

December 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN, PROFESSOR MARTIN VELLER

Dear faculty, students, alumni and friends of the Wits Faculty of Health Sciences

In the last couple of weeks I have heard many staff say that the year has flown by so quickly and that there is still so much to do. The Faculty has been extremely busy with several competing events for most of the year, making it difficult for us to choose which to participate in. So we should not be complaining about how fast the year has gone by – but to celebrate the exciting and vibrant place that we work in.

2015 has been an incredible year in many ways. Not only have we experienced unusually high levels of heat and drought conditions, we have also faced some tough challenges, especially over the #FeesMustFall student campaign. I want to thank all of you for your amazing support during those weeks, which would only have emanated from your understanding of the students' plight. I am immensely honoured to be amongst staff and students who understood the situation and came together for a common purpose. All of you are spectacular!

We have also celebrated many laudable successes due to the dedication, commitment and sheer hard work exhibited by our staff and students. We have had many prestigious events to acknowledge our staff, some of whom are leaders in their disciplines. These individuals continue to bring us great honour and keep the Faculty internationally recognised.

The 2016 academic year will be a difficult one, especially with budget cuts, and I would like all of us, collectively, to understand the scope of the issues before us and to become part of the solution without compromising academic values and shared academic governance. There will be a review of the Faculty's goals very early in the New Year, and the Faculty's transformation agenda will continue to be a priority. There is much to be done.

On behalf of the management of the Faculty, I extend my sincere thanks to all of you for your support, commitment and understanding during 2015. I wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday and look forward to you returning with renewed energy to continue your participation in the life of our exciting campus!

Martin Veller



RECENT EVENTS

TEACHING TOOLS WORKSHOP – ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA 2015

The 8th Teaching Tools Workshop was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 17 to 22 September 2015 and was attended by four neuroscientists from the Wits School of Anatomical Sciences: Dr Chioma Blessing Uzokwe, Dr Tanya Calvey, Mr Pedzisai Mazengenya and Ms Illike Philander, and 22 neuroscience teachers from other African countries. The workshop was sponsored by the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO), the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) and the Grass Foundation and consisted of an international faculty of neuroscientists from the USA, UK, Kenya as well as Professor Amadi Ihunwo from the Wits School of Anatomical Sciences. The workshop provided tools and frameworks for teaching neuroscience such as basic neuroscience modules for integration into neuroscience curricula, lectures on effective neuroscience pedagogy, for example tips on creating effective powerpoint presentations. Lectures were also provided on fundamental neuroscience topics such as neurons and glia, receptors and sensory systems. These lectures were given to the attendees at the end of the school with other useful images, videos and programmes to be incorporated into their own lectures. It was a very successful school that will have a positive impact on neuroscience students throughout Africa.



DOHAD SATELLITE WORKSHOP: EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH & HUMAN CAPITAL

Early child development (ECD) is critical to meeting many of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and therefore is a policy priority for governments around the world. Yet the majority of low and middle income countries (LMICs) do not yet have multi-sectoral ECD policies. Only about 45% have a holistic approach.

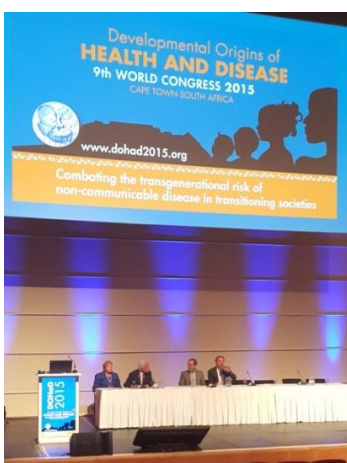
As part of the 9th Developmental Origins of Health and Disease World Congress held in Cape Town 8 to 11 November, the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development organised a satellite workshop on ECD, health and human capital. This workshop sought to bring scientists and policy makers together to discuss effective policy implementation, based on global and African experiences.

The first session was chaired by Wits distinguished professor Linda Richter. It explored the latest scientific information in the context of global policy. Presentations highlighted the difference ECD interventions can make.

Stephen Lye of the Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development at the University of Toronto presented his work on how poor socio-economic factors can alter children's gene expression and affect their health, body composition and learning ability. Cesar Victora from the Federal University of Pelotas in Brazil presented results from a systematic review and meta-analysis on the impact of breastfeeding on the IQ and school performance of children. The review showed a 2.5 point increase in IQ with longer breastfeeding.

Pia Rebello Britto emphasised the unique opportunity offered by ECD's current prominence on the global agenda. ECD is foundational to all 17 Sustainable Development goals, including the eradication of poverty and inequality, the improvement of health, and quality education. In order to be successful, a research-informed multi-sectoral approach should be developed. Bernadette Daelmans of the World Health Organisation (WHO) made it clear that action now can change the outcomes for those not yet born. This includes policies which create an enabling environment, such as paid maternity leave, breastfeeding at work and free preschool education which necessarily require cooperation between various governmental departments at national level.

Some African countries are making good progress in creating holistic, multi-sectoral approaches, including South Africa, Kenya, Uganda and Namibia. Ms Zanele Twala, Director of Childhood Education at the Presidency then chaired the second session for the day which was a round table discussion with representatives from these African governments. Despite significant progress made towards the implementation of coordinated multi-sectoral ECD policies, traditional government department demarcation remains a significant obstacle to implementation.



WORLD PNEUMONIA DAY: *PUSH THE PACE. FIGHT PNEUMONIA*

The Centre for Respiratory Diseases and Meningitis at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases arranged a series of four lectures on World Pneumonia Day on 12 November 2015. The theme for World Pneumonia Day for 2015 was Push the Pace. Fight Pneumonia. The focus for this day was on new innovations and solutions to end childhood pneumonia. In 2013, 905,059 children <5 years of age died from pneumonia; 60% of these deaths occurred in 10 countries in Africa and South Asia. To reduce these deaths significantly requires the accelerated uptake of innovative lifesaving technologies.



The four speakers were: Professor Shabir Madhi (National Institute for Communicable Diseases) who spoke about 'Innovations in pneumonia prevention' and discussed the importance of vaccines in the fight against pneumonia; Dr Nicole Wolter (National Institute for Communicable Diseases) addressed the audience on 'Innovations in pneumonia diagnostics' with the use of molecular diagnostics; Professor Charles Feldman (Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital) delivered a talk entitled 'Innovations in management of pneumonia' which focused on adjunctive therapies in pneumonia treatment; and finally Professor Keith Klugman (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) who spoke about 'Funding innovations for pneumonia' and discussed the novel funding approach of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Foundation is funding a number of ground breaking technologies, from point of care rapid diagnostic instruments for pneumonia detection to thermal imaging on smart phones; a large maternal RSV vaccine trial and pneumococcal vaccine development by the Serum Institute in India to name but a few.

The reduction of pneumonia deaths in children under 5 years of age is key to achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MGD4) of reducing under 5 mortality by two-thirds between 1999 and 2015. Achieving this goal is not without challenges and diverse strategies are needed.

Photograph: Professors Keith Klugman, Shabir Madhi, Dr Nicole Wolter, Professor Charles Feldman

10th JAMES GEAR MEMORIAL LECTURE: HIV CURE: A FORMIDABLE CHALLENGE



On 16 November 2015, the 10th James HS Memorial Lecture entitled *HIV cure: a formidable challenge* was delivered by Professor Caroline T Tiemessen. This event is held annually at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases and is hosted by the Poliomyelitis Research Foundation of South Africa. The public lecture addressed the following: the characteristics that make HIV such a successful pathogen; why current therapies cannot cure HIV; examples of groups of HIV-infected individuals who control their infection or disease in the absence of drugs; and the case studies that have driven

the field of cure research. What is being learned from these cases, as well as from studies of natural HIV control models, will continue to contribute to the ever-expanding "toolbox" of strategies being evaluated for cure. It was concluded that HIV cure should remain a high priority goal for research, as attaining the more feasible outcome of "functional cure" or remission (natural control in the absence of antiretroviral drugs following such an intervention) or the very much more challenging possibility of eradication cure (complete elimination of all replication-competent virus), would have enormous individual and public health benefits.

Professor Tiemessen heads the Cell Biology section within the Centre for HIV and STIs at the NICD, and holds the DST/NRF Chair of HIV Vaccine Translational Research at Wits. Her research into HIV cure and HIV vaccines focuses on understanding the human models for study of natural protection from HIV infection (to inform preventative vaccines) and variable resistance to disease progression in HIV-infected individuals (to inform strategies for remission/cure).

Photograph: Professor Barry Schoub, National Health Laboratory Service and Board Member of the Poliomyelitis Research Foundation (PRF); Professor Caroline Tiemessen; Mr Alastair Moffat, Chairman, PRF Board; Professor Shabir Madhi, Director, NICD

RESEARCH ETHICS CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics, together with the HUMAN Research Ethics Committee (HREC) (Medical) and the Wits Health Consortium Clinical HIV Research Unit hosted the Faculty's first Research Ethics CME on 19 November 2015. The objective of this activity was to update researchers and Research Ethics Committee members on the 2nd Edition of the Department of Health's *Guidelines on Ethics in Research: Principles, Processes and Structures*, and to position these guidelines in the broader context of international norms and standards.

Common problems with Research Ethics applications were discussed and recommendations offered on how to avoid these. The HREC's progress with regard to the Biobanks Ethics Committee, a recently established sub-committee of the HREC, and its policies and guidelines were also highlighted at the CME.



The CME was well attended with about 100 delegates present. Due to positive feedback, it is envisaged that this could become an annual event.

Photograph: Ms Safia Mahomed, member of the Biobank Ethics Committee and PhD candidate at the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics; Professor Ames Dhai, Director of the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics; Professor Peter Cleaton-Jones, Chair, HREC (Medical) and Professor Ian Sanne, Director of the Wits Health Consortium Clinical HIV Research Unit

FACULTY'S HONOURS CELEBRATION 2015



The Faculty Honours Celebration was held on 2 December 2015. In his introduction published in the accompanying booklet, the Dean, Professor Martin Veller, said that despite the challenging last quarter of the year, members of the Faculty had been 'bold in [their] ambitions and confident in [their] actions. This year's honours celebration highlights the many phenomenal contributions of our Faculty's staff and students.' And indeed there was much to celebrate and applaud; so much so that it is difficult to single out any individual achievement, so great was the number! The list of honours bestowed on our staff and students

went into several pages! The Dean went on to say: 'The honours function is a platform where we showcase the Faculty, and every achievement is an honour for the Faculty! Winning a poster competition at a congress today, could be the stepping-stone for the invited lecture at an international congress next year or the incentive to write a proposal for a major research grant. The possibilities are endless ensuring that each of you has a quintessential role to play in the Faculty – not only in terms of your own development, but also for the thousands of students who wish to study at Wits' Faculty of Health Sciences.'

There were many promotions and six deserving individuals were awarded exceptional service certificates. Several key members of staff retired during the year. These were: Associate Professor Thomas Daly: Head, School of Anatomical Sciences; Ms Lyndsay Garstang: Administrative Assistant, Department of Physiotherapy, School of Therapeutic Sciences; Mr Joe Govender: Faculty Audio-Visual Technician; Ms Saroj Govindjee: Technician, Department of Radiology, Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital; Professor Franco Guidozi: Head, Department Obstetrics and Gynaecology, CMJAH; Mrs Gillian Haagensen: Graphics Designer, Centre for Health Science Education; Emeritus Professor Kenneth Huddle: Head of Department, Internal Medicine, CHBAH; Adjunct Professor Lorna Jacklin: Department of Paediatrics, School of Clinical Medicine; Mrs Reverie Kuschke: Student Advisor, Faculty Office of Student Support and Mrs Violet Chela Mashego: Finance Officer, MRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit-Agincourt. We wish them all well in their retirement!



CONFERENCE: GIVING A VOICE TO AFRICAN THOUGHT IN MEDICAL RESEARCH ETHICS



From 3 to 5 December the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics and the Philosophy Department of the University of Johannesburg co-hosted the Conference: *Giving a Voice to African Thought in Medical Research Ethics*. The focus of the Conference was to reflect on ethical issues in medical research through the lens of African ethical thought or philosophy, rather than merely on ethical issues affecting Africa.

The intention was to encourage new work that applies salient sub-Saharan moral values or norms to pertinent questions in medical research ethics, thereby giving a voice to indigenous African moral perspectives.

Presenters included health science academics, researchers, lawyers, bioethicists and clinicians involved in medical research. The keynote address was given by Prof Godfrey Tangwa, of Cameroon, a former Vice President of the International Association of Bioethics, and a fellow of both the Cameroon and African Academies of Sciences. Prof Tangwa has been a leading figure in the development of African bioethics. Participants hailed from Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Turkey, Australia, the USA and South Africa.

The Dean, Professor Martin Veller, pointed out in his welcome address that the theme of the Conference was particularly pertinent in a time in which universities are seeking ways to transform the curriculum to reflect the needs and values of our own African context.

The deliberations at the conference highlighted, among other themes, the following:

- Persistent concerns about exploitation and injustices in research in Africa, despite regulatory frameworks and guidelines
- The need for informed consent to be re-conceptualised in ways which make it responsive to the indigenous worldviews
- Extreme concerns about the practice of obtaining 'blanket consent' for genetic research
- The important contribution that indigenous philosophy and thought can make to enriching our bioethical discourse

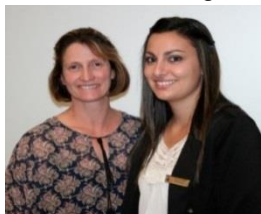
The Conference provided an excellent opportunity for networking and establishing collaborations. A selection of articles from the Conference will be published in a special edition of *Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics* in 2016. It was made possible by a grant from the Medical Research Council.

NEWS FROM STUDENTS

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOTHERAPY STUDENT EVENING

The Physiotherapy Department had a "Student Evening" on October 2nd 2015. The purpose of this evening was to recognise the achievements of our undergraduate students. Students who have excelled in their class projects were given an opportunity to present their work to fellow students, staff members and parents. Presentations were in the areas below.

Professor Hellen Myezwa, Head of the Department of Physiotherapy, gave a motivational talk to the students, staff and parents. She particularly thanked the physiotherapy staff and students for their hard work and dedication. The research and management course prize sponsors, Dr Megan Knox from SummitRehab and Ms Mayihlome from Mediswitch also graced this event with their presence.



Photographs: (above): Best research poster students: Mrs Sonti Pilusa (lecturer), Kirsten Wenger, Michele King, Khensani Mnisi, Shreenu Nagar (2015 Physiotherapy student council chairperson) and Dr Ronel Roos (lecturer); (left): Dr Megan Knox from Summit Rehab and 4th year physiotherapy student Tamlyn Joseph (Best Research and Management student)

Topic	Student Names
1 st Year PADI Presentation "Living with Athetoid Cerebral Palsy"	Croxford Carmen, Samantha Hurst, Shivani Maharaj, Vuyo Nonkonyana
2 nd Year HIV assignments "Exercise in HIV"	Drutman Talya, Gershuni Talya , Grobler Lize Harding Leigh-Anne, Hornby Liam, Rego Cassandra
3 rd Year VCP: Neurology: "Stroke – Upper Limb Function"	Cherne Langeveldt; Louise Matthews
4 th Year VCP "The impact of severe acute malnutrition on child development"	Heinrich Mollentze; Samantha Viera
4 th Year Management "Rendering a physiotherapy service as a community service physiotherapist in in a <u>remote hospital</u> <u>physiotherapy department which has been run by</u> <u>two physiotherapy assistants up till now, due to a lack</u> <u>of qualified physiotherapists."</u>	Joseph Tamlyn, Kaplan Sean, Kennedy Stacey Khan Mehnaaz, King Michelle, Kirsten Saadia Macfie Samantha, Machoga Mmetja
4 th Year Research platform presentation "Physical outcomes following coronary artery bypass graft surgery: HIV positive versus HIV negative patients"	Kyra Blewitt, Tamlyn Joseph, Nicole Murphy, Saadia Kirsten, Zolile Shabangu
The research poster "Physical outcomes following coronary artery bypass graft surgery: HIV positive versus HIV negative patients"	Michelle King Kirsten Wenger Khensani Mnisi Shreenu Nagar
Best Research student	Tamlyn Joseph
Best Management student	Tamlyn Joseph
Comrades Strapping Competition winners	Grant Bush, Annabel Bultitude, Stacey Kennedy Storme Finaughty, Florencia Mnisi

CONGRATULATIONS

WITS DOCTORS FLY THE FLAG AT THE RUN CYCLE RUN DISCOVERY DUATHLON!

On 25 October 2015, three teams of public sector doctors from Wits School of Clinical Medicine participated in the Discovery Duathlon RunCycleRun event. This initiative was to promote public sector doctors and they were sponsored by Discovery. The event consists of a running leg which transitions into a cycling leg, and then to a final running leg. The race provided an inner city experience of Sandton and aimed at team building and team work participation. The School congratulates all the doctors that participated in this event.



Editor's note: And we congratulate the doctors too! Well done!

Teams	10km Run	40km Cycle	5km Run
1	Mkhululi Lukhele	Susan van Deventer	Ashraf Coovadia
2	Victor Mngomezulu	Tony Robertson	Lesley Robertson
3	Michael Klipin	Gwyn Dickinson	Judy Rothberg

Photographs: (left): Professor Mkhululi Lukhele, Head, School of Clinical Medicine; Dr Susan van Deventer, Department of Orthopaedics, Professor Ashraf Coovadia, Head of the Department of Paediatrics; (right): Professor Victor Mngomezulu, Head of the Department Radiology; Professor Tony Robertson, Head of the Department of Paediatric Orthopaedics; Dr Lesley Robertson, Head of the Department of Community Psychiatry

PROFESSOR LYNN MORRIS AWARDED A RATING BY THE NRF

Professor Lynn Morris has been awarded an A rating by the National Research Foundation. A-ratings are given to researchers who are unequivocally recognised by their peers as leading international scholars in their field for the high quality and impact of their recent research outputs.

Professor Morris heads the HIV Virology laboratories at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) and holds a joint appointment as Research Professor at Wits. She completed her undergraduate degrees at Wits and received her DPhil from the University of Oxford in the UK in 1988. Following this she was a post-doctoral fellow at The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Australia before returning to South Africa.



For the past 23 years she has been involved in researching the virological and immunological aspects of South African HIV-1 subtype C strains, which has made significant contributions to our understanding of how the neutralizing antibody response to HIV develops. Her laboratory performs end-point antibody assays on human clinical trials and is part of a number of networks including the Duke CHAVI-ID, Gates CAVD and the HVTN.

Professor Morris is a member of the Executive Committee of the Centre for the Aids Program of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) and is a fellow of the Academy of Science of South Africa since 2005. During 2010-2013 she served on the Board of the South African Medical Research Council and in 2013 she was appointed as a Board member of the Poliomyelitis Research Foundation (PRF) as well as the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise Board of Directors and Conference Committee. In 2014, she received the Wits Vice-Chancellor's Research Award and in 2015 a South African Medical Research Council Gold Merit Award. She has supervised or is currently supervising 22 PhD and Masters students and has published over 195 papers in peer-reviewed journals and has a current H-factor of 47. She is listed on the Thompsons Reuters 2015 ISI list of the 3000 highest cited researchers in the world.

On behalf of the Faculty we heartily congratulate her. Well done!

This brings to eight the number of A rated scientists we have in the Faculty, the others being Professors Charles Feldman (just renewed), Glenda Gray, Rachel Jewkes, Keith Klugman, Shabir Madhi, Duncan Mitchell and John Pettifor.

AND A DOCTOR RAISES THE FLAG ON TOP OF KILIMANJARO!



Professor Tebogo Hlabangana, Chief Specialist and Head of the Radiology Department at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital climbed Mount Kilimanjaro from 23 to 29 October 2015 to raise funds for breast cancer awareness. As part of the nine member "One step at a time" team, she took on the grueling Machame Route to achieve a goal that had been on her bucket list for the past 18 years.

Faced with weather extremes, muscle aches and lack of oxygen, Professor Hlabangana found herself walking nine hours a day, often in rain or sleet, scaling cliffs and crossing streams. The 7-day climb was both a mental and physical challenge. With determination, focus and great team support she managed to reach the summit, which was both a humbling and exhilarating experience. She says: "As a radiologist I have

realised that education is the first step in increasing early detection of breast cancer. Raising funds to achieve this has been a phenomenal experience ... I conquered Kili so that more South African women can have the chance to win the fight against breast cancer." *Well done!!*

Photographs: (above): Tebogo Hlabangana at the top of Mount Kilimanjaro; (below): The "One step at a time team" during the climbing of Mount Kilimanjaro. Professor Hlabangana is the last person in both pictures.



MS AGNES HUISKAMP, DEPARTMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION, WINS AWARD

On 4 November 2015 Ms Agnes Huiskamp, lecturer in the Department of Nursing Education, School of Therapeutic Sciences, was the recipient of the award for the best journal article. The award was presented by SASOHN (South African Society of Occupational Health Nursing) at the annual SASOHN conference which was held in Cape Town from 4 to 8 November 2015.

The judges found the article to be 'relevant to the current practice and changing dynamics of Occupational Health Nursing Practices.' *Well done!*

Photograph: Ms Agnes Huiskamp receiving the award from Dr Penny Orton, SASOHN representative, Editorial Board, *Occupational Health South Africa*



PROFESSOR YAHYA CHOONARA, DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACOLOGY, WINS AWARD



The Academy of Sciences of South Africa (ASSAf) recognised top South African scientists at its annual awards ceremony which was held in Stellenbosch in October 2015. Professor Yahya Choonara, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutics in the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, School of Therapeutic Sciences, who is also the Research Manager and Senior Research Scientist at the Wits Advanced Drug Delivery Platform research unit, was honoured at this event. He received the AU-TWAS Award for Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation, which aims to recognise and award talented young scientists in Africa. *Well done!*

Professor Choonara's scientific career has made an impactful advance into applying computational pharmaceutics to optimize drug delivery technologies as patentable pharmaceutical products. This has been achieved through the design of *in silico* pharmaceutical models to blueprint several drug delivery technologies and nanomedicines. In order to refocus our local pharmaceutical industry to become more globally competitive in terms of innovator product development, his research strengthens this capability by recognising the need to establish a research paradigm that encompasses *in silico* computational modelling to augment research innovation in drug delivery.

His work provides pharmaceutical scientists with a tool to adopt customised computational models to develop optimised drug delivery products with unique advantages such as: virtual screening of formulations prior to lab work; simplification of the formulation development process; reduction in the trial-and-error phase; shorten any time-consuming lab processes and decrease the high cost of pharmaceutical research and development. He has published over 170 research papers in ISI-accredited international journals. His most recent work was the adoption of 3D printing as a modeling and processing technology platform for pharmaceutical formulation design.

COLLEGES OF MEDICINE OF SOUTH AFRICA (CMSA) RESULTS

The School of Clinical Medicine is the largest producer of specialists and subspecialists in the country. In the last CMSA examinations 75 specialists, 11 subspecialists and 2 diplomates were successful.

The Head of School of Clinical Medicine congratulates all the successful candidates and members of School.

On behalf of the Faculty, we add our hearty congratulations to the School! Well done! Again!

SOME PLAIN SPEAKING FROM THE HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (MEDICAL)

Yes, this information is from the Chair of the Committee, one, to judge from complaints we get, is neither popular nor understood. It is an independent committee that operates by law (National Health Act of 2003) and national regulations (Ethics in Health Research, Principles, Processes and Structures, 2nd edition, Department of Health, 2015).

There are 38 of us on the committee (all volunteers) in order to provide diversity and a suitable quorum for each meeting. Eighteen are in the health professions, 14 are from other professions and six are from outside Wits. Four of the 38 members are co-chairs with exactly the same powers as the chair.

The main complaint that we get is slow service. This is true and is due to staff overload. We have two full-time administrators on the staff of the Wits Research Office; the minimal number to speed up service is four (the University of Minnesota in the USA have 14 staff to manage the same work load as ours). I have motivated for more staff but due to financial stringency at Wits this has recently been declined and there is no likelihood of change. All we can do is to raise money for temporary staff. Remember too, the committee members are busy as well in their occupations.

Here is an idea of the administrative workload. This year (2015) we have scrutinised 837 new full applications for general research. Based on previous audits, approximately 30% are approved at first evaluation, 66% require modification and 4% are not approved. Those applications requiring modification have to be seen at least once more by the full committee or by an appointed member of the committee. This means that the total number of new full applications to be dealt with during the year is actually 1389. To this must be added to multiple amendments, case reports, and waivers from ethics review; there are some 40 telephonic queries per day, at least 200 emails per week, servicing the Biobank Ethics Committee plus two other committees, writing meeting minutes and letters / clearances to applicants as well as fetching documents from Archives on the East Campus. The administrators have to manually insert details of the applications into the ethics database and update this database along the way. Telephonic and face to face queries alone take some 5 hours per day leaving only 3 hours for actual administrative work.

We have investigated an online system that Wits has (Info-Ed) – it is unsuitable for our purpose. A custom system is now being produced through the kindness of the Wits Health Consortium with a hoped-for completion deadline of May 2016; we hope this may improve matters somewhat. There is an expectation from applicants that their application will immediately be approved at the first meeting, and within a day or two they will be holding a clearance certificate in their hand. This is a pipe dream given the work load mentioned. Incidentally, complaints about waiting is a world-wide phenomenon.

Delays can be shortened by applicants reducing the number of applications that require modification. Why are modifications required? Well, incomplete or sloppy form filling is a major cause; for example questions asked in the application form to help the committee make a decision are not completed, signatures are not provided (the application is a legal document requiring these), documents that are said to accompany an application are not attached, some supervisors and heads of departments often sign applications without doing a quality control check. We understand that they too are under pressure with workload and it's so much easier to sign. The commonest problems are poor informed consent documents and missing information.

It's up to the applicant to do things properly, please read the information pages at the back of the application form for guidance. Our requests are:

- please put your application in early, we recommend two months before planned data collection;
- please complete the application form properly and have someone with experience check this;
- please ensure that all necessary documents accompany the application.

PETER CLEATON-JONES, CHAIR HREC (MEDICAL)

NOTICE FROM WITWATERSRAND HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY

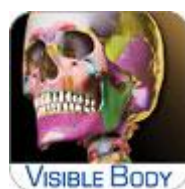
Tobias Singleton writes: 'Forty-one new books have recently been added to the holdings of WHSL. The following are some of the new titles that have been received:

- **Robbins basic pathology 9th ed.** Edited by Vinay Kumar, Abul K Abbas, Jon C Aster.
- **Casarett & Doull's essentials of toxicology 2nd ed.** Edited by Curtis D Klaassen & John B Watkins III.
- **Hunter's tropical medicine and emerging infectious diseases 9th ed.** Edited by Alan J Magill, Edward T Ryan, David R Hill & Tom Solomon.
- **Medicolegal investigation of death: guidelines for the application of pathology to crime investigation.** Edited by Werner U Spitz & Russel Fisher.

Members of the Faculty are welcome borrow these and the other 37 new books at WHSL which have just been moved to the shelves.

If members of the Faculty would like to suggest new print material for WHSL collection, please contact Tobias Singleton at telephone 011 717 2286 or e-mail tobias.singleton@wits.ac.za with the following details: the title of the work, the author's name and surname and the ISBN.'

We are currently having a trial period from 24 November to 24 December 2015 of the following Wolter Kluwer products: "Visible body", "Acland's Video Atlas of Human Anatomy" and "Bates' Visual Guide to Physical Examination".



**ACLAND'S VIDEO ATLAS OF
HUMAN ANATOMY**

**BATES' VISUAL GUIDE TO
Physical Examination**

You can access these products via the following links:

Title	Start date	End date	URL for direct access	Username	Password
Visible Body Premium Package	24 NOV 2015	24 DEC 2015	http://ovidsp.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&NEWS=n&CSC=Y&PAGE=main&D=vbpb	uniwits1	connor
Acland Human Anatomy	24 NOV 2015	24 DEC 2015	http://www.aclandanatomy.com	wits	wk2015
Bates Visual Guide to Physical Examination	24 NOV 2015	24 DEC 2015	http://batesvisualguide.com	wits	wk2015

We would appreciate your feedback on these products. Please email your feedback to Khosi Mathole Nkosazana.Mathole@wits.ac.za and Tobias Singleton tobias.singleton@wits.ac.za

COURSE

1. Good Clinical Practice Refresher – Clinical Staff Course cost: R1150.00 incl VAT WHC Divisions: R750.00		
JOHANNESBURG WHC, 8 Blackwood Avenue, Parktown	DURBAN 18 Burlington Dr, Westville	CAPE TOWN Tygerberg Hospital
19 January (Tues) 12:00–16:00 10 February (Wed) 12:00-16:00 1 March (Tues) 12:00-16:00	5 February (Friday) 08:30-12:30 13 April (Friday) 08:30-12:30 22 July (Friday) 08:30-12:30	26 February (Friday) 08:30-12:30 23 June (Thursday) 08:30-12:30 27 October (Thursday) 08:30-12:30

2. Good Clinical Practice Basic Course – Clinical Staff Course cost: R2850.00 incl VAT WHC Divisions: R1900.00		
JOHANNESBURG WHC, 8 Blackwood Avenue, Parktown	DURBAN 18 Burlington Dr, Westville	CAPE TOWN
20 & 21 January (Wed pm/ Thurs all day) 11 & 12 February (Thurs all day/Fri am) 2 & 3 March (Wed all day/Thurs am)	3 & 4 February (Wed pm & Thurs all day) 13 & 14 April (Wed pm & Thurs all day) 20 & 21 July (Wed pm & Thurs all day)	No dates planned

3. Good Clinical Practice Refresher for Non-Clinical Support Staff Course cost: R1150.00 incl VAT WHC Divisions: R750.00		
JOHANNESBURG WHC, 8 Blackwood Avenue, Parktown	DURBAN 18 Burlington Dr, Westville	CAPE TOWN
19 February (Tues) 08:30-12:30 7 April (Thurs) 08:30-12:30	By special arrangement – groups of 20+	n/a

4. Good Clinical Practice – Basic Course for Non-Clinical Support Staff Course cost: R2200.00 incl VAT WHC Divisions: R1600.00		
JOHANNESBURG WHC, 8 Blackwood Avenue, Parktown	DURBAN	CAPE TOWN
4 November (Wed) 08:30-16:00 9 February 2016 (Tues) 08:30-16:00 5 April (Tues) 08:30- 6:00	By special arrangement – groups of 20+	n/a

5. The ABC of Quality Control for Research Sites Course cost: R2850.00 incl VAT WHC Divisions: R1900.00		
JOHANNESBURG WHC, 8 Blackwood Avenue, Parktown	DURBAN	CAPE TOWN
17 & 18 May (Tues all day & Wed am) 11 & 12 October (Tues all day/Wed am)	By special arrangement – groups of 20+	By special arrangement – groups of 20+

6. Study Coordinator Course – 15,16,17 March 2016 – JHB, R3420 incl VAT – Please enquire
7. Research Modules – Reading a protocol, Informed Consent, Study documents – 24 February 2016 – Please enquire

About Academic Advance

Academic Advance is a division of Wits Health Consortium (Pty) Ltd
 WHC is a SACRA registered service provider and all courses are accredited by the HPCSA
 This ICH E6 GCP Investigator Site Training meets the Minimum Criteria for ICH GCP Investigator Site Personnel
 Training identified by TransCelerate BioPharma as necessary to enable mutual recognition of GCP training among trial sponsors.



For further information and bookings please contact: Melody Maddocks

GCP Training Coordinator: Tel: +27 11 274 9256 | Fax: +27 86 767 6569 | Switchboard: +27 11 274 9200; Email: mmaddocks@witshealth.co.za | www.witshealth.co.za

A SNIPPET OF HISTORY

How many of us have walked passed these two trees on the pavement to the left of the giraffe house and not noticed anything unusual? If one takes a closer look, there are two plaques on these trees indicating that they were planted by two former deans: Professor George Alan Desmond Hart (1994-1995) and Professor Phillip Vallentine Tobias (1980-1982).

We thank Rob Stewart, Lab Manager, NHLS Infection Control Services Lab, for sending us the photographs and alerting us to this interesting snippet of history!



And finally ... the Faculty Registrar's favourite rooster!

It was a tough year but we made it!



And last word ... THANK YOU! ☺

Thank you to all colleagues who keep us up to date so that we can keep you up to date with what's going on in the Faculty. Thank you also to all who take the trouble and time to give us feedback! The newsletter is intended to provide a useful source of information about the Faculty and its activities.

Please keep the news coming to us!

We wish you all a safe and peaceful holiday break.

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The next issue will appear on 15 January 2016.
Deadline for submission of information and pictures: 12 January 2016.
Please send information and photographs to: rochelle.keene@wits.ac.za