

JULY 2025 – ISSUE 30

SCHOOL OF
CLINICAL MEDICINE

NEWSLETTER



Dear Colleagues and Students,

Welcome to the next issue of our School newsletter for the year!

As we progress through the academic calendar, we are continually inspired by the energy, innovation, and commitment shown across our school. This edition features important updates, highlights from recent activities, and opportunities to stay engaged in our vibrant academic community.

One of the key highlights on our calendar this year is the upcoming School Biennial Research Day. This special event is a celebration of scholarly excellence and a platform for sharing the impactful work being done by our students, researchers, and staff. We look forward to your active participation, whether as a presenter, attendee, or enthusiastic supporter. Please look out for the registration link included in this newsletter, and be sure to take note of the relevant deadlines.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your contributions continue to shape a dynamic and forward-thinking academic environment.

Happy reading!

Prof Mboyo-Di-Tamba Willy Vangu
Acting Head of School

Staff News

Promotions:

Congratulations to Prof Justus Hofmeyr with his appointment as Emeritus Professor.

Emeritus Prof Hofmeyr, MBBCh, MRCOG, DSc, is co-director (with Mandisa Singata-Madliki) of the Effective Care Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand and Walter Sisulu University, and Professor (part time), University of Botswana.

His 450+ research publications (H-index 87) focus on innovations, randomized trials and systematic reviews relevant to maternal health in low-resource settings. Novel innovations which



Emeritus Professor Justus Hofmeyr

have had global reach include titrated oral misoprostol solution for labour induction; delayed cord x clamping for preterm babies; side by side foley catheter balloons for labour induction; an on-site midwife-led model for labour care; the MaternaWell Tray for blood loss monitoring after birth; suction tube uterine tamponade for postpartum haemorrhage; and posterior axilla sling traction for shoulder dystocia. He currently holds two UKMRC grants to develop a labour induction device and a suction tamponade device for postpartum haemorrhage in addition to several collaborative and self-initiated clinical trials. He has assisted his wife Carol with community development projects in rural Eastern Cape through the Keiskamma Trust.

Renewal of Honorary Appointments:

Adjunct Professor Jeanine Vellema - Division of Forensic Medicine

Adjunct Professor Frank Plani - Department of Surgery

Adjunct Professor John Rodda - Department of Paediatrics and Child Health

Adjunct Professor Charles Sanyika - Division of Radiology-Diagnostic

Associate Professor Christopher Wareham - Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics

Associate Professor Juan Scribante - Division of Paediatric Surgery

Associate Professor Alan Karstaedt - Department of Internal Medicine

Associate Professor Debbie van der Merwe - Division of Medical Physics

Research Professor Patrick Dessen - Division of Rheumatology

Sabbatical leave:

Prof Deirdré Kruger and Ms Aviwe Mgobozi will embark on their sabbatical journeys starting in July 2025, and we would like to extend our heartfelt good wishes to each of you.

Acting Head: Department of Neurosciences

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG



FACULTY OF
HEALTH SCIENCES



Acting Head: Department of Neurosciences
Term: 01 June 2025 to 31 July 2025

Congratulations to Associate Professor Shivesh Maharaj on his acting appointment

Prof Maharaj is currently the Academic Head of Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at the University of the Witwatersrand and associate professor; with well over 15 years of clinical experience as a specialist in Otorhinolaryngology. He is also the President of the College of Otorhinolaryngologists of South Africa and an EXCO member of the ENT society of South Africa. He sits on numerous boards and committees including the finance and general purpose committee (CMSA)

He has a special interest in :

- endoscopic ear surgery
- skull base surgery
- salivary gland disease
- head and neck infections

He is a firm believer that clinical skill is the foundation for service delivery.

He has successfully performed over 100 endoscopic ear surgeries in the last 10 years, including but not only limited to :

- Repair of subtotal or total perforations
- Cholesteatomasurgery
- Middle ear surgery including middle ear implants
- Stapes surgery
- Eustachian Tube and Lateral Skull Base Surgery
- Base of Skull surgery

He has more than 130 papers published in local and international journals with numerous surgical video demonstrations to his credit. He is currently part of Editorial Board and Reviewer of more than 15 journals (Local & International). He is also a well-sought after speaker and presenter in his area of expertise and has been invited to give lectures more than 200 conferences and workshops locally and internationally.

School of Clinical Medicine Biennial Research Day

2025
SCHOOL OF CLINICAL MEDICINE
BIENNIAL RESEARCH DAY

18 SEPTEMBER 2025

VENUE: WITS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, 27 ST. ANDREW'S ROAD, PARKTOWN
PRECISION MEDICINE IN AN UNEQUAL WORLD: BRIDGING INNOVATION AND ACCESS

Abstract submission extended to 9 July 2025

To view information, register or submit abstracts go to www.socmresearch.co.za

Keynote Speakers:

 Prof Kevin Behrens Director of the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics	 Prof Ziyad Dangor Professor & Clinical Research Director of Vaccines and Infectious Diseases Analytics Research Unit (VIDA)	 Prof Glenda Gray Distinguished Professor & Director of the Infectious Diseases and Oncology Research Unit (IDORI)	 Prof Lynn Morris Wits Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research & Innovation
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UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND JOHANNESBURG

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

WITS SCHOOL OF CLINICAL MEDICINE

School of Clinical Medicine Graduate Studies & Research Committee Member

Ms Jeanet Mazibuko

Ms Mazibuko is an experienced biomedical scientist and Senior Laboratory Technician at the University of the Witwatersrand, with hands-on experience managing research laboratories and supporting clinical research in academic settings.

She holds a Master of Science in Medicine (cum laude) from the University of the Witwatersrand, a Bachelors degree in Biotechnology from the University of Johannesburg. She is currently managing the Research Laboratories in the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, and oversees a range of critical responsibilities including laboratory setup, training postgraduate students in biochemistry, molecular biology, and tissue culture, and facilitating high-impact research projects. Her research interests are focused on immunological responses - particularly apoptosis



inflammation, and biomarker discovery. Her technical expertise spans clinical sample handling, data capturing using RedCap, data analysis, as well as the operation of advanced laboratory instruments. She is GCP-certified, and a registered Professional Natural Scientist with SACNASP. Beyond her technical roles, she contributes to academic development as a committee member for the School of Clinical Medicine Scientific Committee and the Graduate Studies Research Committee. She also teaches research methodology to MMed students and supports ethical clearance applications for clinical studies.

She is passionate about science outreach and regularly volunteers with Nka'Thuto EduPropeller, an NGO, teaching STEM subjects to school learners, mentoring young scientists and is a Research Consultant and judge for the Sasol energy challenge. Her career reflects a deep commitment to quality research, mentorship, and advancing health sciences in South Africa.

Psychiatry News

Bipolar Awareness Seminar

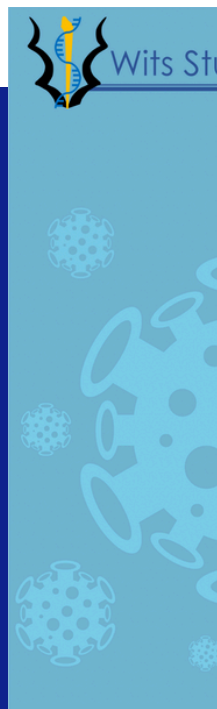
The month of May was highlighted as mental health awareness month for the Wits Student's Pathology Society and they hosted a Bipolar Awareness Webinar on 15 May 2025. Dr Poliah from the Department of Psychiatry was invited to share interesting clinical insights and information about some of the issues of stigma that people living with Bipolar disorder struggle with.

The evening was extremely insightful. We had the privilege of meeting a gentleman living with

bipolar disorder, who shared his experiences with the group. He discussed the challenges he faces related to medication, work, and preventing relapse.

The director of a placement facility ,where patients with various mental health issues reside, also shared her experiences and perceptions of mental illness.

There was an engaging and robust discussion that followed each speaker and the evening was informative and enlightening.



Wits Students' Pathology Society

BIPOLAR AWARENESS WEBINAR

Bipolar disorder is a mental health condition that affects a person's mood, energy, and ability to function.

This event will raise awareness and provide both clinical and personal perspectives on living with bipolar disorder, including symptoms, diagnosis, treatment options, and support systems.

We will be joined by a mental health professional, an individual with lived experience, and a mental health advocate to help break the stigma and foster understanding.

Mental Health Initiative

The Wits Students' Physician Society launched their Mental Health May Initiative. This initiative involved several events aimed at promoting awareness regarding mental health amongst health science students at the University of Witwatersrand.

From organising a "Bounce-a-thon" event to encourage students to get their bodies moving and take time to engage in exercise between study sessions, to posting mental health awareness content on our social media, our society dedicated the month of May to assisting students with opportunities to de-stress and providing education on common themes surrounding mental health in medical school.



Prof Ugasvaree Subramaney

As one of their initiatives, the society was given the incredible opportunity to interview experts in the field of mental health and wellbeing. They interviewed Professor Subramaney, the Academic Head of Department of the Wits University Department of Psychiatry, it was especially insightful as they dissected the multifaceted nature of mental wellbeing in medical school. In their interview, they worked with Prof Subramaney to examine the many complex interconnected factors that play a role in the wellbeing of healthcare students and professionals in South Africa, from excessive working hours to financial stress, and discussed the resources available in the healthcare sector and where better provisions must be made to support the mental health of workers in the South African healthcare industry.

Prof Subramaney provided a profound analysis of the determinants of mental health amongst medical students, with personal insight as a medical practitioner, educator, and expert in the field of psychiatry.

Their interview with Prof Subramaney is a must-see for all healthcare students and professionals and acts as a seed, stimulating the growth of personal reflection on the perception of mental health in the healthcare industry, highlighting biases and stigmas that limit healthcare workers' ability to seek help and take time to care for themselves.

Division of Radiology News

Celebrating Excellence:

Prof Nasreen Mahomed Appointed to Global Leadership Role and Honoured as a Woman of Wonder

We are proud to share the outstanding achievements of Professor Nasreen Mahomed, Academic Head of the Division of Radiology at the University of the Witwatersrand. In January 2025, Prof Mahomed was appointed as an Executive Member of the World Federation of Paediatric Imaging (WFPI) and Chair of its Tuberculosis (TB) Committee — a significant recognition of her expertise and leadership in paediatric radiology on a global platform.



Prof Mahomed holds four degrees, including a PhD from Wits University, and completed a Paediatric Radiology Fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard University. She is among the youngest faculty members at Wits to achieve a PhD and promotion to Associate Professor in the School of Clinical Medicine. With 78 peer-reviewed publications and 17 MMED students supervised to completion, her research is innovative and impactful, notably in areas such as artificial intelligence in paediatric radiology, paediatric chest imaging, and paediatric neuro-radiology.

The WFPI's mission aligns with Prof Mahomed's passion and work: to promote collaboration, education, and outreach in paediatric imaging — especially in low-resource settings — while prioritising radiation safety and patient care.

Further celebrating her exceptional contributions, Prof Mahomed was one of 25 distinguished recipients of the Women of Wonder (WOW) South Africa Awards at the inaugural national event held on 24 May 2025 at Emperors Palace. This prestigious award recognises women who exemplify leadership, integrity, innovation, and service. WOW South Africa honours women who continue to empower others, uplift communities, and make tangible impacts both personally and professionally.


Prof Mahomed embodies the essence of a Woman of Wonder — breaking barriers in male-dominated fields, demonstrating resilience, and serving as a role model to the next generation of women leaders. She previously received a WOW Gauteng award in 2022, and her continued excellence and




influence have now earned her national recognition among over 1,000 nominees since the initiative's inception in 2018.

We congratulate Prof Nasreen Mahomed on these remarkable milestones and thank her for her inspiring contributions to science, medicine, and society.

Wits Radiology Breast Imaging Symposium 2025




6 CLINICAL + 2 ETHICS CPD




WITS RADIOLOGY

BREAST IMAGIING SYMPOSIUM 2025

INFORMATION


 **WITS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AUDITORIUM**
160 YORK RD, PARKTOWN, JOHANNESBURG 2193


 **17 OCTOBER, 2025**

 **GENERAL QUERIES:**
witsradiologymedia@gmail.com


 **Cost:**
R300– Registrars
Medical Officers
Radiographers
Sonographers
R1200– Specialists

REGISTRATION


 Visit For Registration
www.witsradiology.com




Professor Nasreen Mahomed
CONGRESS CHAIR
ACADEMIC HEAD



Professor Jacqueline Smilg
SPEAKER



Dr Peter Schoub
SPEAKER



Professor Willy Vangu
SPEAKER

OTHER SPEAKERS

Professor C Benn	Mrs Y Maistry
Dr A Chacko	Professor A Maswime
Dr N Jajbhay	Dr T Nair
Dr J Haberfeld	Mrs I Van de Berg

MSC Outreach

Kulani-Grow and MSC Mentorship Outreach On Saturday 24 May 2025, the Wits Medical Student Council engaged in an outreach initiative with the non-profit organization Kulani-Grow. This initiative was part of Kulani-Grow's overarching mission to mentor and enable students in less privileged communities so that they can pursue their careers.

The mentorship event, taking place in Katlehong, focused around exposing students to professionals and students studying toward different career fields, primarily focusing on how the students can go about being able to get into these fields.

The MSC encouraged students around what they would need to be able to apply for medicine, engaged them in educational activities and provided them with advice on other aspects they need to consider when choosing their career and the factors they need to be aware of to enable them to succeed within their studies towards a medical career.

Members in attendance:

Asanda Nomandela (MBBCHIV), Buhle Mpofu (MBBCHIV), Keamogetse Kenosi (MBBCHIV), Katlego Makhubu (MBBCHIV), Kalista January (MBBCHIV), Thabiso Tshehla (MBBCHIV), Thobile Nhlongo (MBBCHIII)



School Transformation Committee



Please remember to visit our webpage:
<https://www.wits.ac.za/clinicalmed/socm-transformation-committee/>

Unit for Undergraduate Medical Education News

Save7

Save7 is a student-led non-profit organisation committed to enhancing organ donation in South Africa. Founded at Stellenbosch University, Save7 has pioneered the LifePod, the country's first donor management room, which saves lives by expanding critical care capacity in resource-constrained hospitals to preserve the otherwise buried organs of the heroes that choose to give the gift of life.

The organisation drives impact through raising awareness, developing innovative systems, supporting patients, and identifying opportunities to streamline the donation and transplant processes to save more lives.

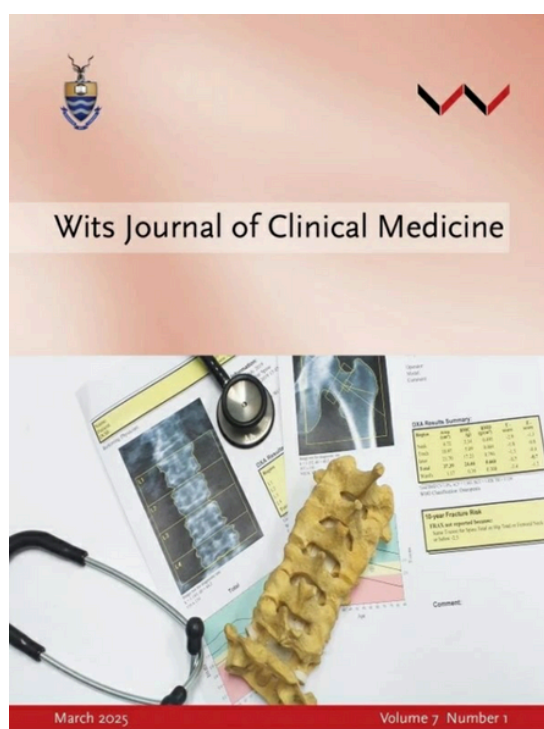
Fueled by the ambition, compassion, and dedication of medical students at the University of the Witwatersrand, Save7 is expanding its mission into Gauteng, leveraging student networks to transform the organ donation landscape. We invite the Wits community to join this life-saving initiative and make a difference.



L to R: Rosa Pisanti and Rohan Maharaj

Wits Journal of Clinical Medicine

The Wits Journal of Clinical Medicine is now being hosted by ScienceOpen.
Previous and current issues are available here.



2025 SOCM Funding - Now Open



MMed Funding

Boost your research. Present your work. Get the support you need.

The School of Clinical Medicine invites MMed students to apply for funding - please see the details below:

What's available?

- ✓ Conference registration (for presenters only):
 - Up to R10,000 for local conferences
 - Up to R20,000 for international conferences
- ✓ Research-related expenses:
 - Up to R40,000 (negotiable, based on project needs)
- ✓ Additional support:
 - Remote study resources
 - Catering (up to R1,000)
 - Petrol (SARS rate - R4.76 per km)
 - Data and airtime

Application Deadlines:

31 July | 30 September 2025

Apply now:

 [SOCM MMed Fund Application](#)

Publication cost (*limited funding*)

Funding is available to all staff and students - please use the link below to apply:

 Application Deadline: 28 November 2025

 [SOCM Publication Fund Click here](#)

Don't miss this opportunity to take your research journey to the next level!

Please send news that you would like to be included in our next newsletter to
Rita Kruger - rita.kruger@wits.ac.za