

March 2016

RECENT EVENTS

EXPERT PANEL OF THE INQUIRY INTO FISCAL POLICIES FOR HEALTH HOLDS FINAL MEETING



South Africa has a complex health profile from children to adults, and a seriously challenged health system. Fiscal policies are powerful - but often overlooked - tools for health promotion. Experiences from developing countries show that fiscal and trade policies work well when public institutions are credible and strong, when consumers and producers respond to changes in prices, and when the policies are well designed so that the neediest benefit. Supported by a grant to

PRICELESS SA (Priority Cost Effective Lessons for System Strengthening) from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy (CDDEP, Washington), an expert South African panel was established to crystalize issues, weigh the evidence and advise on policy options. Three workshops were held to enable this discussion. A parallel process also took place in India and ideas and data were exchanged with Indian counterparts.

The Expert Panel met initially in February 2015, and work commenced on identifying, researching and finally modelling projected health and revenue impacts and opportunities for fiscal policies to lessen South Africa's considerable health burden. While these may result in additional revenue for the government, the intention is primarily to bring about better health outcomes, particularly for the poor. The final meeting, held on 16 February 2016, was to enable the panel to listen to the findings, discuss and debate the draft report, and provide a final ranking of the proposed interventions. Some of the take away messages were that fiscal policies should be incorporated as part of the toolbox to address the burden of disease; priority setting in health should be expanded to consider use of other levers, including regulation; and that treasury should require health impact assessments of all new and existing policies in other sectors, including trade and investment agreements.

The high level panel included academics, business leaders, government officials and strategists, and was chaired by Ms Kate O'Regan, former judge of the Constitutional Court.

AND CONGRATULATIONS! Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan, in his budget speech, announced plans to introduce a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages from 1 April 2017 in a bid to help reduce excessive sugar consumption. While the move is in line with growing action by other governments, there is no doubt that the lobbying, reports and revenue income estimates from PRICELESS made a significant contribution to the cause.



See: *Mail & Guardian* [20% tax on sugary drinks, could bring in an estimated R7-billion in additional revenues each year](#). According to Priceless-SA, moderate obesity is associated with an 11% increase in healthcare costs, while severe obesity is associated with a 23% increase in healthcare. It has projected that by 2030, total healthcare expenditure related to adult diabetes will cost South Africa between \$1-billion and \$2-billion.

Photographs: (Top): Ms Kate O'Regan, Chairperson and former Judge of the Constitutional Court of SA; Ms Trudi Makhaya, CEO Makhaya Advisory; Riaan Labuschagne, National Treasury; Dr Ijeoma Edoke, Health Economist, PRICELESS; Professor Wessel Pienaar, Professor of Logistics, Stellenbosch University; (Below): Mr Thulani Masilela, Outcome Facilitator, South African Presidency; Professor Karen Hofman, Director PRICELESS; Dr Mark Blecher, Chief Director for Health and Social Development, National Treasury SA

SBIMB PARTICIPATES IN BIOBANK SYMPOSIUM AT UCT

Cassandra Soo represented the SBIMB at the University of Cape Town Clinical Research Centre **2016 Biobank Symposium** (28-29 January 2016). Biobanking is currently a hot topic in research. With Wits taking the lead and establishing an ethical approval system through the HREC, it is apparent that many of the concerns regarding governance, ethical, social and legal implications, intellectual property, and quality assurance face all research institutions in South Africa. Dr Delva Shamley from the University of Cape Town's Clinical Research Centre took the initiative to organise a symposium to address these concerns and the apparent lack of biobanking facilities for research purposes in the Western Cape.



Following presentations on day 1, four concurrent workshops were held on day 2, facilitated by field experts: Governance and regulation of biobanks; Ethics; Implementation and feasibility; and Data and database management. The outcome will lead to a report setting out clear recommendations for the implementation of a biobank for UCT, as well as to establish a working group for biobanking in South Africa. Ms Soo has been invited to serve on this group.

Speakers and workshop facilitators included local and international experts in the field namely: Dr Kristian Spreckley (UK Biobank); Dr Erik Steinfelder (ESBB); Professor Rita Lawlor (ARC-Net); Professor Michael Pepper (UP); Professor Melodie Slabbert (UNISA); Professor Anne Pope (UCT); Professor Raj Ramesar (UCT); Professor Thomas Scriba (SATVI); Dr Sumir Panji (H3A Bionet); and Ms Cassandra Soo (SBIMB at Wits).

LAUNCH OF POSTGRADUATE FAMILY MEDICINE TRAINING IN MALAWI

Professor Ian Couper writes: 'On 25 February 2016, an exciting event occurred in Malawi, which was the launch of postgraduate family medicine training.



Following a summit on family medicine in 2008, there was a dream to establish district-based family medicine training, which seemed far off given that family medicine was largely unknown and there were no local family physicians at that stage. Following the return of two Malawians who had been sent to Lesotho for postgraduate training, Drs Luckson Dullie and Martha Makwero, and with support of Wits and other partners, a

department of family medicine was established in the College of Medicine of the University of Malawi. Subsequently, under the VLIR-supported Primafamed twinning programme, Malawi was linked to the Wits Department of Family Medicine. An undergraduate clerkship in family medicine at district hospitals around the country was developed, based on the Wits IPC rotation, and was implemented successfully, drawing in preceptors from a range of government and mission hospitals.

From this base, a curriculum was developed for a four year Masters of Medicine programme to train family physicians for Malawi, based largely on models from other African countries. Thus **3 family medicine registrars** commenced training in Mangochi District Hospital, 190km from Blantyre, in early 2015.

The launch of this postgraduate family medicine training, hosted by the District Health Officer of Mangochi and attended by about 50 people from all over the country, celebrated the success of the programme as the registrars entered their second year. Amongst the many dignitaries present were the guest of honour Secretary for Health of Malawi Dr McPhail Magwira, the principal of the College Dr Mwapatsa Mipando, Professor Ian Couper from Wits and representatives of partner organisations. Dr Mipando remarked that the College regards family medicine as being so important it establish a new school, the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, acknowledging family medicine as the bridge between communities and specialist hospital-based clinicians. Dr Magwira acknowledged that a health system based on primary care is the most efficient and cost-effective approach, as well as having the greatest user satisfaction, and was clear that the family physician is central to this, so that the Ministry in its strategic plan has adopted the principle that there should be a minimum of two family physicians in each district hospital. A small but significant start toward this has been made in Mangochi.

It is hoped that the programme will attract both sufficient funding and applications to expand to other sites going forward.

Photograph: Family Medicine Faculty, Registrars and partners. Professor Ian Couper is 6th from the left.

DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR TONY CULYER AT WITS

Tony Culyer, Emeritus Professor at the Centre for Health Economics, University of York and Chair, NICE International Advisory Group, was hosted by PRICELESS SA and delivered a public lecture at Wits on 8 March 2016 titled *Preparing for universal health coverage - Capacity (whose and for what?)*. In his lecture, he explored what capacities South Africa needs if it is to deliver universal health coverage through National Health Insurance. He reviewed the roles of key players including policymakers, professional decision makers, health service managers, the media, researchers, patients and caregivers, and the general public. He demonstrated that policymakers, for example, need capacity to commission, receive, interpret and use priority setting research for global health investment choices and setting standards while researchers require capacity to respond to policy and system needs, to conduct appropriate research and communicate it effectively.



Professor Culyer emphasised that the type of capacity required depends on the local context but underscored the key competencies that are required which include understanding value for money in healthcare, commitment to evidence informed decisions, appreciation of health technology assessment, and reconciling value for money and equity. He suggested some criteria that might be usefully applied like thresholds in determining cost effectiveness of health interventions to ultimately determine which interventions should be included in the publicly insured bundle.

He concluded by suggesting that a priority setting institution could facilitate this process, leading to better decisions and in turn better health.

Photograph: Professor Tony Culyer (fourth from left) with some members of the PRICELESS Team: Nicholas Stacey, Anthony Kinghorn, Aviva Tugendhaft, Karen Hofman, Ijeoma Edoka, Tommy Wilkinson

DOES GUN CONTROL REDUCE FATAL VIOLENCE? ADDRESSING DISPUTES ON THE EVIDENCE, 10 March 2016

Firearms account for a substantial proportion of injury-related deaths and disability globally. Low and middle income countries (including South Africa) bear a disproportionate amount of this health burden.

Gun control legislation has featured amongst the key strategies for addressing firearm-related injuries. However, there is still much debate on the overall effectiveness of this intervention.

In a public lecture held at the Adler Museum of Medicine on 10 March 2016, Dr Richard Matzopoulos, a Visiting Professor in the School of Human and Community Development, Senior Specialist Scientist at the MRC and Head of the Violence and Injuries Prevention Programme at UCT (photograph), addressed several disputes on the evidence for the efficacy of gun control in reducing gun deaths.



Drawing on local data sourced from both the National Injury Mortality Surveillance System (NIMSS) and Death Registration data, he showed that the Firearms Control Act of 2000 (FCA) prevented the deaths of approximately 4500 people across the 5 major metropolises in South Africa between 2001 and 2005. Extrapolations of this figure to the national-level provide strong evidence for the effectiveness of the Act in curbing firearm deaths. The decrease was evident until 2010, at which point less stringent implementation of the FCA preceded an increase in firearm homicides.

The lecture stimulated much lively debate and discussion. Future research in collaboration with the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development-funded critical violence and trauma studies (CVTS) group will attempt to triangulate national, longitudinal reported robbery data to test the efficacy of the FCA more widely.

Photograph: Dr Richard Matzopoulos

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE AND PRIVATE GENERAL PRACTITIONERS' COLLABORATION

Since the 1980s, Wits medical students have spent time with private general practitioner (GP) preceptors during their Family Medicine block. Increasing Primary Health Care exposure in our Medical School curriculum is part of the vision of the Faculty. The Department of Family Medicine is a key player in these discussions and is integral to developing these opportunities both within the public and private health care systems.



The objective within the private health care system is to develop and build on the collaboration between the Department of Family Medicine and private general practitioners which will provide access to more primary care placements for medical students, offer opportunities for private practitioners to teach within the Faculty and develop research within the field of medical student training in a private setting.

As part of this collaboration, the Department of Family Medicine hosted a successful evening on 10 March 2016 with local GP preceptors/ teachers. Dr Jennie Shone discussed their current involvement with the medical student family medicine block. Dr Richard Cooke, Acting Director of the Centre for Rural Health (CRH), and Acting Academic Head of the Department of Family Medicine, discussed future collaboration in light of the roll-out of National Health Insurance. The Dean, Professor Martin Veller, closed the evening by discussing the proposed prioritisation of primary health care within the Medical School curriculum and the need for extending Wits' learning platforms within the community. Photograph: Dr Richard Cooke

FACULTY NOTICE: NEW OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Professor Lionel Green-Thompson, Assistant Dean: Teaching and Learning, writes: 'The Office of Teaching and Learning has emerged since my appointment as the Assistant Dean in 2014. Our office comprises of two active units, namely, the Centre for Health Sciences Education and the Faculty IT Unit.

The Centre for Health Sciences Education (CHSE), under the direction of Professor Trish McInerney, has moved into offices on the 2nd floor of the PV Tobias Health Sciences Building. The team will be responsible for Faculty development (Ms Shirra Moch), community based education development (Ms Gaolatlhe Mothoagae) and research (Mr Sfiso Mabizela). Dr Ann George, lecturer, will be joining in April 2016. A manager of the simulation laboratory will also be appointed. Mr Gobotsamang Motlhabani is the administrative contact for the Centre and its related Faculty development functions.

The CHSE is striving to broaden its presence in the Faculty with a refocused vision for the enhancement of a learning environment of innovation and adaptive collaboration. The Centre will continue to assist staff in their development as teachers and their navigation of promotions processes.

The Faculty IT Unit under the direction of Dr Mark Allen has started to redefine itself in the service of the broader Faculty community. Mr Paul Wilson, the media production technician, is available to assist the Faculty with the development of technology based visual resources for the enhancement of their teaching.

I look forward to the next few years of growing the culture of the Faculty in promoting a transformative environment for research, education and service.'

CONGRATULATIONS!

ANOTHER A RATED SCIENTIST IN THE FACULTY: PROFESSOR LENORE MANDERSON



We are delighted, on behalf of the Faculty, to congratulate Lenore Manderson, Professor of Public Health and Medical Anthropology, School of Public Health, on her recent A Rating from the NRF!

Professor Manderson is also Visiting Distinguished Professor, Institute at Brown for Environment and Society and Visiting Professor of Anthropology, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA. She is a medical anthropologist with a background also in the social history of medicine, sociology and public health. She was trained in Asian Studies, with her early field research in Peninsular Malaysia. Over the past four decades she has worked among diverse populations in Australia, east and southeast Asia, and increasingly in Africa. Her research and supervisory work relates to health, access and equity, including as shaped by technologies and social structures – gender and sexuality, ethnicity and identity, illness and disability.

Over her career, in Australia until she joined Wits in 2014, she had trained to graduation 150 higher degree research students, and much of her time at Wits is also involved in graduate student supervision and in co-ordinating the SPH post-doctoral programme. She is committed to building research capacity and is presently involved in CARTA (Collaboration for Advanced Research and Training in Africa).

From 1988 to the present, she has continuously collaborated with the WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Disease (WHO/TDR). Her current professional activities include as member, Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), WHO/TDR, 2012-2016; Member, Scientific Working Group for Vectors, Environment and Society (VES), WHO/TDR, 2015-2016; and Member, Social Innovation in Health Initiative of the VES. She is also Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Group of SEACO (Southeast Asia Community Observatory), Monash University Malaysia, 2014-2015; and Editor, *Medical Anthropology: Cross-Cultural Studies in Health and Illness*, 2010-present.

She is the author, editor or co-author of over 550 books, articles, book chapters and reports, including *Sickness and the State* (1996); *Global Health Policy, Local Realities* (2000, ed. with Linda Whiteford) and *Chronic Conditions, Fluid States: Chronicity and the Anthropology of Illness* (2010, ed. with Carolyn Smith-Morris). From 2010-2015, she was a member of the steering committee for a project of the Academy of Science of Australia on population, equity, climate change and sustainability, which produced a three volume report, *Living Scenarios for Australia in 2050: Pathways for a Negotiable Future*. Her key works include, in medical anthropology: *Surface Tensions: Surgery, Bodily Boundaries and the Social Self*, and in social history: *Sickness and the State: Health and Illness in Colonial Malaya, 1870-1940*. Her current work *The Routledge Handbook in Medical Anthropology*, undertaken with Elizabeth Cartwright (Idaho State University) and Anita Hardon (University of Amsterdam), is to be published in May 2016.

See more at: <https://www.wits.ac.za/staff/academic-a-z-listing/m/lenoremandersonwitsacza/#sthash.mgVIN0Zv.dpuf>

WELCOME: DR TITILAYO DOROTHY ODETOLA

Dr Titilayo Dorothy Odetola has been awarded the International Visiting Researcher Fellowship in Nursing (a Post-Doctoral Fellowship), jointly sponsored by International Network for Doctoral Education in Nursing and Sigma Theta Tau International (INDEN/STTI) for the 2015-2016 year. This is a three-month mentored fellowship and she is being mentored by Professor Lize Maree, Head of the Department of Nursing Education in the School of Therapeutic Sciences from 24 January 2016 to 30 April 2016.



Dr Odetola wants to contribute to reducing the currently high morbidity and consequent mortality associated with pregnancy, childbirth and chronic diseases in Nigeria through a community approach. She trained in Telehealth at the University of California, San Davis, Sacramento. It is currently being pilot-tested in Nigeria. She then undertook a 5-year research project, resulting in the award of a PhD from the University of Ibadan. Her research has been published and presented at local and international conferences.

Her goal is to utilise this mobile health technology, enhanced by increasing access to mobile phone use in Nigeria, to reach clients with health promotion and disease prevention messages in rural communities where there is currently a dearth of skilled health professionals. This worthy goal attracted international research grants, including the McArthur Research Grant, 2009, the prestigious African Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2013-2015, and Medical Education Partnership Initiative in Nigeria Research Award, 2013.

She has acquired academic and professional clinical nursing experience over several years culminating in her expertise in community health nursing. She wants to integrate modern concepts into the theory and practice of nursing. She is also interested in improving clients' self-efficacy in the management of gynecological cancers, tuberculosis, diabetes mellitus and other chronic illnesses.

Wits has had many nursing experts who have been excellent mentors of young nursing researchers. Dr Odetola chose to utilise her fellowship at Wits because of the great potential in being mentored by Professor Maree, a researcher in oncology nursing. Cancer is one of the diseases with the highest morbidity and mortality rates in Nigeria. She would like her research to make an impact on future generation of nurses, especially in the developing world.

Welcome!

FAREWELL: PROFESSOR IAN COUPER

We sadly bid farewell to Professor Ian Couper who will be leaving Wits at the end of March 2016 after close on 14 years in the Faculty. He is currently Professor of Rural Health, director of the Wits Centre for Rural Health, and holds a joint appointment in the North West Provincial Department of Health as Head: Clinical Unit (rural medicine). He was also academic head of the Department of Family Medicine until December last year. He moves from Wits to become the Professor of Rural Health and Director, Ukwanda Centre for Rural Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University. He has been appointed a Visiting Professor at Wits.



Professor Couper drove the development of the Wits Centre for Rural Health (CRH), launched in 2009. He also led the establishment of the Rural Health Advocacy Project, in the Wits CRH, in partnership with the Rural Doctors Association of Southern Africa (RuDASA) and Section27 in 2009 and chaired the international Working Party on Rural Practice of the World Organisation of Family Doctors (Wonca) from 2007 to 2013. He serves as editor of the African section of the international journal *Rural and Remote Health*, and was an editor of the international *Guidebook on Rural Medical Education*, launched in April 2014.

He was a member of the Guideline Development Groups that produced the WHO Global Policy recommendations "Increasing access to health workers in remote and rural areas through improved retention" in 2010 and the 2013 WHO Guidelines on "Transforming and Scaling up Health Professionals' Education and Training. He serves on the WHO Guidelines Review Committee.

He has been involved in supporting medical education initiatives at universities in Malawi and Mozambique, and served as a consultant for Capacity Plus to the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) in Africa, in the field of community-based education. He has conducted evaluations of health professions education programmes at Flinders University in Australia and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine in Canada. He has been a visiting faculty member and an invited visitor to several overseas universities.

He was a member of the national task team to develop the clinical associate (ClinA) programme in South Africa, and led the development of ClinA training at Wits.

His work has been acknowledged in the form of significant awards that have demonstrated his individual achievements and those of the team he leads. These have included the Vice-Chancellor's Team Award for Academic Citizenship in 2007 for the establishment of a scholarship scheme, the Wits Initiative for Rural Health Education (WIRHE), for disadvantaged rural students to become health professionals, in partnership with the North West provincial department of health, and the Vice-Chancellor's Team Teaching Award in 2008 for the Integrated Primary Care rotation for final year medical students, which integrates the learning from all other disciplines at primary care level, in rural and underserved sites, with a focus on the management of patient problems rather than disease.

In January 2014 he was presented with one of seven international Special Awards for Outstanding Health Professional Educators, at the annual Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) 2014, in Pattaya, Thailand. In 2014 he was also honoured as the South African Association of Health Educationalists (SAAHE) Distinguished Educator of the year.

We wish Professor Couper well in his new position!

NEWS FROM STUDENTS

BAKKEN INVITATION



Kerry Kalweit writes: 'The Bakken Invitation is a program of Medtronic Philanthropy. It is an award for people who, with the help of medical technology, are contributing to communities around the world through charitable service and volunteering. Honourees are recognised for their achievements by attending a celebration in Kona, Hawaii and each receives a USD 20 000 donation towards a charity of their choice. This program is the brainchild of Medtronic co-founder, Earl Bakken, best known for his invention of the first external, battery-operated pacemaker in 1957.

I am a GEMP I student and serve as the General Manager for a registered non-profit organisation called Youth With Diabetes (YWD). YWD was established in 2005 to empower young people with diabetes with the support, knowledge, skills and confidence to live happy and healthy lives. My role includes fundraising, serving as the organisation's official spokesperson, co-ordinating diabetes camps and generating diabetes educational material. Every year, YWD runs 9 camps throughout South Africa, as well as in Namibia and Botswana.



The 11 Bakken Invitation Honourees with Earl Bakken, co-founder of Medtronic, and Medtronic CEO, Omar Ishrak.

Through the generous assistance from the World Diabetes Foundation (WDF), I organised a training workshop on initiating diabetes camps in low resource settings in September 2015. Delegates from all over Africa attended. The WDF has also agreed to sponsor a diabetes camp in each of the participating African countries throughout 2016/2017.

During my visit to Hawaii we engaged in various local community projects such as visiting Nā Kālai Wa'a, an organisation that teaches the ancient Hawaiian skill of non-instrument canoe navigation.

We also visited the North Hawaii Community Hospital that serves more than 30 000 residents where Dr Bridget Duffy gave a lecture entitled "Humanising the healthcare experience". Dr Duffy has spent over 20 years defining the components of an optimal healing environment. She introduced the concept of blended medicine, a patient-centred care model where the advancements in medical technology are combined with effective communication, a healing environment and cultural sensitivity. This model embraces the scientific achievements of the last century, but also allows space for complementary medicine and religious beliefs of the patient to assist in the return of wellbeing. It is a concept I would like to explore further.'

For more information see: <http://bakkeninvitation.medtronic.com> and www.youthwithdiabetes.com

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

50th REUNION OF MEDICAL CLASS OF 1966

Dr Michael Eliastam writes: 'Five years ago, in Flagstaff, Arizona, at the 45th reunion of the Class of 1966 we made a decision to celebrate the 50th reunion in South Africa and make a substantial commemorative gift to the Medical School.



On 1 February 2016, forty nine people, including spouses and partners boarded the buses at the Sunnyside Park Hotel for a long, hot, and dusty ride to Magaliesberg, which allowed us introduce our unrecognisable selves to each other, all of us 50 years older, and most a little wiser!

Day one included a tour of one of the newest digs in The Cradle of Humankind called Driemolen, we were treated to an excellent academic presentation of comparative anatomy by Matt, an American graduate student, to refresh our memories of those "days of wine and roses" with Professor Phillip Tobias regaling (and occasionally boring) us with tales of how man slowly became upright. The stage was shared by Colin Menter, PhD, son of Alan Menter, who showed us how the dust of a dig is scrutinised for fragments of fossils. Then he led us into the now expanded cave mouth and brought to life the rocks that were in fact like the layers of a Napoleon Cake reflecting the millions of years of evolution of humans and animals.

After lunch we headed towards Hunter's Rest Hotel in Rustenberg. Over the next day and a half, we held three four hour sessions in which class members, usually with spouses or partners joining them, spoke of

events that changed their lives. Some 'expats' talked of being exiles despite citizenship in adopted countries, unexpected job losses, and failed attempts at retirement. Locals talked of labouring stoically in disappointment at the lack of progress in healthcare service delivery in the New South Africa. Our most recently famous class member, Otto Thaning, told of how he prepared for and completed his swim of the English Channel, at age 74!

Between all this serious stuff, we laughed and cried, told our bad jokes, showed family photographs and filled in historical gaps.

Returning to Johannesburg, about 75 class members and families gathered in the School of Public Health for the afternoon programme, beginning with an overview of healthcare in South Africa and globally through the eyes of the Wits senior surgeon, Professor Martin Smith. This was followed by a Memorial Celebration of the lives of the 20 class members who had passed away since graduation. The families of two deceased classmates, Abdool Moti and René Heitner, joined us, each telling heartbreaking stories of how they were missed, and how they had appreciated their Wits education. The room was silent except for the sobbing of many of us as the children talked. Class members, in quaking voices, spoke of our lost colleagues in different and very personal ways. A minute of silence brought the session to a solemn end.

A gala dinner was held in the Adler Museum of Medicine which was transformed with beautifully decorated shimmering chairs and glass tables, silver platters and long thin candles towering above in their candle holders. Exotic flowers were scattered about giving the evening a magical quality.

The programme started with impassioned pleas from Mary Edginton Hodgkinson and Keith Wimble to donate generously so that the class could move from its record breaking R 500 000 collection to its "One Million Rand" goal. The money is earmarked for the PV Tobias Bursary Fund to assist medical students with fees. After a gourmet dinner, the Dean, Professor Martin Veller, addressed us on his ambitious agenda to meet the formidable healthcare needs of South Africa. People stayed long after the formal close of the evening to enjoy their reunions with friends not seen for many years.'

Photograph: (Back Row): Errol Hackner, Alan Richards, Otto Thaning, Des Fernandes, John Hodgkinson, Keith Marks, David Lipschitz, Alan Menter; (Middle Row): Heather Crewe-Brown, Eric Cohen, John Hyde, Ian Gross, Michael Eliastam, Basil Porter, John Hyde, Rob Jacobson, Ruther Safier Nathanson, Norman Silverman, Eric Faerber, Alan Reichman; (Front Row): Arthur Bass, Patti Suzman, Roger Rosenberg, Mike Belman, Roy First, Justin Silver, Ryan Kramer, Mary Edginton
(Photo: Melanie Belman)

Editor's note: For stories linked to this reunion please see the last page of this newsletter.

INVITATIONS

Faculty of Health Sciences



PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

*You are cordially invited to attend the Faculty of Health Sciences
Annual Prize-Giving*

Date: 06 April 2016

Time: 16h00

Venue: Linder Auditorium, Parktown Education Campus

RSVP: Mrs K Naidoo at Kasturi.Naidoo@wits.ac.za



Join a fascinating seminar where four international experts share their insights and experience of monitoring major clinical trials

Learn how challenging clinical, statistical and ethical dilemmas are addressed

Clinical trials: the challenges of monitoring and stopping trials early

THURSDAY, 7 APRIL 2016
17h00 - 18h30

Resource Centre, Ground floor
Wits School of Public Health Building

RSVP by **30 March 2016**: Nomfundo.Sibiya@wits.ac.za

CPD Event



DISCUSSANTS

Members of the NIH DAIDS
African Data and Safety
Monitoring Board

Prof Haroon Saloojee
Seminar facilitator

Dr Steven Joffe
Associate Professor of Medical
Ethics and Health Policy,
University of Pennsylvania, USA

Dr Alwyn Mwinga
CEO, Zambart, Zambia

Prof Andrew Nunn
MRC Clinical Trials Unit,
University College London, UK

Dr Merlin L Robb
Deputy Director, Military HIV
Program for Clinical Research, USA



Teaching and Learning symposium

13 April 2016

Choosing Students to Serve Communities

Programme

12:30: Tea/coffee/sandwiches

13:15: Opening

13:20: The NBT and what it means. Robert Prince (UCT)

14:00 Questions and discussion

14:30 Mezirow, the Lancet and students in the bush! Professor Det Prozesky

15:00 Discussion

15:30 Closure

Venue: Resource Centre, School of Public Health

NB: In addition to the above two presentations please submit abstracts for **poster presentations of work undertaken in communities** by individuals or departments. Closing date for these abstracts is **23 March 2016**

Please note: There is no registration fee payable. Registration forms are available from:

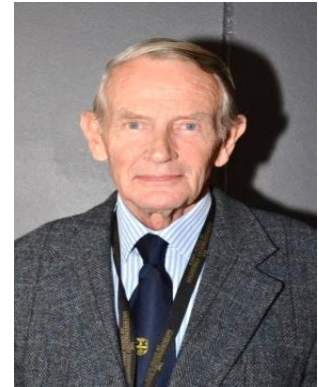
Gobotsamang.Motlhabani@wits.ac.za. Please register **before** 7 April 2016. Should you wish to cancel your registration this must be done 48 hours before the symposium.

A FESTSCHRIFT TO HONOUR PROFESSOR MICHAEL KEW: REMINDER!

SOUTH AFRICAN GASTROENTEROLOGY SOCIETY CONGRESS 5 – 8 AUGUST 2016

**COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR),
PRETORIA**

The Gastroenterology Foundation of South Africa will recognise eminent alumnus Professor Michael Kew by hosting a Festschrift in his honour. This liver cancer & viral hepatitis one-day symposium takes place at the SAGES congress on Monday 8 August 2016. Professor Kew's former Fellows will attend. Speakers include Dr Jay Hoofnagle (USA), Dr Massimo Pinzani (UK), Dr Adrian Di Bisceglie (USA) and Professor Geoff Dusheiko (UK).



All interested alumni are welcome to attend.

Professor Mike Charles Kew (MBBCh 1961, DMed 1968, PhD 1974, DSc 1982) has an enduring and distinguished relationship with Wits. Here he served as Dora Dart Professor of Medicine from 1978 to 2007 and as the Honorary Director of the MRC Wits/Molecular Hepatology Research Unit from 1994 until 2007.

Between 1980 and 1990, Professor Kew sent three of his fellows to the NIH's Liver Unit as visiting Fellows. These three alumni are now all independently accomplished: Adrian Di Bisceglie (MBBCh 1977, MMed 1986, DOH 1986) is Professor of Medicine at St Louis University School of Medicine, USA; Geoff Dusheiko (MBBCh 1972) is Professor of Medicine at the Royal Free Hospital, London; and Dr Chris Kassianides (MBBCh 1979), who will deliver the Festschrift, established and chairs the Gastroenterology Foundation of South Africa, of which Professor Kew is a mentor and trustee.



THE WITS FOOD BANK NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

**The Wits Citizenship and Community Outreach Office (WCCO)
provides food packs to students who seek assistance with food.**

Donations of non-perishable foods and toiletries are invited from the Wits Community to replenish stock. In order to provide basic nutrition, the Food Bank supplies students with a standard food hamper consisting of 6 packets of a nutritious dehydrated meal comprising rice, soya mince and lentils, as well as a combination of other non-perishable foods including tin foods (fish, beans and vegetables), jungle oats, peanut butter, tea, salt, oil, noodles etc. The food bank relies on donations of non-perishable food items from students, staff and the general public.

DROP OFF: WCCO, Lower Ground floor
(around the corner from Campus Health), Matrix Building
OFFICE HOURS: 08h00 to 16h30

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND
JOHANNESBURG



AND FINALLY ...

RELIVING HISTORY: TWO WITS FAMILIES RECALL LOVED ONES AT ALUMNI REUNION

The 1966 reunion of alumni (reported earlier) holds special interest for budding historians of the Faculty. Two daughters paid tribute to their fathers, who were 1966 graduates, on behalf of their families.

TRIBUTE TO DR ABDOOL RAZACK MOTI 1942 - 2015

When Dr Abdool Moti (MBBCh 1966) died in February 2015, his daughter Farah wrote to the organisers of the imminent 50 year reunion to tell of his passing and to say that her father had wanted to attend the reunion. She was invited to attend the Memorial Celebration service held for deceased classmates. Her speech (edited) is quoted:



'It is an honour to be amongst so many of you, our childhood heroes, who we heard our father speak of over so many years. So, in some way all of you here have contributed to all four of us children becoming doctors and choosing Wits as our Alma Mater.

Our father, Abdool Razack Moti, was born in Polokwane (Pietersburg) in 1942. He was in the first matriculating class of the Pietersburg Indian and Coloured High School and was the top student in his year.

After Wits Medical School, he specialised in Internal Medicine, becoming a Fellow of the College of Physicians of South Africa in 1971. He then spent a few years in Toronto, Canada, where he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. He returned to South Africa and married our mum, Amina, in 1974 and had four children. In 1976, they relocated to Ottawa, and thereafter to Boston. It was in Canada where he developed his love for photography. As with everything he did, he tackled photography with a structured passion, subscribing to numerous magazines, building up a collection of filters and lenses and buying me my first SLR camera.

In 1977 he was certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in the subspecialty of Cardiovascular Disease. My family returned to South Africa in 1982. At the time, he was the first "non-white" sub-specialist in Johannesburg. He was instrumental in negotiating for "non-white" patients to have angiograms by creating a wing at the Coronation Hospital for patients to sleep over and then be transferred in the morning to the Johannesburg General (white only) Hospital, where he performed their angiograms and then treated them further at Coronation Hospital. With the help of good physician friends, he began private work at Milpark Hospital on "non-white" patients by sharing a morning slot with fellow white colleague, Dr John Benjamin, who allocated time for my dad on his list to perform cardiac catheterisations and angiograms. He continued private practice and public sector teaching at Helen Joseph Hospital until June 2014 when he was diagnosed with malignant mesothelioma.

The fact that all four of us children are doctors and three thus far specialists, is due to him sitting with us through our maths homework, making time to teach us how to read ECGs and the numerous pearls of wisdom he shared along the way. He managed his time to do all this, keep up his love for running, photography and even for a period golf. He is still best known in our community for his philanthropy. Amongst other gestures, he spearheaded an organisation which granted students university bursaries. He firmly believed that knowledge is power.

Photograph: Dr Noori Moti, MBBCh 2001 (Dermatologist), Dr A Razack Moti, Dr Mohamed Moti MBBCh 2013, Dr Farah Moti MBBCh 2005 (Ophthalmologist), Mrs Amina Moti, Dr Rabia Moti MBBCh 1998 (Ophthalmologist)

TRIBUTE TO DR RENE HEITNER (1943 – 2012)

Nikki Heitner Heyman, who also attended the Memorial Service, said: 'Once upon a time there was a young Jewess. Her name was Madeleine Mantel and she lived in Brussels – Belgium. In 1943, in the midst of war torn Europe, she gave birth to a baby boy. The boy's father had been deported and the baby was born without ever knowing his father. The woman soon realised that the risk of being captured by the Germans were far greater if she had a baby to take care of and so she relinquished her child to a non-Jewish family – Antoine and Regine Swinnens – in the hope



that one day she could reclaim him. She was not there for his first words. She was not there for his first steps. She had made a promise to not visit him for fear that her secret would be uncovered. After the liberation Madeleine went to reclaim her son.

The ravages of the war took their toll and despite her best efforts her little boy became ill with Ricketts. Madeleine married Theo Heitner who promised them a better life in South Africa.

They arrived in South Africa in 1950 and the little boy did not speak a word of English. His mother tongue was French and he spoke Yiddish to his grandmother. Somehow, though, he had to go to school. When Madeleine was widowed in 1955, she took over the reins of running the business and raising her son as single parent. The little boy was my father Rene Heitner and his mother is my grandmother, Madeleine, who is 97 years old, is here with us this evening.

My mother Yvonne stood by my dad's side supporting him through his medical career. His exams, his long hours, his specialisation, his housemanship trips to Bara in 1976 and his devotion to his work and his calling. She is the reason that I am standing here today.

After my dad's passing, we were overwhelmed by letters and tributes that poured in, from friends, patients and colleagues who were devastated by his passing. People would come to him for advice on all sorts of things. He was the rock in hundreds of families' lives, and when there was trouble, he was always high on everyone's list for help and he couldn't say no to anyone.

My brother Stephen who is a cardiologist, described it "like having Neil Armstrong as your dad". He had the respect and the admiration of almost everyone we knew. He taught us the meaning of hard work and responsibility. He lived his life with courage and fortitude. He was never able to verbalise his experiences from childhood and he hid the true nature of his illness from his mother so that she would not have to watch him suffer. But he laughed with abandon and he cried tears of joy and sadness. He left an indelible footprint on the lives that he touched. We miss him every day.'

Photograph: Yvonne Heitner, BA (TTHD) (Wits) 1966; Dip. Rem Ed (Wits) 1972; Nikki Heitner-Heyman, BA (Sp & H Therapy) (Wits) 1990; Dip. Rem Ed (RAU) 1997; currently doing MA (Speech Pathology) at Wits; Ryan Heitner, BCom (Business Information Systems) (Wits) 1993; Stephen Heitner, MBChB (Wits) 1999 and Dr Rene Heitner

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