



**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
For immediate release

**26 July 2013**

**CALS WORKS TOWARDS RESOLUTION OF GAUTENG HEALTH CRISIS**

The Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CAL S) has been representing the University of the Witwatersrand; the Concerned Clinicians of Gauteng; and the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics in seeking to resolve the crisis in Gauteng public health care. During preparation for litigation, both the National and Gauteng Departments of Health expressed a desire and willingness to work with the parties in order to address the crisis immediately rather than to enter into a lengthy adversarial legal process.

CALS represented these parties in negotiations with the National and Gauteng Departments of Health and is extremely pleased that a Developmental Accord was signed on Thursday 25 July by the Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University, Professor Adam Habib; the Minister of Health; and the MEC for Health in Gauteng.

CALS is heartened by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by the Minister and the MEC to address the challenges faced. The signing of the Accord shows that, through open communication, it is possible to move away from confrontation and to a situation of collaboration in order to address the challenges in the delivery of health care to the public in Gauteng.

In particular, CAL S hopes that this will ensure the availability and functionality of equipment, consumables and medicines at the four hospitals forming part of the academic platform at Wits – Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, Helen Joseph Academic Hospital; and Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital.

‘The Accord was signed in the spirit of a shared commitment to addressing the health crisis in Gauteng’ said Kirsten Whitworth, Attorney at CAL S. ‘We hope that this will bring about meaningful change in the hospitals, and that this change will be replicated throughout the country in order to ensure that the right of access to health enshrined in the Constitution is realised for all’.

**Contact**

For media interviews, please contact Kirsten Whitworth at [kirsten.whitworth@wits.ac.za](mailto:kirsten.whitworth@wits.ac.za), or on 0117178609.

###