

# WITS UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS OF 1960



## Newsletter #4 – Deans and Professors

Compiled by Chaim Rosenberg, Chicago

1 September, 2020

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### ACADEMIC MEDICINE and the CLASS OF 1960

Fourteen members of our class (that I know of) held senior academic posts in medical schools, involving research, clinical practice, teaching and faculty affairs.

In Newsletter #1, we have already highlighted the outstanding careers of:

**Geoffrey Boner**, Associate Professor of Nephrology, Tel Aviv University Faculty of Medicine;

**Leonard Kahn**, Chair, Department of Pathology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York;

**Anthony M. Meyers**, Professor of Nephrology, University of the Witwatersrand Medical School and **Aubrey Milunsky**, Professor of Human Genetics, Boston University School of Medicine.

You can read their personal and interesting stories of their memories of medical school, house jobs and after, on the dedicated website linked from their names on the Who's Who list here

[https://wits\\_medical\\_alumni\\_1960.mailchimpsites.com/whos-who--the-class-of-1960](https://wits_medical_alumni_1960.mailchimpsites.com/whos-who--the-class-of-1960)

In future newsletters we plan to feature: the careers of **Martin Bobrow** FRS who served as Professor of Genetic Medicine at the University of Amsterdam, Guys Hospital and at Cambridge University; myself, **Chaim Rosenberg**, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Boston University School of Medicine; and **Aaron (Arthur) Vinik**. Professor of Medicine, East Virginia Medical School at Norfolk, Virginia. **Max Shaff** was Associate Professor of Radiology at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee. Also, **Michael Meyer Nissenbaum** is listed as a professor but I have not yet found any information about him and his career.

### In this Newsletter – we focus on the Three Deans – and other



### professors and teachers:

We first look at the exceptional careers of three members of our class who became Deans of prestigious medical schools in South Africa the USA and Australia:

**Clive Rosendorff Arthur Rubenstein Laurence Geffen**

We also feature **Avroy Fanaroff** and **Jeffrey Maisels** who both became professors of neonatology in the USA. They have both been inducted into the 'Legends of Neonatology Hall of Fame' and have both been recipients of the prestigious Virginia Apgar award.

We also showcase other professors and teachers from our class such as **Andre van As**, Principal Physician, Chief of Internal Medicine and Pulmonary Division at the JG Strijdom Hospital and Professor of Medicine and Chief Pulmonary Division, University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Albuquerque, USA. **Gary Katz** was also involved with paediatric teaching in London and **Gloria Davis** had the task of teaching anaesthetic registrars in South Africa about allergy and risk assessment. **Mervyn Hurwitz** also served on the faculty of Wits Medical school in obstetrics and gynaecology.

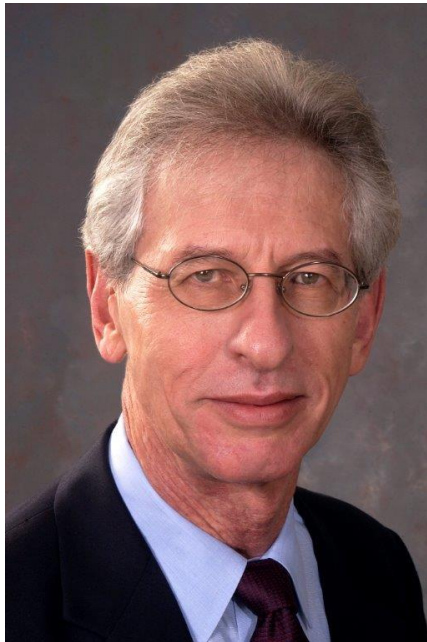
## The Three Deans

**Clive Rosendorff**, **Arthur Rubenstein** and **Laurence Geffen** showed early drive and ability with high achievement at high school, and excellent scores in their medical studies. Clive and Laurence spent time in scientific research to complete a BSc. In addition to their heavy academic load, all three were involved in student political activities, including membership of the Student Medical Council and the fight for academic freedom for all in South Africa.



In this photograph of the **Wits Student Medical Council of 1958**, we see the three future deans together: **Clive Rosendorff** (Dean of Wits medical school) is standing in the back row second from left, to his right in the back row is **Laurence Geffen** (Dean of medical schools in Adelaide and Brisbane) with his head in front of the window glass,. **Arthur Rubenstein** (Dean of Mount Sinai Medical School, New York, and of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School) is sitting front row extreme right. They are posing front of the entrance to Wits Medical School (Also, in the picture are some of our other illustrious colleagues **Jeffrey Maisels**, the tall head at the back on the extreme left, **Gerald Lampert** (in the middle – head half in and half out of the door)., **Aubrey Milunsky** next to him to the right and **Gary Katz** is on the extreme right, Also in the picture, In front of Gerald to the left is Denise Hack, Arthur's future wife and Gloria Davis's future husband **Dave Myers** is seated next to Arthur.

## Clive Rosendorff



During his student days, Clive was prominent in university anti-apartheid activities as chair of the Academic Freedom Committee; a member of the National Executive of the National Union of South African Students (1957); President of the Association of Medical Students of South Africa (1959); and President of the Student Representative Council (1960-61). He completed BSc (Honours) in 1958 and graduated MB BCh in 1962.

### To the UK and to Yale University

After an intern year at the Johannesburg General Hospital, Clive went to London to undertake further research at **King's College** Hospital. He became a lecturer at **St Thomas's** Hospital Medical School, where he completed training in Internal Medicine and in Cardiology, becoming a Member of the Royal College of Physicians of London (MRCP) in 1966. He gained a PhD in 1969 for his work on cerebral and coronary blood flow. From 1969 to 1970 Clive was a Research Fellow at Yale University School of Medicine, where he was a Visiting Scientist and Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine.

### Dean of Wits Medical School 1987 to 1989

While he was at Yale, in 1970, Clive was head-hunted at the age of just 32, to return to South Africa to be **Professor and Chairman of the Department of Physiology** at Wits. He was also appointed **Senior Physician in the Department of Medicine**. He served in those two capacities for 17 years. Then from 1987 to 1989 he became the Dean of Wits Medical School – giving back to his alma mater the expertise he had gained.

At the end of that period, after further research in Paris, in 1992 Clive moved to the United States, to become Professor and Vice-Chairman of the Department of Medicine at **Mount Sinai School of Medicine** and **Mount Sinai Heart** (Hospital) and Chairman of Medicine at the **Bronx Veterans Administration Hospital** in New York City.

Today, in 2020, Clive and his wife Daphne, an Art Historian, live in Manhattan, New York, where Clive still works full-time. Their three children are close by. It may be of interest to know that Clive and the late Phillip Tobias were first cousins. You can read Clive's story by clicking his name here [Rosendorff, Clive \(BSc\)](#) or from the 'Who's Who' page of our website where you can see all the biographies: [https://wits\\_medical\\_alumni\\_1960.mailchimpsites.com/whos-who--the-class-of-1960](https://wits_medical_alumni_1960.mailchimpsites.com/whos-who--the-class-of-1960)

## Arthur Rubenstein

Arthur was born in Germiston. Graduating MB BCh in 1960 he was awarded the Medical Association's Bronze Medal for the most distinguished graduate of the year. He went on to complete his internship and registrar training at the Johannesburg General Hospital, after which he spent a year at the **Hammersmith** Hospital in London conducting research in endocrinology, leading to a distinguished career in diabetic research. From London, he returned briefly to Johannesburg.

In 1967, Arthur and his family left for the United States where he began a research fellowship at the **University of Chicago**. Arthur rose rapidly up the academic ladder. In 1981, Rubenstein was appointed **Professor and Chairman of the Department of Medicine at the University of Chicago**, where he made seminal contributions to research in the field of diabetes mellitus. He published numerous research papers in peer-review journals and received many distinguished awards. On his departure, the University of Chicago established in his honor, the Arthur H. Rubenstein MD Mentorship Award.

After thirty years in Chicago, in 1997 Arthur moved to New York as **Dean of Mount Sinai School of Medicine** and Gustav L. Levy Distinguished **Professor of Medicine**. He served as president of the Association of Professors of Medicine, and President of the Association of American Physicians.



### **Dean of the Perelman School of Medicine. University of Pennsylvania**

After four years at Mount Sinai, in 2001 and aged 63 years, Arthur was recruited by the **University of Pennsylvania** as executive vice-president of its health system and **Dean** of the **Perelman School of Medicine**. America's first medical school, founded in 1765, was at the University of Pennsylvania. Arthur was lauded as 'an exceptional educator and accomplished

physician, scientist and leader.’ During his decade-long tenure as dean he successfully built up the University of Pennsylvania into one of America’s leading medical teaching and clinical centers. On his retirement, the grateful university commissioned his portrait. (See the portrait above with Arthur, his wife Dr Denise (née Hack) and their son Jeffrey, a professor of Talmud). The University also endowed the Arthur H. Rubenstein MB BCh professorship. To this day, August 2020, Arthur is still active in research and teaching at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. You can read his story here [Rubenstein, Arthur Harold](#)

## Laurence Geffen

### Dean, Flinders University Adelaide and University of Queensland, Brisbane

**Laurence**, born in Johannesburg in 1937, was the first in his family to attend a university, graduating with the MB BCh in 1960.

Intelligence and application led to a Nuffield Dominions Fellowship to Magdalen College, Oxford University and a Fulbright Fellowship to the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology, Nutley, New Jersey, USA.

In 1967, at age 30 years, he moved to Australia to serve as Reader in Physiology and Pharmacology at **Monash University**, Melbourne. From there he moved to Adelaide to become **Dean of Medicine, Flinders University**, and from 1991-1994, to Brisbane, to be **Dean of Medicine** at the **University of Queensland**.

Laurence Geffen played a key role in the reform of Australia’s medical training, and extended that role to the western Pacific, including efforts to modernize the Chinese medical system. In 2010,

Laurence was included in the Queen’s Birthday Honours as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM): ‘For services to neuroscience, as a clinician and researcher, and a medical educator.’



Leaving room for yet another career, Laurence Geffen served as Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Queensland and practiced in Brisbane as a clinical psychiatrist. You can read the story that Laurie wrote for us about being a *Neuroscientist, Medical Educationist and Clinical Psychiatrist* here [Geffen, Laurence](#)

**Clive, Arthur and Laurence** have crowded so much into their lives as researchers, administrators, clinical physicians, innovators, thinkers and family men. Each of them is still engaged. They remain into the ninth decade, reachable, likeable and flexible; easily recognizable from their joint 1958 photograph at Medical School sixty-two years ago.

## Professors of Pediatrics

Writing in 2004 in the journal *Pediatrics*, [Volume 113, No 3, March 2004], Professor Gerald Gilchrist described the contribution of the University of the Witwatersrand Medical School to United States Pediatrics. He said that before 1948, Wits Medical School did not have an academic pediatric department. Thereafter, it produced many distinguished pediatricians.

Gilchrist traced sixty-five of them who have migrated to the United States during the years 1946-1979. Thirty-one of them were full professors and 25 had been chairmen of academic departments and/or subspecialty divisions. The first of them to migrate to the US was Solomon Kaplan, soon followed by Abraham Rudolph, author of *Rudolph's Pediatrics*.

In the **1960s Avroy Fanaroff and Jeffrey Maisels**, members of our class, arrived in the United States. Avroy and Jeff gave us a vivid account of their experiences at Baragwanath Hospital in our [Newsletter #2 – Baragwanath](#) (click the link to read it), mentioning specially the arrangements for the premature baby unit. This must have made a big impression on them as both became leaders in their field and 'Legends in Neonatology'. Avroy and Jeffrey have been good friends ever since their schooldays They have both won the Apgar Award for **outstanding contributions to perinatal medicine: Avroy in 2002 and Jeff in 2007** (when this photo below was taken).



**Avroy Fanaroff** became chairman of the Department of Pediatrics and professor of Pediatrics and Reproductive Medicine at Case Western Reserve University Medical School, Cleveland Ohio. Fanaroff's scholarly pursuits, clinical practice and research have been devoted primarily to the diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes of critically ill neonates. You can read Avroy's interesting story including his own personal family encounter with the speciality, here [Fanaroff, Avroy Arnold](#)

**Jeffrey Maisels** became Professor of Pediatrics, Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, Royal Oak, Michigan. Jeffrey is one of the world's leading authorities on neonatal jaundice and hyperbilirubinemia. He was also a champion squash player who was the Wits University champion and also a Springbok player. Read about his parallel medical and squash careers here [Maisels, Jeffrey](#)

## Other academics in our class

Other graduates from our cohort, were also inspired by the baby and children's work at Baragwanath, especially the neonatal unit pioneered by Eric Kahn and Sam Wayburn. These were **Andre van As**, who had wanted to become a paediatrician, but became a pulmonologist in South Africa and New Mexico USA, and **Gary Katz**, paediatrician in London who have both contributed to academic life in their own spheres. **Gloria Davis-Myers** also worked in the children' wards at Baragwanath Hospital and taught about allergy to anaesthetic registrars. **Mervyn Hurwitz** served on the wits Medical school faculty in obstetrics and gynaecology.

### Andre Van As – Pulmonologist, Professor of Medicine

Andre says of [Pediatrics with Eric Kahn and Monty Schneir](#) at Baragwanath Hospital. (Click the link to read his description): 'It was a wonderful experience after Surgery and Medicine. I wanted to become a Paediatrician but at the end of my six months no registrar position was available.' Andre became a pioneer with Professor Guy Elliott at the Johannesburg General Hospital in building and running – and teaching about – Intensive Care Units (ICUs). He spent the next 26 years running ICUs in South Africa and USA. Andre became the Chief of Internal Medicine and Principal Physician at the JG Strijdom Hospital in 1973 where he created a Pulmonary Division, ran a very active pulmonary teaching programme and transformed the teaching and patient care standards of the Hospital. 1980 he left South Africa for the USA, where he was appointed Chief of the Pulmonary Division at the University of New Mexico and the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Albuquerque, where he was soon promoted to the rank of **Professor of Medicine**. He was active in student, resident and fellow teaching, as well as being on faculty and organizational teaching committees, and Chairman of the ICU/CCU committee. You can read Andre's beautifully prepared and very informative biography including lots of memories about our student and early clinical days here [Van As, Andre](#)



### Gary Katz, Paediatrician, London

Gary, whose personal story has already been referred to in [Newsletter #3 - Highlands North](#) which he compiled, was also inspired by the staff and teaching in the children and baby wards at Baragwanath Hospital. Gary says of his academic life: 'While doing my Senior Registrar rotation, I debated (mainly with myself) whether to pursue an academic career or to follow a clinical path. I



eventually decided to apply for a clinical post, and I was appointed as a Consultant Paediatrician at Edgware General and Barnet Hospitals, in conjunction with an Honorary Senior Lectureship at University College Medical School, with a responsibility for medical student teaching. I was responsible for the development of a highly regarded Paediatric Service and a Sub-regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Edgware.' You can read Gary's biography and his responsibility for implementing a new training programme involving every Paediatric Department in London and its surroundings, here [Katz, Gary](#)

## Gloria Davis-Myers

Classmate Gloria Davis who pioneered the speciality of Allergy in South Africa became involved in a teaching programme at the JG Strjdom Hospital respiratory unit. She ran courses for anaesthetic registrars on how to examine patients so that they could diagnose their illnesses and then assess any risk for anaesthesia. She continued this at Baragwanath where she worked in the children's wards. You can read Gloria's noteworthy story here [Davis, Gloria](#)



## Mervyn Hurwitz

At the beginning of August 2020, only a few weeks ago, we received a wonderful biographical portrait written by Mervyn Hurwitz – another of our colleagues who **served on the faculty of the University of Witwatersrand Medical School**. He told us 'It's hard to believe that 60 years have passed. I am fortunate to have remained friends with several classmates across the globe' He described his specialisation in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Johannesburg and London and wrote: 'I joined the practice of Joel Cohen and Max Bloom and later I served on the faculty at Wits. I was one of the pioneers of sex therapy in South Africa, establishing the country's first sex therapy clinic. I remained in private practice for almost 30 years until I immigrated to the US in 1997 to be closer to our children'. We had been told that Mervyn Hurwitz was gravely ill. We made sure that his story was posted on the Who's Who page of our 'Class of 60' website in time for him, his wife Rahle and their family to see and enjoy it. Sadly, Mervyn died on August 25, 2020 in Delray Beach, Florida. His lifelong friend Avroy Fanaroff wrote: 'Mervyn was an extremely competent and caring physician who made a difference in many individuals' lives. He loved life, he adored his family and was a terrific friend as well as a competitive athlete. Nobody liked a joke more than he did. He will be missed but not forgotten. You can read Mervyn's story here [Hurwitz, Mervyn Bernard](#)





## Peter Arnold

This fine picture below, taken in our student days, was sent and annotated by **Peter Arnold, who was the President of the Student Medical Council in 1959**. In it we see two of the Deans and two Professors with Peter who was the president at the time.

Peter continued in the field of medical politics in Australia. He became the Deputy President of the Australian Medical Board – liaising closely with the US Federation. See his story on our website: [Arnold, Peter \(BSc\)](#)



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## Class of 60 Project: How are we getting on?

I am hugely helped by the tremendous enthusiasm and energy of colleagues, **Gary Katz**, **Ronnie Auerbach** and **Max Shaff**, and especially **Avroy Fanaroff**, who are doing so much to find and motivate our fellow students, both to send in their own stories, and to support the Philip Tobias Bursary Fund.

## Phillip Tobias Bursary Fund

I am pleased to see that nine of our class members have already donated. Four from the USA have donated a total of nearly R60,000. Two from the UK have donated a total of over R40,000, and three from South Africa have donated a total of 21,000. We do really want, while we celebrate ourselves and colleagues, to make a real difference to current MB BCh candidates. So, thank you to those who are leading the way. Having reached a total of just over R120,000, we are still way off our aim of achieving between us all, R400,000. If each of us who can, will make a decent contribution, we should be able to reach that goal. To make it easy for you at the top of each page on the website is a **button called 'Donate'**. Just click this, to add your contribution – or click here: [https://wits\\_medical\\_alumni\\_1960.mailchimpsites.com/donate](https://wits_medical_alumni_1960.mailchimpsites.com/donate)

## Your biographical sketches and stories

We have already received and posted on the website, twenty-six fascinating personal biographical sketches of our classmates, with fifteen more promised some of which have been received! We are processing them as fast as we can. You can see all the names on the 'Who's Who' list on our website. When we have a story – their names become a link. If you know someone who is, or who should be, on our Who's Who list, (who either started with us in 1955 or graduated with us in 1960) please contact me [chaimrosenberg@aol.com](mailto:chaimrosenberg@aol.com), giving me the email address and phone number, if you have them so we can contact them to get their stories.

Here are some classmates we have discovered:

### Pieter Landsberg – Emergency Medicine

Pieter was a star student, gaining first class passes in all four subjects in his first year. After graduation, he set up in general practice in Benoni. He developed a passion for emergency medicine. He lectured weekly to the Red Cross and worked with the head of the Fire Service to improve fire safety in Benoni.



His passion for diving and power boating led him, in 1992, together with a few other doctors, to create a formal diving medical association – The Southern African Underwater and Hyperbaric Medical Association (SAUHMA). Pieter was its first president. He was also key in bringing the NSRI (National Sea Rescue Institute) inland, to monitor water safety in the dams around Benoni and the Vaal. As a Lieutenant Commander in the South Africa Navy, Pieter was a lecturer at the only diving and submarine medicine course, held annually at the naval base in Simonstown. In trying to find classmate Pieter Landsberg, I discovered that he had sadly died in 2014, aged 78. You can read his fascinating brief biography here [Landsberg, Pieter Guillaume](#)

We have now also added the names and where we have information, short stories for **Nicholas Joyce-Clarke, Colin Robertson, Anthony Price** [Price, Anthony Robin](#) and **Fanie Le Roux** [Le Roux, J. Stephanus \(Fanie\)](#) – as suggested by classmate **Max Shaff**.

Max remembered that Fanie Le Roux was a missionary doctor. Colin Robertson, a radiologist in Benoni, was married and had two daughters. He died young from colon cancer. I found that Nicholas Joyce-Clarke lived within five miles of my Chicago home! He practiced as a rheumatologist in Chicago's northern suburbs. I called his office, only to learn that he had retired five years ago and had died in 2017. I found that Anthony Price had also died at his home in the remote town of Eastend, Saskatchewan, Canada, in 2005, aged 68. He had specialised in Obstetrics and then ENT and in 1979 emigrated to Canada.

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### **Feedback from [Newsletter #3 – Highlands North](#)**

**Gary Katz** compiled a wonderful story for Newsletter #3, (click the link above to read it) about the ten boys from Highlands North High School who entered Wits medical school with him in 1955. **Ivan Samson** expressed what many felt: 'Gary, your personal observations and the details of all the careers of the physicians make very interesting reading, and it is astounding that from such a small concentrated nucleus of boys, the influence on the well-being and health of patients, as well as in the field of medical research, is truly remarkable, and this has taken place in at least four countries around the world.

**Len Kahn**, one of the Highlands North cohort, said to Gary: Very impressive work on the Highlands group.

**Gary's family** his brothers and grandchildren said: This is a wonderful contribution and obviously a labour of love that you have done for both your colleagues and your profession. We are extremely proud of what you have done during your medical career and also surprised to learn about some of your achievements of which we were not aware.

And **Arthur Rubenstein** wrote [Dear Mike, I read the Newsletter #3 with great interest and enjoyment and congratulate you and Geraldine again on this wonderful project, which has re-established all these old, but important connections. The information was most rewarding, and the organization of the newsletter was easy to read. I am so pleased that you have undertaken this project with your collaborators. Avroy and I talk frequently about these reminisces.](#)

With appreciation and gratitude, Arthur.

## Our search continues ...

We will try and try again to contact people and solicit additional reports. These autobiographical sketches will be linked to the individual names on the Who's Who list of our website.

[https://wits\\_medical\\_alumni\\_1960.mailchimpsites.com/whos-who--the-class-of-1960](https://wits_medical_alumni_1960.mailchimpsites.com/whos-who--the-class-of-1960)

Please send your own story and encourage others to do so too

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**Next time ... in our Newsletter #5** we plan to write about our clinical training – the hospitals we worked in and our **memories of our teachers and chiefs on our rotations and house jobs**. This is something we all share whatever field we eventually went in to. If you have an anecdote or a memory of a hospital or teacher to share, please send it to me as soon as possible. [chaimrosenberg@aol.com](mailto:chaimrosenberg@aol.com)

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## Helpers and supporters

We are extremely lucky to have the expertise of **Geraldine Auerbach** in London who creates from our scribblings the elegant and easy to read narratives that appear in our Newsletters and biographies. In this, she is greatly helped by wise counsel and proofreading from her husband and our classmate, **Ronnie Auerbach**. We are also grateful for, and very fortunate to have, the warm support of the **Wits Alumni Office** and its American Representative **Nooshin Erfani-Ghadimi** who has created and manages the Class of 60 Website so beautifully and efficiently.

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## Newsletter #4 – Deans and Professors

Compiled by Chaim M Rosenberg, Chicago

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Keep our comments and stories flowing [chaimrosenberg@aol.com](mailto:chaimrosenberg@aol.com)