



PALAEOPATHOLOGY WORKSHOP - 2023

Presented by the Human Variation and Identification Research Unit (HVIRU), School of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Forensic Anthropology Research Centre (FARC), Department of Anatomy, University of Pretoria & Dirisana+.



The workshop will consist of a series of lectures, research presentations, and hands-on practicals. Lectures will include topics such as infectious diseases (with a focus on tuberculosis (TB), nutritional/metabolic disease, the timing of fractures, degenerative conditions, malignant and non-malignant conditions as well as the interpretation of non-specific signs of disease, and dental diseases typically seen in skeletal remains.

INFORMATION!

DATE AND TIME



18th - 20th April 2023
8:00 - 16:30

LOCATION



WITS UNIVERSITY

The workshop will be held in-person and online.

REGISTER NOW!



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For more information, please contact Prof D Brits
(desire.brits@wits.ac.za).

Workshop Presenters



Prof Maryna Steyn

Human Variation and Identification Research Unit, School of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof Maryna Steyn is a Biological Anthropologist who qualified as a medical doctor in 1983 and obtained a PhD from Wits in 1994. She is currently employed as a full Professor in the School of Anatomical Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand, where she is also the Director of the Human Variation and Identification Research Unit (HVIRU). Her research focuses on human remains from archaeological and forensic contexts. She consults with the SAPS and Forensic Pathologists on skeletonized human remains and serves on the boards of two international professional associations. She has published more than 170 scientific papers and several book chapters, as well as a co-authored book. Prof Steyn holds a B2 rating from the NRF.



Dr Deona Botha

Human Variation and Identification Research Unit, School of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Deona Botha is a lecturer in the School of Anatomical Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand. She completed an MSc degree in Physical Anthropology at the University of Pretoria in 2014 and a PhD in Biological Anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her research has focused on palaeopathology and health status in archaeological and historical populations, and on histological age estimation in modern human skeletal remains. She is a member of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA) and the Palaeopathology Association (PPA). She manages the Human Identification Unit (HIU) in the School of Anatomical Sciences and partakes in forensic case analysis.



Workshop Presenters



Ms Leandi Liebenberg
Forensic Anthropology Research Centre (FARC), Department of Anatomy, University of Pretoria

Ms Leandi Liebenberg (MSc.) is a lecturer in the Department of Anatomy at the University of Pretoria (South Africa). As part of her duties at the Forensic Anthropology Research Centre (FARC), she has worked on over 100 forensic cases and assists in training postgraduate students in skeletal analyses. She currently teaches courses in forensic anthropology, biological anthropology, bone pathology, and research methodology.



Dr Anja Meyer
Human Variation and Identification Research Unit, School of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr Anja Meyer is a senior lecturer in the School of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand. She has over 15 years of experience in the fields of human and comparative skeletal biology, bioarchaeology, palaeopathology, forensic archaeology and forensic anthropology. She is a member of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists, the South African Archaeological Society, the Society of Africanist Archaeologists, the International Association of Craniofacial Identification, the Commonwealth Association of Museums, and the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa. Her research focuses mainly on southern African bioarchaeology, palaeopathology and forensic anthropology.



Workshop Presenters



Prof Desiré Brits

Human Variation and Identification Research Unit, School of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand

Prof Desiré Brits received her BSc, BSc Hons and MSc from the University of Pretoria, and her PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand. She is currently employed as an Associate Professor by the University of the Witwatersrand where she teaches morphological anatomy and forensic anthropology to undergraduate and postgraduate students. She is a council member of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA), an associate member of the American Association of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) and a member of the International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM)/Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE). She is involved in forensic anthropological case analyses for the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Forensic Pathology Services (FPS). Her research focuses on skeletal taphonomy, trauma and establishing identification methods, specific to South Africans, using medical image modalities of skeletal remains.



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Workshop Speakers



Ms Rethabile Masiu

*Department of Basic Medical Sciences,
University of the Free State*

Ms Rethabile Masiu is a lecturer in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences at the University of the Free State where she teaches anatomy as well as anthropology. She completed her Master's (MSc) degree in the year 2021 at Wits University which explored the association between skeletal lesions and TB. Her current research is exploring the presentation of TB and possible environmental differences, using the Free State skeletal sample. For her PhD, she would like to research a feasible approach for forensic anthropological analyses in rural areas.



Ms Selloane Maboea

*Human Variation and Identification Research
Unit, School of Anatomical Sciences,
University of the Witwatersrand*

Ms Selloane Maboea is a student at the University of the Witwatersrand. She has completed her Bachelor's (BSc) degree in Biological Sciences and an honours (BHSc) degree in Human Biology. Her honours research focused on linear enamel hypoplasia and Harris lines.



Program:

This workshop will provide you with a basic understanding of bone pathology / palaeopathology and will equip you with knowledge to assist in the identification of various pathological conditions. The lectures and research presentations will be presented both in person and online, via Microsoft Teams. The in-person lectures, research presentations and hands-on practicals will be presented in the School of Anatomical Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand (Stibbe laboratory) and will be limited to 50 individuals.

Time-based on South African Standard Time (UTC+02:00)

Day 1 (18/4/2023)	Topic	Presenter
08:00-08:15	Welcoming	Prof Brits
08:15-09:00	Introduction & terminology	Prof Brits
09:00-10:00	Infectious diseases	Prof Steyn
10:00-10:30	Tea break*	
10:30-11:30	Infectious diseases (continue)	Prof Steyn
11:30-12:30	Timing of fractures, antemortem trauma & bone healing	Prof Brits
12:30-13:30	Lunch*	
13:30-14:00	Interpreting disease: The osteological paradox	Ms Liebenberg
14:30-15:00	TB in modern skeletons	Ms Maslu
15:00-16:30	Hands on practical**	All
Day 2 (19/4/2023)	Topic	Presenter
08:00-10:00	Nutritional / Metabolic diseases	Dr Meyer
10:00-10:30	Tea break*	
10:30-11:30	Non-specific signs of disease: Periostitis, cribra orbitalia and porotic hyperostosis	Dr Meyer
11:30-12:30	Growth insults: Harris lines & enamel hypoplasia	Dr Meyer
12:30-13:30	Lunch*	
13:30-14:00	Case study: Assessing the relationship between Harris lines and linear enamel hypoplasia	Ms Maboea
14:00-15:30	Hands on practical**	All
Day 3 (20/4/2023)	Topic	Presenter
08:00-09:00	Degenerative disease	Dr Botha / Ms Liebenberg
09:00-10:00	Making sense of arthritic conditions	Dr Botha / Ms Liebenberg
10:00-10:30	Tea break*	
10:30-11:30	Benign versus malignant tumours	Dr Botha
11:30-12:30	Dental pathology	Dr Meyer
12:30-13:30	Lunch*	
13:30-14:00	Nieuwpoort skeletal collection: context, history, and health	Dr Botha
14:00-15:30	Hands on practical**	All

*Tea / Lunch for own account

**Please bring a clean laboratory coat and gloves to be used during the practicals



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