

October 2015

RECENT EVENTS

SCHOOL OF ORAL HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH DAY 2015

The School of Oral Health Sciences held its second biennial Research Day on 20 August 2015. The event was organised by the SOHS Research Day Committee chaired by Dr Julitha Molepo, Head of Research in the School. It showcased the School's research activities and was attended by 210 participants, including staff members, under- and postgraduate students, representatives from Gauteng Department of Health, South African Dental Association and other Schools/Regions within and outside the University.



Dr Molepo writes: 'The Oral and Poster Research presentations covered a wide-spectrum of research undertaken in various disciplines including Oral Rehabilitation, Oral Microbiology, Oral Pathology, Maxillo-facial and Oral Surgery, Oral Hygiene, Community Dentistry and General Dental Practice. Students and staff members gave outstanding oral presentations. The BDS IV group, led by Ms B Beneke, received the Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation prize; Dr R Garrana from the Department of Oral Medicine and Periodontology and Ms F Mbatha from the Department of Oral Biological Sciences received the Best Oral and Poster presentation by postgraduate student respectively.'

Guest speakers were Dr R Drennan, Director for Research Development at Wits, and Mr P Govan from SADA. We are grateful to all sponsors who contributed to making the event a success. These include the Faculty Research Office, Inqaba and Labotec. Sirona sponsored the undergraduate student competition prize and SADA sponsored gifts for the student winners.

The Research Day Committee put together a programme that left attendees with a lasting impression of zest and passion symbolising the School's research code. The School of Oral Health Sciences looks forward to hosting a similar event in the future.'

Photographs: Ms B Beneke and her group; Postgraduate student best oral presentation prize winner, Dr R Garrana with Dr Julitha Molepo

WITS RURAL HEALTH WEEK 2015

The Wits Centre for Rural Health (CRH) hosted its annual Rural Health Week from 7 to 9 September 2015 with the theme: *Scaling up health professions education to transform rural communities*. Professor Henry Campos, Rector of the Federal University of Ceará, in Fortaleza, Brazil, was the keynote speaker for this event.

(Front): Prof Steve Tollman (Chair, CRH Advisory Board); Dr Dianne Parker (DDG, Department of Higher Education and Training); Prof Henry Campos (Brazil), Prof Martin Veller (Dean); (Back): Prof Ian Couper (Director, CRH); Prof Vic Exner (Dean, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, PE); Dr Terence Carter (DDG, National Department of Health)



The Week began with an informal discussion led by Professor Campos on challenges and opportunities in community based education, followed by a reflection session on community engagement with the CoBHSE team. A forum was then facilitated by students on the role of students in saving rural health. Professor Campos talked about what students in Brazil were doing and how South African students could possibly learn from their work.



The Centre for Health Science Education facilitated a Faculty development workshop at which Professor Campos presented on leadership in health professions education on 8 September 2015. In his introduction he stated that expertise in the health professions is not enough if we want change agents for health. Leadership is essential to achieving this. Referring to *The Lancet* Commission's paper on transforming education, he stated that the vision of the change agent should reflect what can and should be in place. He stated that leadership and mentorship are two specialised teaching competencies. These two competencies depend on three domains, viz the ability to lead and manage, to understand oneself and an understanding of the health system. He then took the workshop participants through a series of six leadership strategies and related activities which sparked much enthusiasm and interest.

The main event, an evening seminar on 8 September, facilitated by the Dean, Professor Martin Veller, was exciting. It was attended by students, Faculty staff, University members as well as external people. The speakers included Professor Vic Exner, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University; Dr Diane Parker, Department of Higher Education and Training; Dr Terence Carter, Deputy Director-General, National Department of Health and Professor Zebulon Vilakazi, Wits Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research.



Speakers discussed the different ways that could be used to produce more health professionals in South Africa who would be sufficiently trained to maintain and improve the standards of health care in the country. Professor Campos presented Brazil's experience of expanding health professionals' training to meet the goals of the country through developing 38 new federally-supported rural medical schools within existing universities, and stressed the importance of the Ministries of Health and Education working together.

Report by Thando Maseti, Professor Trish McInerney

Photographs: (Top): Professor Martin Veller (Dean); Mr Jackie Tau (CSI Manger, Aspen Pharmacare and member of CRH Advisory Board); Ms Mmule Rakau (Chief Director: Hospital Services, North West Province and member of the CRH Advisory Board); Prof Zebulon Vilakazi (DVC Research); (below): Prof Henry Campos is thanked by Prof Mkhululi Lukhele (Head, School of Clinical Medicine)

SCHOOL OF THERAPEUTIC SCIENCES RESEARCH DAY 2015

Associate Professor Witness Mduzi, Postgraduate and Research Coordinator in the Department of Physiotherapy, School of Therapeutic Sciences, writes: 'The 5th Biennial School of Therapeutic Sciences Research Day was held on 8 September 2015. It was officially opened by the Dean, Professor Martin Veller. There were more than 150 registered attendees including staff, alumni, postgraduate students as well as fourth year undergraduate Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy students. The Research Day organisers acknowledge the support and contributions made by the Faculty Research Office, the Departments of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, the Centre for Exercise Sports Science and Medicine (CESSM) and the Professional Provident Society (PPS) for making this day a success.'



The first session was dedicated to showcasing research projects from one of the Departments in the School. This year it was the turn of the Centre for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine. Their staff and alumni presented on a range of topics that dealt with physical activity, sports, exercising and the challenges that accompany these essential daily activities.

Following this, 20 experienced and emerging researchers presented their research. Attendees viewed posters that showcased research by all the disciplines within the School. Topics ranged from diseases of life style and interventions to improve functional ability post affliction to laboratory-based malaria and cancer in vitro studies.'

Photograph: Professor Judy Bruce (Head: School of Therapeutic Sciences), Associate Professor Witness Mudzi (Chair, Therapeutic Sciences Research and Postgraduate Studies Committee), Professor Martin Veller (Dean), Associate Professor Hellen Myezwa (Head: Department of Physiotherapy), Associate Professor Paul Danckwerts (Head: Department of Pharmacy & Pharmacology), Adjunct Professor Demitri Constantinou (Director: CESSM)

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON YOUNG CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING: THE BURDEN OF POOR DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY LEVERS FOR CHANGE

Hosted by the Wits DST-NRF Centre of Excellence on Human Development (CoE-HUMAN), internationally renowned experts in public health and policy, Professors Chunling Lu and Jody Heymann, presented a combined public lecture on the global burden of poor child development and identifying and evaluating the impact of policies to support families.



Professor Lu, Harvard Medical School, outlined the methods and results of her recent analysis to estimate the number of children living in extreme poverty and/or have stunted growth in Low and Middle Income Countries. Stunted growth has been linked, in research, to various poor life outcomes including lower education and reduced income earned potential as adults.

Professor Heymann, Dean of the UCLA School of Public Health, presented research emerging from the World Policy Analysis Centre. The group has identified and coded policy data to allow for cross-country analysis. By linking these data to national-level household surveys, these data allow for careful examination of the impact of policy on child outcomes.

The World Policy Analysis Centre has identified parental income protection, parental leave and free pre- and primary education policies as important in producing better outcomes for children. In most areas, even imperfect implementation of these policies results in better child outcomes than no policy.

Both presenters were in the country to participate in a CoE-HUMAN-sponsored two-day workshop examining the possibility of modelling child development to inform priority setting. The CoE-HUMAN concentrates excellence in the study of Human Development through supporting innovative research and providing funding for Masters and PhD students and Post-Doctoral Fellows. See www.wits.ac.za/coe-human or contact sandra.roberts@wits.ac.za for more information.

Photograph: Professor Chungling Lu, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Assistant Professor of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Professor Linda Richter, Director of CoE-HUMAN at Wits, Professor Heymann, Dean of the UCLA School of Public Health, Dr Chris Desmond, Chief Research Specialist in the Human and Social Development Research Programme at the Human Sciences Research Council.

GENOMICS ON THE MOVE – SYMPOSIUM

Genomics is integral to every biological discipline. Researchers in the Faculty increasingly include genetics and genomics in their research and, as we move toward the Precision Medicine era, we need to understand the genetic contribution to diseases in our South African populations. On 10 September 2015 we held a one day symposium – Genomics on the Move, which was attended by over 100 participants. This is as a result of



a three-way partnership between the Centre for Genomic Regulation (Barcelona, Spain), Novartis Pharma (Basel, Switzerland) and the Sydney Brenner Institute for Molecular Bioscience at Wits. The Dean opened the meeting highlighting the importance of studying African populations and developing the disciplines of Bioinformatics and Biomedical Informatics at Wits.

International speakers included Luis Serrano (Director of the CRF), Michela Bertero (International and Scientific Affairs at the CRG), Xavier Estivill, Stephan Ossowski and Rory Johnson from the CRG, Frank Staedtler and Fareed Mirza from the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research. Michèle Ramsay and Zane Lombard spoke about African genome projects. Topics covered included: Genome research in Africa; haplotypes of disease; cancer driver genes and tumour evolution. South African students involved in international exchange programme opportunities, namely the CRG-Africa-Mobility Programme in Barcelona, Spain, and the Novartis Next Generation Scientist Programme in Basel, Switzerland, showcased their research and highlighted the progression from basic research to clinical application.

The Symposium was preceded by a three-day hands-on workshop covering the analysis of Next Generation Sequencing data for disease gene discovery, mRNA non-coding RNA analysis and drug-discovery pathways. The emphasis was on developing bioinformatics analysis capacity and over 30 researchers from multiple departments at Wits and the Universities of Pretoria, Cape Town and Northwest attended the event. This challenging workshop provided an excellent opportunity to develop analysis capability across multiple disciplines.

Generous sponsorship was provided by the Centre for Genomic Regulation, Novartis Pharma, Excelencia Severo Ochoa, the Bioinformatics Service Platform (DST), Inqaba® and illumina®, Whitehead Scientific.

Photograph: (Back): Dr Stephan Ossowski (CRG), Ms Jackie Frost (Wits), Dr Rory Johnson (CRG), Dr Nadia Carstens (SBIMB), Ms Thandiswa Ngcungcu (Wits/SBIMB) and Dr Nikki Gentle (NICD); (Middle): Ms Angela Hobbs (Wits), Ms Stacey Moses (UCT), Mr Andrew May (Wits) and Ms Klashanee Moodley (Wits); (Front): Dr Frank Staedtler (Novartis Pharma), Professor Xavier Estivill (CRG), Professor Luis Serrano (CRG), Dr Michela Bertero (CRG), Dr Fareed Mirza (Novartis Pharma) and Professor Michèle Ramsay (Wits/SBIMB)

STEVE BIKO BIOETHICS LECTURE: “TRANSFORMATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION: WHAT IS TO BE DONE?” BY PROFESSOR BARNEY PITZYANA

On 11 September 2015, the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics held its 2015 Annual Steve Biko Bioethics Lecture. Professor Barney Pityana, a lawyer, theologian and notable human rights academic and activist, delivered a talk entitled: *Transformation in Higher Education: What is to be done?* He highlighted that transformation in higher education is taking centre stage in educational institutions across the country. He emphasised the importance of accommodating many voices in moving towards change and noted that: “Students and their voices are not and need not be, and should not be uniform Each one though is often expressed as if it’s the only thing possible, a sole truth and nothing but the truth.”

Professor Martin Veller, who chaired the proceedings, underscored the Faculty’s commitment to meaningful transformation and presented the Draft Transformation Pledge at the end of the lecture.



Photograph: Professors Barney Pityana, Ames Dhai, Director of the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics, Martin Veller

ALBERTINA SISULU MEMORIAL LECTURE 2015: DISABLED WOMEN’S STORIES OF SOCIAL CHANGE: ADVOCATING FOR INCLUSIVE HEALTH

Associate Professor Theresa Lorenzo delivered the annual Albertina Sisulu Memorial Lecture on 16 September 2015 entitled *Disabled Women’s Stories of Social Change: Advocating for Inclusive Health Systems*.

She holds a BSc (OT) degree from Wits. She is currently the Director of the Disability Studies Programme within the Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town.

She gained experience in community-based rehabilitation, development programmes and the training of community rehabilitation workers in rural communities in Limpopo and Mpumalanga when she was employed in the CORE programme offered by the Wits Department of Occupational Therapy. She joined UCT’s Department of Occupational Therapy in 1996 and has worked in collaboration with the SACLA Health Project in building



students' capacity to work with civil society organisations in addressing the needs of disabled persons and their families. She initiated the Disability Studies Postgraduate Programmes at UCT in 2003 to bridge the gap between activism and scholarship. Recently, a Higher Certificate in Disability Practice was accredited for community care workers to upgrade their skills in disability inclusive service delivery.

Professor Lorenzo spoke passionately on how women and disability are catalysts of social change. This was illustrated by the findings that emerged from her PhD study that explored disabled women's stories which reflected the barriers and facilitators to their freedom and participation in their families and in communities of the Cape Town metropole. She reported how community rehabilitation workers (CRWs) employed by SACLA were able to actively engage with the disabled women and assist them in identifying and understanding the barriers they encountered which were related to accessing health and rehabilitation services and participation in skills development. The CRWs played an important role in addressing the stigma of impairment and disability, which assisted the women to overcome their feelings of isolation and vulnerability. Home visits by CRWs were cited as a means of emotional support as it encouraged the women to overcome their isolation and their support often helped to heal depression and anxiety. The women were encouraged to participate in meetings and workshops with other disabled people.

The women were motivated to further their education by seeking ways to develop new skills and to take collective action to achieve their desires. Many had only primary school education but had aspirations to access adult education classes and entrepreneurship training.

Professor Lorenzo reported that the participatory research appraisal (PRA) study design created a dynamic and interactive process of change that has impacted her teaching, research and social responsibility.

Photograph: Professors Judy Bruce, Head of School of Therapeutic Sciences, Theresa Lorenzo, Martin Veller

SOUTH AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL CARITAS CONSORTIUM HELD AT MONTECASINO, SOUTH AFRICA 16-18 SEPTEMBER 2015. Theme: UBUNTU in Human Caring: "I am because we are"

The first South African International Caritas conference was held from 16 to 18 September 2015 at Montecasino in Johannesburg. Members of staff of the Department of Nursing Education gave oral presentations at the conference. It was hosted and endorsed by University of South Africa and the University of Johannesburg in conjunction with Watson Caring Science Institute. Ten Caritas Processes:



1. Embrace altruistic values and practice loving kindness with self and others.
2. Instill faith and hope and honour others.
3. Be sensitive to self and others by nurturing individual beliefs and practices.
4. Develop helping – trusting, caring relationships.
5. Promote and accept positive and negative feelings as you authentically listen to another's story.
6. Use creative scientific problem-solving methods for caring decision-making.
7. Share teaching and learning that addresses the individual needs and comprehension styles.
8. Create a healing environment for the physical and spiritual self which respects human dignity.
9. Assist with basic physical, emotional and spiritual human needs.
10. Open to mystery and allow miracles to enter.

Dr Jean Watson, distinguished professor and nursing theorist from the University of Colorado, USA, was the keynote speaker. Her message was: "It is here that we unite in UBUNTU, meaning 'I am Because We/You Are' - combined with our shared consciousness of Caring Science/Caritas to radiate global caring for all of humanity and our Mother Earth." It was also at this conference where many professional nurses gathered to learn, to experience, to express, to test and try out new and old ways of thinking, feeling, doing, Being and Becoming. It was UBUNTU in action, and the presenters not only shared their research but also their experiences and learning. They apply the caring processes in their practices from intensive care units to the classroom and the boardroom.

Photograph: Gerda Meyer (Netcare), Toy Vermaak (Netcare), Dr Jean Watson (Colorado, USA), Shannon Nell (Netcare), Annalie van den Heever (Wits)

INAUGURAL LECTURE: PROFESSOR LAETITIA RISPEL. “REVOLUTIONARY HEALTH POLICY IN PRAXIS”: ANALYSING THE PROGRESS AND FAULT LINES OF 21 YEARS OF HEALTH SECTOR TRANSFORMATION



Close to 300 delegates, including the Chair of Wits University Council, Dr Randall Carolissen, and the Vice-President of the Medical Research Council, Professor Jeffrey Mphahlele, attended the inaugural lecture of Professor Laetitia Rispel's on 28 September 2015. In her introduction, Professor Rispel said that democracy in South Africa has brought about many health care gains which include free primary health care services, an expanded immunisation programme and the largest HIV treatment programme in

the world. The policies which have ushered in these changes have had an explicit focus on equity and redress, benefitting those most affected by previous apartheid policies to improve population health.

However, although the country spends 8.5% of its gross domestic product on health, half is spent in the private sector which caters for the socio-economic elite. The remaining 84% of the population, which carries a far greater burden of disease, depends on the under-resourced public sector. While evidence shows that a high-performing public health sector is one of the most redistributive mechanisms to reduce health inequalities, Professor Rispel listed three major fault-lines in health sector transformation efforts:

- A tolerance of ineptitude as well as leadership, management and governance failures, exacerbated by a general lack of accountability in which corruption also plays a role;
- Compromised primary health care because of the lack of a fully functional district health system; and
- The health workforce crisis. While in theory South Africa has a five-year national Human Resources for Health strategic plan to address this crisis, it lacks detail, largely ignores lower levels of government and underestimates the vast human resources implications of the planned national health insurance scheme.

According to the World Health Organisation, South Africa has higher ratios of health professionals than its minimum norms, some of the best training institutions in the world, highly skilled health workers, effective professional regulation and sufficient fiscal space for relatively high remuneration levels. Notwithstanding these strengths, the healthcare workforce crisis manifests in several areas: there are inequalities and maldistribution of health workers between urban and rural areas and between the public and private health sectors; there is a crisis of staff shortages, fuelled by moonlighting and agency nursing among nurses and private practice among public sector doctors; and poor staff morale, unprofessional behaviour, and unacceptable attitudes – all of which impact on the quality of patient care.

In posing the question: what needs to be done, Professor Rispel said that the reforms envisaged by the national health insurance provide exciting opportunities for health system change in South Africa. However, there must be a metaphorical repair of these fault lines, which requires political will, leadership and stewardship at all levels. Public service managers with the right skills, competencies, ethics and value systems must be appointed. There must be effective governance across the health system to enforce laws, appropriate management systems, and citizen involvement and advocacy to hold public officials accountable.

Photograph: Professor Martin Veller, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences; Laetitia Rispel; Zebulon Vilakazi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research; Beverley Kramer, Assistant Dean, Research and Postgraduate Support

THE SCHOOL OF CLINICAL MEDICINE RESEARCH DAY

The School of Clinical Medicine Research Day was held on 30 September 2015. This is the first year that the School hosted a Research Day and achieved a great success. Over 250 delegates, attended the event which displayed ongoing research carried out by academic staff, researchers, postgraduate and undergraduate students. Forty oral presentations and 80 posters were showcased on the day. The Head of the School of Clinical Medicine, Professor Mkhululi Lukhele, welcomed the attendants and the opening lecture was presented by two Carnegie fellows: Dr Nimmisha Govind and Dr Susan Williams who are clinical medical scientists who obtained their PhDs in 2013.

The event was attended by the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Martin Veller; the Assistant Dean: Research and Postgraduate Support, Professor Beverley Kramer; the Assistant Dean: Student Support Office, Professor Thakor Parbhoo and Professor Michael Hasenkam from Experimental Cardiac Surgery of the Aarhus University, Denmark, amongst others.



The Research Day covered a wide spectrum of topics with four major areas: Health Systems, Education and Bioinformatics; General (disciplines such as paediatrics, obstetrics, neurology, radiology and ophthalmology); Renal & Cardiology; and Anaesthesia & Surgery.



The closing lecture was delivered by Professor Ian Sanne, Clinical Director of the Clinical HIV Research Unit and Chief Executive Officer, Right To Care.

Professor Veller presented the four major prizes in the following categories: Undergraduate/Master in Medicine to Dr John Thomson; Postgraduate Masters by dissertation/PhD to Dr Justor Banda; Postgraduate Fellow/consultant to Dr Nadine Harran and one prize for the Best Poster to Bonita Do Nascimento.



This Research Day gave the members of the School of Clinical Medicine an opportunity to share their work and knowledge and engage in fruitful debates.

Photographs: (top): Professors Pravin Manga, Sarala Naicker, Elena Libhaber, Mkhululi Lukhele; (middle): Professor Ian Sanne; (below): Mr Alf Farrell, CEO, Wits Health consortium, Best Poster prize winners and Professor Martin Veller

SEPTEMBER 2015 – A MARVELLOUS MONTH FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION



Mrs Pat Apfel writes: 'September started off impressively for us when we descended on the Annual Nursing Education Conference in Durban by storm. Not only did Sue Armstrong, Meghan Botes, Hilary Thurling, Lizelle Crous and Andrea Hayward present papers which were all well received, but two of our students also had their

abstracts accepted. Sabelile Tenza presented her completed Master's degree study and Linette Engelbrecht presented a poster demonstrating the Q-sort methodology she has used to gather data for her study. This is an unusual research method in South Africa and attracted a great deal of interest.

We were also delighted at the praise our group of "Novice Researchers" received at the conference. This is a Nursing Education Association initiative. Our Department, and in particular Sue Armstrong, supported the Johannesburg and Mpumalanga study which these novice researchers completed in less than a year – so it can be done!

Hilary Thurling then went on to write and pass the examination to become the first certified Healthcare Simulation Educator in the whole of Africa. We are very proud of her and understand why she is in such demand internationally – she leaves for the USA for a short trip again this week – but we want her back!



SASOHN (SA Society for Occupational Health Practitioners) notified Agnes Huiskamp that she will receive the best journal article award for 2015 for an article found to be “relevant to the current practice and changing dynamics of OHNP”.

Gayle Langley and Hilary Thurling went off to Cambridge in England and presented a paper entitled: *Using standardised patients for advanced psychiatric nursing assessment* at the NET2015 conference.

While still internalising and celebrating all these successes, we held our Departmental Research Day on 22 September 2015 and were taken aback, but delighted, that we did not have enough seating for everyone! The theatre was packed to capacity and more! Research Day showcased under- and postgraduate research projects and papers presented by students were varied, of great interest and very well researched. A full house of delegates attended the day, including staff, postgraduate students, alumni, undergraduate nursing students and nursing staff from the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital.



Postgraduate student Mrs Andrea Hayward gave an oral presentation: “When your daily job nearly kills you. The journey of a nurse patient”, which sparked off intense delegate participation. A panel discussion was held for the presentation: “I almost hung myself”: *Zambian women’s experiences of cervical cancer*. It was presented by I Kaila, a postgraduate student. The objectives of the study were to explore the knowledge, understanding and experiences of women diagnosed with cervical cancer treated at the Cancer Diseases Hospital in Lusaka.

Three groups of undergraduate nursing students presented: “An audit of equipment, supplies and protocols in nursing units in an academic hospital in Johannesburg”. The units were: Paediatric, Medical/Surgical and Obstetrics/Gynaecology. There were well researched and well presented.

The Day was officially closed by Mrs Meghan Botes who congratulated the students on their research topics and acknowledged the support and contributions made by the staff of the Department. Positive feedback from the delegates indicated the success of the Day. A resounding thank you to everyone concerned!

Photographs: Professor JE Maree, Head of the Department of Nursing Education, congratulating presenters at the Departmental Research Day: undergraduate students B Ayanda, M Mosebedi, L Webber, N Pelser, D Quiroga, Professor Maree, postgraduate students A Hayward, L Crous; Hilary Thurling; delegates interacting at the Department Research Day, 22 September 2015

THE ECOBIOLOGY OF AFRICAN PYGMIES: NEW INSIGHTS, 6 October 2015

Dr Rihlat Said Mohamed writes: ‘The MRC/Wits Development Pathways for Health Research Unit (DPHRU) presented a lecture by Dr Alain Froment (MD, PhD, Director of Research at the Research Institute of Development and National Museum of Natural History, Paris) in the framework of their series of public seminars on the Evolutionary Biology of Human Development and Health. In his talk, entitled *The Ecobiology of African Pygmies: New Insights*, Dr Froment presented a wide interdisciplinary research programme on Pygmy groups (in Cameroon, Gabon, Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo) including ethnography, musicology, linguistics, archaeology, demography, biometry, food consumption, epidemiology and genetics data.



In a Cameroonian Pygmy group called Baka, Dr Froment and his colleagues’ results of an 8 year longitudinal study show that Bakas’ birth weight and height conforms to international growth standards but their growth slows down during infancy. These results are different from another group of Pygmies living in the Ituri forest, DRC, that have a small body size from birth. Dr Froment and his colleagues concluded that different growth patterns can result in convergent phenotypes. Furthermore, while acknowledging the lack of understanding of genetic mechanisms of growth pattern, Dr Froment suggested that growth may be modulated by adaptive constraints explaining different body size in different environments.

On the archaeology of Pygmies populations, Dr Froment and his colleagues' results from DNA studies suggest that Pygmies separated from other African groups about 70 000 years ago. He highlighted that while it is reasonable to postulate that Pygmies populations adapted to rainforest, and other African groups adapted to savannah, it is still not clear why the two populations did not admix until the recent Bantu expansion. He suggested that Quaternary climatic events and human migrations in Central Africa could partly explain these observations.'

AJ ORENSTEIN MEMORIAL LECTURE: DRONES IN HEALTH CARE, 1 December 2015

The 2015 AJ Orenstein Memorial Lecture once again delivered on the promise of contemporary engagement deeply rooted in history. Emeritus Professor Barry Mendelow enthralled a capacity audience with his odyssey of trying to facilitate the delivery of blood and pathology results to remote villages. He spoke of the possibilities of turning the military capacity of the drone into technology which had the potential to serve the most underserved rural communities. His summary of the lecture was: Health care provision generally in South Africa is heavily skewed towards the urban centres, while remote rural communities are



often unable to access adequate services in time to be effective. The medical profession has an obligation to try to fill this gap, but over many decades this obligation has proved difficult to meet. One approach concerns the provision of improved logistical support for medical services such as laboratory testing and pharmaceutical supply. His talk on the opportunities provided by the drone technology has been backed up by an article he published in the *South African Medical Journal* in 2007. A particular feature of his discussion was that his expertise is currently sought by many people around the world who are now also taking this opportunity forward.

The Faculty is grateful to Luvuyo Dondolo, Curator of the Adler Museum, who managed the logistics for the event very efficiently.

Photograph: Members of the School of Pathology with Emeritus Professor Mendelow: Professors Johnny Mahlangu (Head of School), Lesley Scott, Barry Jacobson, Emeritus Professor Barry Mendelow, Nazeer Ali, Dr Sergio Carmona, Dr Penny Keene, Dr Eva Saragas, Dr Emma Wypkema (Lancet Laboratories), Dr Pascale Willem

RETIREMENT: PROFESSOR FRANCO GUIDOZZI

Professor Anthony Koller writes: 'A formal dinner in honour of Professor Franco Guidozzi was held on 14 August 2015 on the Wits West Campus. The invited guests, besides Professor Guidozzi and his immediate family, including his wife, his three daughters and his eldest daughter's husband (all graduates of the Wits Faculty of Health Sciences), were Professor Martin Veller: Dean of the Faculty, and senior members of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, representing all the Johannesburg group of teaching hospitals.



The Master of Ceremonies was Dr Trudi Smith, Principal Consultant in the Department, and speakers included Professor Veller, Dr Yasmin Adam: Head of O & G at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, Dr Ramtula from the Department of O & G at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, Dr Theo Kopenhagen: Senior Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in private practice and Anthony Koller: Adjunct Professor in the Department of O & G.

The function honoured Professor Guidozzi and recognised his profound contribution as an extremely skilled obstetrician and gynaecologist, and a revered academician and administrator during his 35 years of constant and loyal commitment to Wits University and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. All the speakers alluded to Professor Guidozzi's brilliant academic career, his meteoric rise through the ranks of the University, culminating in his promotion to full Professor and Academic Head of the Department of O & G and Chief Specialist at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital while still in his early forties!

Professor Guidozi's massive contribution to teaching was highlighted, with specific reference to his phenomenal contribution to the medical literature, and to lecturing locally and internationally. His extensive service to the University, the College of Medicine of South Africa, the South African Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, the South African Menopause Society, the South African Representative Committee of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists and the South African Gynaecological Oncology Society, inter alia, was emphasised.

Dr Theo Kopenhager, a senior obstetrician and gynaecologist in private practice, spoke of Professor Guidozi's personal qualities, including his uncompromising integrity and his unlimited energy and passion for his chosen profession.

Professor Guidozi eloquently addressed the audience in thanks for the accolades afforded him, and there was general consensus as to the great debt owed to him by the greater family of obstetricians and gynaecologists in South Africa, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in particular, and the University of the Witwatersrand.'

On behalf of the Faculty we bid Professor Guidozi farewell and wish him well in his retirement.

RETIREMENT: PROFESSOR JOHN FLEMING



Professor John Fleming (MBBCh 1962) retired as Head of the Hand Unit, Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, in September 2015.

Professor Fleming writes: 'On my return from America in 1975 where I had spent two years doing a fellowship with various noted hand surgeons, I started the Hand Unit at Baragwanath Hospital. Things were difficult. There was not much theatre time, nor was there adequate staffing

and the clinic worked under considerable difficulties. There was just myself and a single registrar. We had problems with the anaesthetic service which was over-stretched at that time. There were many times when we had no general anaesthesia. Fortunately, I had brought back from America the skill and the experience to do regional anaesthesia in a safe and satisfactory manner.

We were able to do a number of 'firsts':

- The first brachial plexus surgery for stabs in the neck. This became a regular item and was probably done once a month;
- The first successful re-plantation of an amputated hand using micro surgery;
- The first transplant of a toe to replace a lost thumb;
- The first successful vascularised bone-graft, using the fibula to replace the radius.

In 2013, I negotiated with various mining houses and raised R6 million with which we built a stand-alone unit which consists of two theatres, the clinic and a physiotherapy section, dedicated to hands. In addition, the staff is larger which includes a dedicated staff of sisters and their supportive nurses. We do approximately 2 000 theatre cases each year.

A considerable number of original papers have emanated from the Hand Unit. Most of the hand fellows have gone on to gain recognition and honours in this technically challenging and rewarding field. We have also made a significant contribution to children who have been victims of severe burn contractures.

At the present time, we are blessed with excellent consultants: Dr Grant Biddulph, Dr Walter Stuart and Dr Cynthia Satshega, who will carry on the work with their customary skill and enthusiasm. The head of the unit is Dr Thato Sefeane.'

On behalf of the Faculty we bid Professor Fleming farewell and wish him well in his retirement.

Photograph: Simon Seshabela, Caroline Mabuse, Mashudu Mathwa, Talitha Nkosi, Joyce Moeng, Sewela Mahathlane, Cynthia Mpande, Gugu Khatide, Maria Mkhwanazi, Catherine Letsholo; (front row): Dr Grant Biddulph, Professor John H Fleming, Dr Tato Seleane, Dr Cynthia Sathekg (all orthopaedic surgeons)

CONGRATULATIONS!

PROFESSOR FREDERICK (DERICK) RAAL WINS VICE-CHANCELLOR'S RESEARCH AWARD

On behalf of the Faculty we are delighted to congratulate Professor Frederick Raal, Director of the Carbohydrate and Lipid Metabolism Research Unit, who is this year's recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Research Award. Professor Raal will share the Award with Professor Chris Henshilwood from the Evolutionary Studies Institute.



Professor Raal has dedicated his life to finding a treatment for homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH). It is a genetic condition that is caused by a defect on chromosome 19, which renders the body unable to remove low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol from the blood. The condition causes extremely high levels of LDL cholesterol to build up in a person's body, clogging the arteries and causing cardiac disease and heart attacks at extremely young ages.

Professor Raal's research resulted in medication that could be used to effectively treat patients with familial hypercholesterolaemia. He says: 'It has been a remarkable journey since the 1990s from virtually unable to treat the condition to finding a cure. It does mean that you are on medication for life but you are able to live a normal, healthy life.' The medication he helped develop has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in July 2015.

Professor Raal specialises in both heterozygous and homozygous FH. Heterozygous FH is one of the most common inherited conditions and affects one in every 250 people worldwide. In South Africa, the Afrikaans, Indian and Jewish communities are especially affected, with one in every 80 people living with the condition.

Homozygous FH is rare but is even more serious and is caused when a child inherits the defective genes from both his parents. Unable to process LDL cholesterol at all, the result is that four times the normal amount of cholesterol builds up in the body.

Unlike dietary induced high cholesterol, which is caused by a bad lifestyle and can be reduced by a healthy diet and regular exercise, FH in both forms needs to be treated with medication for life. Professor Raal's research into finding a treatment for the condition led to the development of a drug called Mipomersen. The drug cuts cholesterol levels of people living with FH by 30%. His research was published in *The Lancet* in 2010 and this article has been cited almost 400 times. His further work led to the development of PCSK9 inhibitors that can cut cholesterol levels by a further 60%.

His two papers on the use of this medication in heterozygous and homozygous FH were also published in *The Lancet* in January 2015.

He has received numerous awards for his work. He has co-authored over 170 articles and has reviewed for several international journals. He is also a member of several scientific societies.

This is the eighth time in nine years that a Faculty member of staff has received this award. Previous recipients were: Professor John M Pettifor (2007); Professor Charles Feldman (2009); Professor Shabir Madhi (2010); Professor Maureen Coetzee (2011); Professor Helen Rees (2012); Professor Viness Pillay (2013) and Professor Lynn Morris (2014).

For further details please see: Wits News 30 September 2015

MASSIVE FUNDING BOOST: SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



The Wits School of Public Health will use an approximately R70 million cash injection to develop and improve biostatistical skills among researchers. Professor Tobias Chirwa is one of seven leading African researchers to receive major funding, over five years, from the Wellcome Trust and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) to establish relevant research and training programmes across the continent. Professor Chirwa is a biostatistician in the School of Public Health and Head of the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Through the Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training and Science Initiative (DELTA) Africa programmes, the fund strives to establish world-class research environments at African universities with a strong focus on creating training opportunities for the next generation of researchers. The funds will be utilised by the

Sub-Saharan African Consortium for Advanced Biostatistical Training (S2ACABT), a consortium of African and northern institutions, of which Wits University will lead.

As there is a shortage of well-trained biostatisticians in many African countries, S2ACABT will support the development of a network of biostatisticians to deliver statistical courses for biomedical researchers, develop and implement statistical theory to analyse health data, and create the framework for improved biostatistical skills among health researchers and academics in nine African countries. **Well done!**

For further details please see: Wits News 15 September 2015

NEWS FROM THE STUDENTS: MEDICS RUGBY TOUR

Following our victory in the Wits Internal / Inter-faculty Koshuis league last year (for the first time since 1998 allegedly), the Wits Medics Rugby team embarked on their first rugby tour in many years to seek refuge from Johannesburg's cold harsh winter bite for a few days in the warm KwaZulu-Natal and take our chances against our UKZN rivals.



We raffled off a TV and sold tickets to generous family members, friends, Faculty staff and Medics rugby old boys as we raised in excess of R 25 000. We were also grateful to Mr Carter (Head of Sport) and Wits Sports Admin for generously transporting the lads in a mini-bus. We had to play on a Friday night because of the Bok/Argentine game on the Saturday, and apparently we wouldn't have been able to get a referee from the KZN Referees' Union as they were all involved with the Bok game.

Because the UKZN do not have a Medics team, we played the UKZN 2nd XV side. This was the proverbial David versus Goliath with a bunch of medics matched up against some great hulking brutes from the 031.

They had thought it would be easy beat us but at half time we narrowly lead 18-15. It was during our half time water break that I told the lads in no uncertain terms that we were representatives from the most prestigious tertiary educational institute in the country and were further making a name for our Health Sciences Faculty. We were down there to do a job, and they had better pull finger and make sure these savages from the coast never forget the day they got whipped by some 'Vaalie' medical students.

Lo and behold the boys came out guns blazing! With one torn medial collateral ligament, numerous cuts and scrapes, bruises and bone crunching tackles, we came away with a very convincing 42 - 18 win.

We spent the rest of the week-end in Durban. We returned to Jozi on Monday (National Women's Day). It was a really successful tour with great fun being had. We did some serious bonding and strengthened invaluable team relations with the comradery being tangible by the end of the trip. *Report submitted by Patrick Chappel, GEMP IV, Captain of the Medics Rugby Team 2014-2015*

THE SESSION



The Session is poetry movement that was a much needed vibe at Wits Medical School amongst the assignments and heavy workload. A chance to breathe in-between the mayhem of academics. For people walking in and out of campus with brains crammed with creativity, it was a way to showcase more of what people are than school ever could: stand in front of a crowd of folk and speak your mind on anything. Turn love, pain and frustration into snaps and applause, daily life put into a string of words. Tell your story, or someone else's story, how you see fit and heal. Using words to poke an

eye out of the social injustices around us, to dream, to inspire, are but just a few ways to use poetry. See poetry is not just words; it's what you make of it. Poetry came and the healing started because it heals the speaker and crowd alike. So that is why we felt it had to be showcased at Medical School because a doctor is not the only healer.

A team of wonderful friends made it all happen. Right from supporting the idea, organising, presenting and performing. Shows what teamwork can achieve.

The event was held on 20 August 2015. From the first moment to the last the audience was captivated.

Refreshments were supplied by Olives and Plates. An evening filled with poetry and music. We had guests from the Wits Poets' Corner Society and poetry enthusiasts who contributed to an impressive crowd turnout, the open mic slot was electrifying as people enthusiastically jumped to the opportunity to perform spontaneously. Those who were present wish they could relive the night ... more so those who wished they had performed.

We hope to have the event every block so do watch out for the next one. We would like to thank everyone who made the night a success. See you all at the next session.

Report by Makamole Lelimo and Lesedi Tshounyane



NEWS FROM ALUMNI: REUNION, TORONTO, 26 September 2015



Dr Alan (Woody) Berzen (MBBCh 1980) writes: 'We had a very successful reunion in Toronto on 25 to 26 September 2015. It was a group of 26 from all over the USA and Canada. It was our 35th year since graduation (1980). I organised a reunion initially for the guys from Men's Res to get together but then we extended it to all the MDs from our class in North America. I tracked down about 45 alumni in North America from our class but because of the short notice many were unable to join.

All of the alumni have done extremely well: it's amazing how successful we have all been in another country, but the weekend was focused more on reconnecting. Our career paths seemed less important and

hardly discussed. The time was spent reminiscing about Med School, Res and for those of us who went, the army. It was wonderful to renew friendships, meet spouses and recount exploits. I was most impressed at how easy it was to be together and how much we all enjoyed each other's company. Time seemed not to have mattered. Most of us have agreed to try and do this on annual basis. There was a great sense that our training at Wits Medical School had served us all well and the firm system in clinical years had contributed to the great strength of the friendships.

The participants were: Trevor Horwitz (Radiologist, Edmonton), Stan Kitay (Radiologist, Edmonton), Bradley Jabour (Radiologist, Los Angeles), Jackie Shevel (medical hospital owner, San Diego), Kevin Rappaport (Cardiologist, San Diego), Ronnie Brazg (Endocrinologist, Seattle), Darryl Kawalsky (Cardiologist, Dallas), David Simchowitz (Neonatologist, Houston), Peter Wilton (General Surgeon, St Pauls, Minneapolis), Brian Kirshon (High Risk Obstetrics, Houston), Julian Gorvy (Paediatrician, Atlanta), Barry Stein (Paediatrician, New York), George Smulian (Head of ID, Cincinnati), Mark Berelowitz (Child Psychiatrist, London), Tony Davidson (Cape Town, Industrial Medicine), Alan Berzen (Paediatrician and Metabolic Specialist, Toronto), Ivor Teitelbaum (General Practice, Toronto), Peter Chait (Radiologist, Toronto), Anthony Feinstein (Neuropsychiatrist, Toronto), Brian Adno (General Practice, Toronto), Stan Flax (Urologist, Toronto), Rashid Rajah (Paediatrician, Toronto), Saul Quint (General Practice, Toronto), Dennis Matzkin (Ophthalmologist, Chattanooga), Rafel Schneider (Paediatric Rheumatologist, Head of Rheumatology at HSC, Toronto) and Jai Govan (Paediatrician, Toronto).

INVITATIONS



The Carnegie-WITS Alumni Diaspora Programme
Invites you to a Faculty lecture entitled

An Ounce of Prevention: Case Study of an Innovative Lifestyle Management and Chronic Disease Risk Reduction Programme

By Dr Neil Gordon

Dr Neil Gordon

MBBCh (Wits), PhD (Wits), MPH (UCLA)

Dr Neil Gordon is the CEO of INTERVENT International, LLC. He obtained his MBBCh and PhD from Wits University, and after relocating to the United States, obtained his Master's degree in Public Health from UCLA. Dr Gordon served as Director of Exercise Physiology at the world-renowned Cooper Research Institute in Dallas, Texas where, amongst other things, he worked with numerous elite athletes. He was subsequently in private practice with The Dallas Heart Group. He is the founder of INTERVENT^{usa} Inc., and the INTERVENT lifestyle management and chronic disease risk reduction programmes. He is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology and is Board Certified in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine.



Dr Gordon has authored over 100 published scientific manuscripts, eight books, and numerous scientific abstracts in the area of preventive medicine. He also served as an associate editor of the Eighth Edition of the American College of Sports Medicine's Guidelines for Exercise Testing and Prescription.

Dr Gordon has devoted his career, spanning over 30 years, to the prevention of cardiovascular disease and other chronic illnesses. He has received many honours and awards of recognition as an international leader in the field of chronic disease prevention and management. He has been awarded a Carnegie-WITS Diaspora Fellowship and will be hosted by the Centre for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine.

Date: Monday, 19 October 2015
Time: 13h00—14h00
Venue: Len Miller Lecture Theatre
9th Floor, Faculty of Health Sciences
University of the Witwatersrand
Address: 7 York Road, Parktown, Johannesburg

Please **RSVP by 14 October** to Kurium.Govender@wits.ac.za

The Carnegie-Wits Alumni Diaspora Programme
invites you to a Faculty lecture entitled

**Cardiac Rehabilitation and Risk Reduction:
Time to 'Rebrand and Reinvigorate'**

By Dr Neil Gordon

MBBCh (Wits), PhD (Wits), MPH (UCLA)

Date: Thursday, 22 October 2015
Refreshments: 16h30
Lecture: 17h00—18h00
Venue: Room 5A01, 5th Floor,
Faculty of Health Sciences, Wits University
Address: 7 York Road, Parktown, Johannesburg
RSVP to Kurium.Govender@wits.ac.za by 19 October

DR NEIL GORDON is the CEO and founder of **INTERVENT International, LLC**. Prior to this, he served as Director of Exercise Physiology at the world-renowned **Cooper Research Institute in Dallas, Texas** and thereafter went into private practice with The **Dallas Heart Group**. He is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology and is Board Certified in Public Health and General Preventive Medicine. Dr Gordon has authored over 100 published scientific manuscripts, eight books, and numerous scientific abstracts in the area of preventive medicine.

Dr Gordon has received many honours and awards of recognition as an international leader in the field of chronic disease prevention and management.



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**THE BODIES AND MINDS OF BABIES IN
RELATIONSHIP: DIALOGUES IN A
MULTIDISCIPLINARY CONTEXT**

DATE: Friday 30 - Saturday 31 October 2015

VENUE: Science Stadium, University of Witwatersrand, JHB



Centre of Excellence in
Human Development
Individual and Society



GAIMH-SA in association with University of the Witwatersrand and Centre of Excellence

Conference Registration: <http://www.gaimh.co.za/conference.html>

For any queries please contact conference1@onscreenav.co.za or gaimh2@gmail.com



12TH ANNUAL CONGRESS

SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF THROMBOSIS AND HAEMOSTASIS

“CONTROVERSIES IN THROMBOSIS AND HAEMOSTASIS IN 2015”

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2015

The 2015 SASTH Congress will take place at the Westcliff Hotel, Johannesburg on Sunday 1 November. For full information, programme and to register please visit the Congress website. <http://www.sasthcongress.co.za/2015/>

Should you experience difficulties in registering, please contact the Congress Co-ordinator:

Jennifer Bailey

SASTH Congress Co-ordinator

Tel: +27 (0)12 8091597; Fax 2 email: +27 (0)866706955

Mobile: +27 (0)82 567 6300

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Guest speaker

The Centre for Health Science Education invites you to a presentation to be made by

Carnegie Fellow Dr Cyril Meyerowitz.

Dr Meyerowitz is from Rochester University, New York City and is being hosted by the School of Oral Health Sciences.

His presentation will include “Trends in dental education and the role of the oral health scientist in Interprofessional Education”.

Date: 10 November 2015

Time: 0900-10:00

Venue: CHSE boardroom

RSVP: Gobotsamang.Motlhabani@wits.ac.za before 5 November 2015

Invitation

**THE HREC (MEDICAL), STEVE BIKO CENTRE FOR
BIOETHICS AND WITS HEALTH CONSORTIUM
CLINICAL HIV RESEARCH UNIT INVITE YOU TO
A RESEARCH ETHICS CME**

Date: 19 November 2015

Venue: The Marie Curie Lecture Theatre

Time: 16h00 – 18h00

Registration and Tea: 15h30

CPD: 4 Ethics CEUs | **RSVP:** by 30th October to Samkelo.Nsibande@wits.ac.za

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG



Steve Biko
Centre for Bioethics

Programme

16h00: Welcome
16h05: Some Background to Problems with Applications
16h45: Applying the Ethics Guidelines in Research
17h15: Biobank Update
17h30: Understanding the Wits MTA
17h45: General Discussion
18h00: Closure

Professor Ian Sanne
Professor Peter Cleaton-Jones
Professor Ames Dhai
Professor Ames Dhai
Safia Mahomed

INVITATION

The Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Martin Veller, cordially invites you to the

FACULTY'S HONOURS CELEBRATION

Date: **Wednesday, 2 December 2015**
Time: **14:30**
Venue: **Resources Centre
Wits School of Public Health**

It is the day when the Faculty recognises those who have been appointed to senior positions, those who have been recognised for significant **achievements** in their disciplines or within the Faculty or the University over the last year, those who have received awards and those who are retiring this year.

ALL STAFF ARE INVITED TO THE EVENT.

Please RSVP to Innocentia.vukeya@wits.ac.za or phone her on 011 717 2099 for further information.

Please Save the Date

8-9 December 2015

For a National Forum on:

Surgery and Anaesthesia: an indispensable part of achieving universal health coverage

This ground-breaking conference will bring together surgical and anaesthetic specialists, health policy makers, public health and health system experts to discuss and debate:

- ▶ Essential surgical care and anaesthesia as part of universal health coverage
- ▶ Expanding access to safe, high quality, affordable surgery and anaesthesia in South Africa, particularly in rural and under-served areas
- ▶ Appropriate workforce, training and education
- ▶ Health systems strengthening, including infrastructure development
- ▶ Financing essential surgical and anaesthetic care
- ▶ Building linkages across disciplines

We will also host the South African Launch of The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery

Dates: 8-9 December 2015

Time: 08h30 until 17h00 on day 1; 08h30 until 14h00 on day 2

Venue: School of Public Health Auditorium, York Road, Parktown

Registration forms will be available shortly. Registration will be free but the organisers urge you to register as soon as these become available. **In the meantime please diarise the date.**

For further information, please contact Professor Martin Smith at martin.smith@wits.ac.za



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FACULTY OF
HEALTH
SCIENCES

Health Sciences Review is published mid-month every month.

The next issue will appear on 13 November 2015

Deadline for submission of information and pictures: 10 November 2015

Please send information to: rochelle.keene@wits.ac.za