Transformation Committee Meetings

| Date       | Time  | Venue           |
|------------|-------|-----------------|
| 18/03/2021 | 14h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 20/05/2021 | 14h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 22/07/2021 | 14h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 23/09/2021 | 14h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 25/11/2021 | 14h00 | Microsoft teams |

### SOCM EXCO Committee meeting

| Date       | Time  | Venue           |
|------------|-------|-----------------|
| 24/03/2021 | 13h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 05/05/2021 | 13h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 14/07/2021 | 13h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 08/09/2021 | 13h00 | Microsoft teams |
| 17/11/2021 | 13h00 | Microsoft teams |

### SOCM HR & Finance Committee Meetings

| Date       | Time  | Venue           |
|------------|-------|-----------------|
| 24/03/2021 | 10h30 | Microsoft teams |
| 28/04/2021 | 10h30 | Microsoft teams |
| 26/05/2021 | 10h30 | Microsoft teams |
| 23/06/2021 | 10h30 | Microsoft teams |
| 28/07/2021 | 10h30 | Microsoft teams |
| 25/08/2021 | 10h30 | Microsoft teams |
| 29/09/2021 | 10h30 | Microsoft teams |
| 27/10/2021 | 10h30 | Microsoft teams |
| 24/11/2021 | 10h30 | Microsoft teams |

## 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) by 31 March 2021. (Please note that due to space restrictions content may be edited)