

April 2016

RECENT EVENTS

SCHOOL OF ORAL HEALTH SCIENCES POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS GET-TOGETHER 2016



The School of Oral Health Sciences held the fifth postgraduate get-together event for MSc Dent and MDent students at the Adler Museum of Medicine on 11 March 2016.

The programme was directed by Professor Bill Evans from Department of Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry. The Acting Head of School, Professor Sindisiwe Shangase, welcomed and introduced the staff members from the School. Postgraduate students, Heads of Departments and other staff members attended the event. It was a great honour to have Assistant Dean of Research and Postgraduate Support, Professor Beverly Kramer, who gave a talk on funding and courses offered by the Research Office.

Dr Tumane Mafojane (MDent student, Oral Medicine and Periodontology), Dr Brampie Mogajane (MSc Dent graduate, MFOS) and Dr Koketso Tshite (Current MSc Dent student, General Dental Practice) gave outstanding presentations on their past and present experiences as postgraduate students.

The students received packages with important information on their courses in general, including what is required of them by the SOHS and the Research Office. Based on their evaluation of the event, most of postgraduate students found the event very informative. The event was organised by Dr Julitha Molepo, Head of the Department of Oral Biological Sciences, and her team, who are looking forward to holding a similar event in 2017.

ETHICS ALIVE WEEK 14 - 18 MARCH 2016: TRANSFORMATION IN AN UNEQUAL SOCIETY: WHAT IS THE GOAL?

Student-led protests, the Faculty's Transformation Indaba and the Steve Biko Lecture on *Transformation in Higher Education* which preceded Ethics Alive week sparked a great deal of interest and inspired the theme for this year's Ethics Alive week (14-18 March 2016): "*Transformation in an Unequal Society: What is the goal?*". A series of talks during the week were arranged at the Faculty and at the Chris Hani Baragwanath, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic, Helen Joseph and Sterkfontein Hospitals which were presented by Dr Graham Howarth, a medico-legal advisor and the Head of Medical Services – Medical Protection Society (Africa). His talk entitled: "*Medicine in Cyberia: Practitioner tweet thyself*", was on social media and the health professional's use of it.



Photographs: (left): Vice-Chancellors Professors Dan Kgwadi, Adam Habib, Drs Mvuyo Tom, Dr Max Price; (right): Dr Max Price, Professor Dan Kgwadi, Miss Lizeka Tandwa (Steve Biko Centre and Chairperson, Wits Students' Bioethics Society) , Dr Mvuyo Tom, Professors Ames Dhai (Director, Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics) and Martin Veller

On 16 March 2016, the Wits Students' Bioethics Society hosted a student symposium which was a platform for them to discuss the issues that need transformation in the Faculty. The theme was "*Health vs Health: How healthy is the Faculty of Health Sciences?*" The panel that facilitated this conversation and provided solutions to some issues included Dr Max Price, Professor Carol-Ann Benn, Mr Scott Smalley and students, Miss Xola Nohaji-Mkoko and Mr Leon Mithi.

The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics and the Faculty hosted a symposium on 17 March 2016 that called upon students, staff and civil society to engage the theme of the week. The panel consisted of four Vice-Chancellors: Dr Max Price (University of Cape Town), Professor Dan Kgwadi (North West University), Dr Mvuyo Tom (University of Fort Hare) and Professor Adam Habib (Wits). They suggested ways in which they think meaningful transformation should be established in South Africa. These included promoting access to education, research, community engagement and redress. The contribution by the Vice-Chancellors was pivotal as leaders of higher education institutions. Some students who were present challenged the Vice-Chancellors and attempted to disrupt the proceedings.



Photograph: Lecture theatre filled to capacity at the Wits Students' Bioethics symposium *Photograph: Rubina Valodia*

The Pfulandlela Pledge was presented at all the events during the week and was officially launched by the Dean of the Faculty, Professor Martin Veller, on this evening. The Pfulandlela Pledge will be placed at the entrance to the Faculty and situated close to the sculpture by Lawrence Chait which is a symbol of the Faculty's commitment to reconciliation and transformation.

To end the evening Advocate George Bizos raised his concerns about the students' behaviour during the panel discussion and implored them to show a spirit of generosity to the Vice-Chancellors who have a difficult job in difficult circumstances.

THE PFULANDLELA PLEDGE

Adjunct Professor Lionel Green-Thompson writes: 'Pfulandlela is a Tsonga word which means to open the road or to lead the way. It is in this spirit that the pledge to promote transformation within the Faculty was declared at the Ethics Alive 2016 symposium. This pledge emerged from a series of consultations across various stakeholders in the Faculty since the Transformation Indaba held in June 2015. While every effort has been made to hear the different voices seeking to be heard in the Faculty, the pledge must be seen as the start of generating a decisive action plan for our community. We all must reflect on this pledge and begin to transform our various spaces of education, research and service to make the document come alive. Transformation, whether it is at curriculum level or within the research or employment space, must become everyone's business. The Deanery has committed itself to ensuring that the pledge is acted upon through a comprehensive action and implementation plan. #Pfulandlela #learningfromourpast #shaping our future.'

Editor's note: Please see the wording of the pledge at the end of this newsletter.

42nd ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY 2016

The 42nd annual Awards Ceremony of the Faculty took place on 6 April 2016. In his message the Dean of the Faculty, Professor Martin Veller, said that the celebration was to mark the extraordinary achievements of some staff and students who were an inspiration to all in the Faculty. They had demonstrated exceptional proficiency in one or more of the pillars of academia as a consequence of which, some of the prize winners were already well established leaders in their fields. The Dean thanked the many individuals and organisations who had generously provided the prizes and awards for this important aspect of an academic's life. He also thanked members of the academy in the Faculty for the academic rigor they achieve in a testing and complex environment to allow so many to accomplish the results.



The Master of Ceremonies was Professor Laetitia Rispel, Head of the School of Public Health and the Guest Speaker was Professor Maryna Steyn, Head of the School of Anatomical Science in the Faculty.



The prestigious Faculty Research Prize was awarded to Jinal Bhiman, a PhD student based at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) under the mentorship of Professors Penny Moore and Lynn Morris. Ms Bhiman obtained her MSc (Med) (Witwatersrand) with distinction in June 2012 and subsequently registered for her PhD. Since the start of her PhD she has been a co-author on six publications which have been published in high impact journals such as *Nature Medicine* and *Nature*.

Jinal's PhD research aimed to inform HIV vaccine design through studies of natural HIV infection. This study has identified a testable HIV vaccine immunisation strategy (Bhiman et al, 2015.)

Bhiman JN, Anthony C, Doria-Rose NA, Karimanzira O, Schramm CA, Khoza T, Kitchin D, Botha G, Gorman J, Garrett NJ, Abdool Karim SS, Shapiro L, Williamson C, Kwong PD, Mascola JR, Morris L, Moore PL. Viral variants that initiate and drive maturation of V1V2-directed HIV-1 broadly neutralizing antibodies. *Nat Med*. 2015 Nov;21(11):1332-6. PMID: 26457756 [PubMed - in process] PMCID: PMC4637988 [Available on 2016-05-01].

Photographs: (above): The platform party; (below): Ms Jinal Bhiman with Professor Beverley Kramer, Assistant Dean, Research and Postgraduate Support; Dr Nadine Gravett and Professor Martin Veller; Professors Jeffrey Wing and Pravin Manga, Academic Head, Department of Clinical Medicine



Other prestigious prizes include the PV Tobias and Convocation Distinguished Teachers' Awards which recognise excellence in teaching. It was awarded to Dr Sue Armstrong, Department of Nursing Education, for clinical teaching and to Dr Nadine Gravett, School of Anatomical Sciences, for pre-clinical teaching. The FJ Milne Teaching and Service Award, which recognises distinguished and loyal service to the Department of Medicine judged on the basis of the nominee's ongoing contribution to the welfare of the Department, involvement in patient care and the enhancement of the reputation of the Department by service to professional and other bodies, was won by Professor Jeffrey Wing, Clinical Head of Charlotte Maxeke

Johannesburg Academic Hospital.

The TH Bothwell Research Prize is the premier research award in the Department of Medicine, School of Clinical Medicine, and was won by Dr Raquel Duarte.

Photograph: Dr Sue Armstrong (file picture)

NOTICE

SUPERVISOR SUPPORT GROUP 2012

Dear Colleagues

Those of you who contributed and discussed the pros and cons of co-supervision in the Supervisor Support Group in 2012 may be interested in viewing the publication which arose out of the deliberations. It is entitled "Co-supervision in post-graduate training: ensuring the right hand knows what the left hand is doing" by ES Grossman and NJ Crowther. It appeared in the December issue of the South African Journal of Science 2015; 111: (11/12) and can be accessed at <http://www.scielo.org.za/pdf/sajs/v111n11-12/23.pdf> . We hope you find the article interesting. In addition we thank you all for your part in its making and for your contribution of thoughts and experiences in the field.

Regards

Elly Grossman and Nigel Crowther

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

ALUMNUS ROBERT JACOBSON RECOGNISED AS A 2016 TOP DOCTOR IN FLORIDA, USA

Robert Jacobson, MBCh 1966, is a haematologist and oncologist at Florida Cancer Specialists, with many affiliations including John F Kennedy Medical Center and Good Samaritan Medical Center. He has been named a 2016 Top Doctor in West Palm Beach, Florida. Top Doctor Awards is dedicated to recognising the clinical achievements of influential and respected doctors who deliver the highest standards of patient care.

After graduating from Wits, he completed an internship at Baragwanath and the 'Non-European' Hospitals and then worked at the 'Johannesburg Gen' and 'Bara' from 1973 to 1975. He moved to the United States, where he took a residency at the Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, and then a fellowship at Georgetown University Hospital.

He is board certified in both Haematology and Haematopathology. He is the clinical director of the Palm Beach Cancer Institute, where he leads research in the use of high dose chemotherapy and stem cell transplantation for treating malignancies. He is also well known for his specialty in benign and malignant blood diseases.

Dr Jacobson is an active member of many professional organisations, as well as being a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He was honoured for his vast expertise and his vital research work.

Dr Jacobson writes: 'I greatly appreciate how privileged I was to receive an outstanding Wits Medical School education. The Medical School over many years has been recognised as a world class institution that trains doctors who are clinically and scientifically excellent. My classmates and I had teachers and role models who inspired us to reach for the best our profession has to offer. I look back with fond memories at the 6 years at Wits and 2 years of internship in the Johannesburg teaching hospitals and know they prepared me well for my career in Haematology and Oncology.'



OBITUARY: DR JOHN BECK (1933 – 2016)



John Beck (1933 – 2015) studied medicine at Wits, qualifying MBChB in 1955. He then became a houseman at the then Johannesburg General Hospital where he received his surgical training from Dr Phyllis Knocker. This had a significant influence for the rest of his career as he was always supportive of women who wished to study medicine, and particularly surgery. After other house jobs and a spell in a Mission Hospital, he was offered a job in 1957 as Medical Officer and Assistant Bus Driver on a trans Africa trip from Johannesburg through the Congo, Nigeria, Chad, Algeria all the way to London. The first time he had been outside South Africa!

Deciding to concentrate on surgery, John followed the Beck family tradition and went to Edinburgh to take his Primary FRCS. He married Paddy Wilkinson who he had met in Johannesburg. He then worked at Hammersmith Hospital under Professor Ian Aird, who was a fellow student of John's father in Edinburgh. After a spell as a Surgical Registrar in southern England, he was, in 1964, offered a training post in Cape Town. This changed the course of his surgical career. Working for Chris Barnard, Jannie Louw and Sid Cywes at the Red Cross Children's Hospital convinced him to pursue a career in paediatric surgery. In late 1966 he was invited to develop paediatric surgery in the then Transvaal with Dr Michael Dinner. Because of apartheid, this meant working at three different hospitals: Transvaal Memorial Children's Hospital (white), Coronation Hospital ('coloured') and Baragwanath Hospital (black).

Increasingly appalled by the injustices of apartheid, the Becks wanted to leave South Africa. In early 1972 a chance encounter at Baragwanath Hospital with Professor John Goligher from Leeds led to a move there as the first paediatric surgeon in the Yorkshire Region (including Leeds and Bradford) where he worked until he retired in November 1995.

The Becks returned to South Africa in 1995 to work part-time to pay something back to the country from which they had gained so much. Mr Beck worked at Themba Hospital, Mpumalanga, for a year but had to move to the Cape as he had a bad reaction to anti malaria medication. In Cape Town, he continued to work part-time in the black and coloured areas of Cape Town (Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain) until a further bout of lymphoma forced him to finally retire from medicine and return to the UK in October 1998.

Mr Beck died on 20/1/2016 at the age of 82. He leaves behind his wife, Paddy, and children, Lucy, James and Janet. Deepest sympathy to the family during this very sad time.

Photograph: Mr John Beck with Dr Lewis Ordman

WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS



Workshops / Seminars offered in April/May 2016

19-21 April 2016: Health Science Educators Course

08:15-16:00 daily: GEMP Boardroom (3N08)

29 April 2016: Journal Club

12:00-13:00: GEMP Boardroom (3N08)

5 May 2016: Preparing and giving a good lecture

14:00-16:00: GEMP Boardroom (3N08)

18 May 2016: PBL Facilitator Workshop

08:30-14:00: GEMP Boardroom (3N08)

Please contact Norman Motlhabani for bookings: 011 717 2329 or gobotsamang.motlhabani@wits.ac.za

And Professor Patricia Mc Inerney for more information: 011 717 2073 or Patricia.McInerney@wits.ac.za

INVITATIONS

TWO ALUMNI REUNIONS, ONE LOCAL AND ONE IN THE USA, ARE BEING HELD THIS YEAR!

REUNION: JOHANNESBURG, 30 AUGUST TO 3 SEPTEMBER 2016

2016 Health Sciences Reunion & Gala Dinner

All Wits Faculty of Health Sciences graduates from around the globe are invited to reunite with classmates, lecturers and their alma mater to reminisce and renew friendships. The reunion will also celebrate and honour the following special anniversary classes: 2006, 1996, 1991, 1986, 1981, 1976, 1971, and 1966.

Tuesday 30 August:

AJ Orenstein Memorial lecture which is being arranged by the Adler Museum of Medicine. This is one of the Faculty's most important lectures of the year.

Wednesday 31 August:

Morning: Visits to the spectacular Wits Art Museum, the Origins Centre and the Evolutionary Studies Institute and Centre of Excellence. Let us know your interests!

Evening: Plenary Lecture prior to Research Day.

Thursday 1 September:

Today will be spent on the Health Sciences Campus where the Faculty will hold its Research Day. Every two years, the Faculty hosts a Research Day and Postgraduate Expo which brings together in excess of 1000 participants. This year the theme lines will be: *Infectious Diseases; Diseases of Lifestyle; Education, Policy and Systems; Molecular and Comparative Biosciences and Clinical Sciences and Therapeutics for Health.*

Alumni will be welcome to participate in round table discussions in the afternoon and the Faculty welcomes suggestions from alumni on topics for discussion. Do let me have your suggestions!

Friday 2 September:

Morning: Visits will be arranged to the Adler Museum of Medicine, the Anatomy Museum, the Centre for Health Science Education, the state-of-the-art School of Public Health Building and the Phillip V Tobias Health Sciences Building.

Discussions will be held about the new curricula. Attend any of the lectures of the day. Have some lunch in the student canteen amid the buzz of students and staff.

Evening: A meet and greet function will be held at the Wits Club where a cocktail will be served on arrival. Meet the Dean and other staff members of the Faculty. Stay on for dinner at this beautiful venue. It may be warm enough already to have dinner under the oak trees! Or organise your own dinner at a venue of your choice (we can make suggestions!) and reminisce with your class mates.

Saturday 3 September:

Morning: Trip to the Cradle of Humankind (Sterkfontein and environs) led by Dr Dominic Stratford, the Co-ordinator of Research at Sterkfontein, who will take us to the Wits Research Site, a World Heritage Site, which is not accessible to the public. We will be seeing sensitive fossil material that Wits researchers are still working on, with some of the items dating back three and a half million years!

Evening: A Gala Dinner to be held in the new and elegant foyer of the Phillip V Tobias Health Sciences Building 19:00 for 19:30. Join us for gourmet food, exciting speeches (maybe) and an evening (certainly) of reminiscences and revelry.

Sunday 4 September:

Morning: If there is enough interest, a visit to the Apartheid Museum at Gold Reef City, the Hector Pieterse Museum in Soweto and a lunch in Soweto can be arranged.

Please email your interest in attending to HGA President, Dr Paul Davis, paulusd@me.com or Rochelle Keene at Rochelle.keene@wits.ac.za

REUNION: SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. 18 TO 20 OCTOBER 2016

2016 Wits Medical School Reunion in San Antonio, Texas

Date: Tuesday 18 October to Thursday 20 October 2016

Location: Hotel Contessa which is the only all-suites 4 diamond hotel on the beautiful San Antonio Riverwalk, in the center of the downtown area, and within walking distance from the Alamo. More details about the hotel can be found at www.thehotelcontessa.com

Please make your own reservations soon by calling the hotel (866-435-0900 or 210-229-9222). A block of rooms is being held under "Wits Medical School Alumni" at the daily rate of \$189 single or double. This rate will be available for 3 days prior and/or 3 days after the gathering. Free WiFi is available.

Schedule

Tuesday 18 October: Arrival anytime: Evening welcome reception and appetizers.

Wednesday 19 October: Plated dinner at Hotel Contessa with opportunities for speeches, slides or video presentations, and possibly other entertainment.

Thursday 20 October: Tex-Mex buffet dinner with opportunities for speeches, slide or video presentations, and possibly other entertainment.

Friday 21 October: Adjourn, or stay on and enjoy more of historic San Antonio.

Reservations will be on a first come/first served basis (limited to 80 people) secured by sending a cheque for \$300 per person to Martin Colman, and by making your own hotel reservation.

Alumni Event Coordinators:

Martin Colman, MD
1066 Long Reach Drive,
Galveston, TX 77554
409-935-2310 (H)/ 409-682-1396 (M)
mcolman@utmb.edu

Peter V Weston, MD
2810 Albans
Houston TX 77005-2310
(713) 665-6557 (H)/(713) 819-4100 (M)
pview@att.net

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH DAY: REMINDER

Please note that the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Day website is now live. Please visit the link – www.witsrd.co.za to submit an abstract and also register for the event. More details regarding the Research Day event are also available on the website.

NB: The deadline for abstract submission is 29 April 2016.

SAVE THE DATE
14 June 2016

Wits Faculty of Health Sciences
13th Prestigious Research Lecture
Presented by: Professor Wendy Stevens and Professor Lesley Scott

Title: Unlocking access to global HIV and TB care through molecular diagnostics

Time: 17:00 for 17:30

Venue: School of Public Health Auditorium

RSVP: Boipelo.Kgosinkwe@wits.ac.za

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG   

AND FINALLY ...

Pfulandlela Pledge – leading the way

Guided by the values and rights enshrined in South Africa's Constitution and the transformation agenda of the University of the Witwatersrand, we, the Faculty of Health Sciences, commit ourselves to uphold the principles of:

- Equity, equality, fairness and justice
- Respect for human rights, diversity and plurality of views
- Ethical health professional practice
- Accountable governance as well as open and transparent leadership.

By demonstrating a transformative spirit through the following:

- Building a Faculty free of all forms of discrimination and victimisation.
- Fostering an inclusive academic environment which values and embraces diverse views.
- Promoting an enabling culture that frees everyone to achieve their full potential.
- Developing a new generation of scholars, that is representative of South African society, who will work towards the improvement of the lives of all South Africans.
- Creating an environment that is conducive to learning.
- Promoting innovative curricula development which highlights the social determinants of health, equity and social justice and distributed learning platforms which transform the context of teaching and learning.
- Ensuring that our research responds to the needs of the communities in which we teach and serve.
- Integration of individuals who are new to the Faculty so that all feel welcome in the Faculty and ensuring that we learn from, and draw on their expertise.
- Transforming our relationships with our partners in government, communities and other stakeholders towards the goal of improved health and elimination of health inequalities.
- Setting a transformation agenda with clear milestones in service, education and research, and in the demographic profile of staff and students, which is aligned with Faculty and University goals.

Learning from our past, shaping our future

***Health Sciences Review* is published mid-month every month.**

The next issue will appear on 20 May 2016

Deadline for submission of information and pictures: 18 May 2016

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