

CITATION: WENDY DONNA APPELBAUM

Ms Wendy Appelbaum is recognised today for her selfless service to society, for her leadership in advancing economic and industrial development, for her contribution to uplifting health and welfare services, for her role in advancing culture and for her empowerment of women in South Africa.

The University of the Witwatersrand is proud to be associated with Ms Appelbaum, whose involvement with the University commenced as a student, reading for a degree in psychology. Her philanthropic involvement started in 2002 when her father, the late Sir Donald Gordon, contributed the founding donation for the establishment of the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre, which is today a world-class private, specialist teaching hospital, the only one of its kind in the country.

Ms Appelbaum has served as an active member of the Board of the Centre, representing the Donald Gordon Foundation, for over a decade. Prior to the establishment of the Centre, specialist and sub-specialist training was only undertaken in public hospitals. The Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre now allows for this training to be conducted in an incredible first-class facility through a public-private partnership. Ms Appelbaum's astute advice and strong leadership has enabled the Centre to expand into a leading institution that has resulted in Wits training the most specialists and sub-specialists in the country. Through brokering beneficial partnerships, Ms Appelbaum has significantly advanced the way in which medical training is conducted in South Africa – an outcome that reflects her passion for improving access to quality healthcare for all.

In line with her commitment to empowering women, Ms Appelbaum has contributed towards funding the establishment of a Fellowship in Gynaecological Oncology and the creation of an outpatient Women's Health Clinic at the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre. She was also instrumental in developing a Fellowship in Geriatric Medicine, which has resulted in the training of four geriatric sub-specialists in recent years. Her direct participation in these endeavours demonstrates Ms Appelbaum's proactive involvement in the University's academic programme, which extends beyond her usual fiduciary responsibilities.

In recent years, Ms Appelbaum's focus has shifted to social impact investing which has resulted in her support of two legal processes that have effected significant societal change. The first was a landmark case, which she initiated into unsavoury business practices in the property auction environment. The second was the challenge around the legality of "garnishee orders", where Ms Appelbaum supported a group of workers who challenged this practice in court. Her efforts contributed to the benchmark judgment handed down by the Western Cape High Court in 2015 against

illegal emolument attachment orders. This resulted in a significant policy change, which has benefitted millions of disadvantaged South Africans, but which also demonstrates that philanthropy and goodwill can shift disciplinary and policy practice.

Ms Appelbaum's philanthropic efforts have consistently focused on changing the lives of the most vulnerable in society, with the many efforts of the Wendy Appelbaum Foundation directly uplifting the health and education interests of South African women. A member of Harvard University's Women's Leadership Board and Harvard's Global Advisory Council, Ms Appelbaum also serves as a member of the International Women's Forum.

An exceptional leader, Ms Appelbaum's economic and industrial expertise is renowned. She served as the former deputy chairperson of the first women-controlled company to list on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, with assets in excess of R1 billion. She serves as chairperson of the DeMorgenzon Estate, a wine farm and agricultural business in Stellenbosch and holds various directorships and trusteeships, both in South Africa and abroad. These include the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre (Pty) Limited, the Donald Gordon Foundation (the largest private charitable foundation in Africa), and the World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa (WWF- SA).

Ms Appelbaum has a succession of honours and awards attached to her name, including being recognised as the Forbes Businesswoman of the year in 2015 and as the Forbes Africa Woman in the same year. In 2012, she received the International Women's Forum's Excellence Award in recognition of her sterling contribution to business and the community. She has also been recognised as one of the leading women entrepreneurs in the world.

In honour of the significant social and economic impact that she has made in South Africa; in recognition of her contribution to the empowerment of women and vulnerable communities in South Africa; in appreciation of her advancement of healthcare, education and culture; and in honour of her advancement of society; the University of the Witwatersrand deems Ms Wendy Appelbaum a worthy recipient of a Doctor of Science in Medicine degree *honoris causa*.