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Health and demography in late 19th century Kimberley : a palaeopathological assessment

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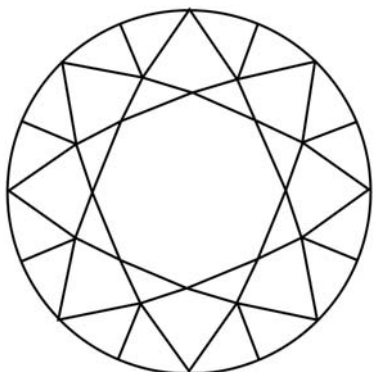
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CURRICULUM VITAE



Carnarvon Hospital
(McGregor Museum Kimberley Photography nr.4832)



Kimberley Club and St Marys' RC, 1880s
(McGregor Museum Kimberley Photography nr.7792)

Alie Emily van der Merwe was born on June 27, 1982 in Vanderbijlpark, South Africa and graduated from school in 2000 (Hoërskool Transvalia, Vanderbijlpark, South Africa) with distinctions in Science, Accounting and Afrikaans. She started her bachelors study in Medical Sciences with specialization in Anatomy and Integrated Physiology at the University of Pretoria (UP), South Africa, and graduated in 2003 (*Cum laude*).

In 2004 she was invited by Prof. M.Y. İşcan to study the distribution of vertebral osteophytes across the spinal columns of a South African black skeletal population sample at the Forensic Institute of the University of Istanbul, Turkey. In collaboration with him and under the supervision of Prof. Dr. M Steyn she completed a B.Sc Honours degree with specialization in Physical Anthropology that same year (*Cum laude*).

The aforementioned research sparked her interest in the field of palaeopathology. Subsequently she enrolled for a M.Sc in Anatomy at UP and jumped at the opportunity to study the skeletal remains accidentally disturbed next to the fenced Gladstone cemetery in Kimberley, as a project. Under the supervision of Prof. Dr. M. Steyn and Prof. Dr. G.J.R. Maat she wrote an unpublished M.Sc. dissertation and was awarded a master degree in anatomy in 2007 (*Cum laude*).

She started as a Ph.D candidate supervised by Prof. Dr. G.J.R. Maat at the Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC), the Netherlands, in October 2007. The unpublished data obtained during her masters project was reanalyzed and published and is presented to you in this thesis.

She is currently continuing research at the Leiden University Medical Centre studying the prevalence and skeletal manifestations of Diffuse Idiopathic Skeletal Hyperostosis in two 16th century skeletal sample populations as well as in modern skeletal material obtained from dissection hall at the LUMC. Furthermore she is collaborating as the Dutch partner in a SANPAD funded research project entitled: Skeletal identity of past populations: origins, sexual dimorphism and health, headed by Prof. Dr. M. Steyn at the University of Pretoria.

Publications (Full length peer reviewed articles)

Van der Merwe A.E., L'Abbé E.N., İşcan M.Y. (2006) The pattern of vertebral osteophyte development in a South African sample. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 16:45-464.

Van der Merwe A.E., Steyn M. (2009) A report on the high incidence of supernumerary teeth in skeletal remains from a 19th century mining community from Kimberley, South Africa. *South African Dental Journal* 64(4):162 - 166.

Van der Merwe A.E., Steyn M., Maat G.J.R. (2009). Dental health of 19th century migrant mineworkers from Kimberley, South Africa. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* DOI: 10.1002/oa.1143.

Van der Merwe A.E., Steyn M., Maat G.J.R. (2010) Adult scurvy in skeletal remains from late 19th century mineworkers from Kimberley, South Africa. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 20(3):307-316.

Van der Merwe A.E., Maat G.J.R., Steyn M. (2010) Histomorphological observations of pathological lesions on the anterior tibiae of individuals from a 19th century mining community in Kimberley, South Africa. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 20(2):227-239

Van der Merwe A.E., Steyn M., L'Abbé E.N. (2010) Trauma and amputations in 19th century miners from Kimberley, South Africa. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology* 20(3):291-306.

Van der Merwe A.E., Morris D., Steyn M., Maat G.J.R. (2010) The history and health of a nineteenth-century migrant mine-worker population from Kimberley, South Africa. *Archaeological Bulletin of South Africa* (Accepted).

Van der Merwe A.E., Ribot I., Steyn M., Maat G.J.R. (2010) The Origins of late 19th century migrant diamond miners uncovered in Kimberley, South Africa. *Archaeological Bulletin of South Africa* (Accepted).

Abstract publications and presentations

Van der Merwe A.E., L'Abbé E.N., İşcan M.Y. Occurrence of vertebral osteophytes in a black South African population. *2nd Annual Meeting of the Balkan Academy of Forensic Science*. Serres, Greece, June 2004. (Oral presentation)

Van der Merwe A.E., L'Abbé E.N., İşcan M.Y. The distribution of vertebral osteophytes in relation to the line of gravity. *Faculty Day, University of Pretoria*. August 2004. (Poster presentation)

Van der Merwe A.E., L'Abbé E.N., İşcan M.Y. Occurrence of vertebral osteophytosis in a South African sample. *35th Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa*. Buffalo city, South Africa, April 2005. (Oral presentation)

Van der Merwe A.E., Steyn M. Human skeletal remains from Kimberley: Preliminary results of an assessment of health in a 19th century mining community *Faculty Day, University of Pretoria..* Pretoria, South Africa, August 2005. (Poster and oral presentation)

Van der Merwe A.E., Steyn M. Human skeletal remains from Kimberley: Preliminary results of an assessment of health in a 19th century mining community. *Three Universities Archaeology Seminar*, Pretoria, South Africa, March 2006. (Oral presentation)

Van der Merwe A.E., Steyn M. (2006) Human skeletal remains from Kimberley, South Africa: An assessment of health in a 19th century mining community. *Conference Proceedings of the 16th European Meeting of the Paleopathology Association*, pp.128. (Oral presentation)

Van der Merwe A.E., Steyn M. Human skeletal remains from Kimberley: Preliminary results of an assessment of health in a 19th century mining community. *36th Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa*. Golden Gate, South Africa, April 2006. (Oral presentation)

Van der Merwe A.E., Maat G.J.R., Steyn M. (2007) Histological investigations of ancient skeletal lesions as an aid for accurate diagnosis of disease. *Conference Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa*, pp.38. (Oral presentation)

Van der Merwe A.E., Maat G.J.R. Histological investigations of ancient skeletal lesions as an aid for accurate diagnosis of disease. *Nederlandse Vereniging voor Fysische Antropologie, Autumn Symposium*. Leiden, The Netherlands, November 10, 2007. *Newsletter of the Dutch Association of Physical anthropologists* 16:2-3. (Lecture)

Van der Merwe A.E., Maat G.J.R. (2008) Diffuse Idiopathic Skeletal Hyperostosis: a review and new research questions. *Conference Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa* pp.27. (Oral presentation)

Van der Merwe A.E., Maat G.J.R., Steyn M. (2008) Ossified haematomas and infectious bone changes on the anterior tibia: Histomorphological features as an aid for accurate diagnosis. *Supplement to the Palaeopathological Newsletter* pp.44. *17th European Meeting of the Paleopathology Association*. (Oral presentation)

Van der Merwe A.E., M.Steyn, G.J.R. Maat (2010). Dental health of 19th century migrant mineworkers from Kimberley, South Africa. *Newsletter of the Dutch Association of Physical Anthropologists* 18:4-5.

Prizes and Awards

Johan J. Theron prize for best student in Homeostasis at 300 level (2003).

Academic Honorary Colours from the University of Pretoria (2003).

Wirsam Scientific Prize for best achievement in anatomy for B.Sc. Medical Sciences at 300 level (2003).

Third place for best student researcher in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria (2004).

Van Schaik Achievement Award for best academic achievement in anatomy on Honours level (2004).

Granted membership to the Golden Key International Honour Society in recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement and excellence (2004).

Received Bob Symington Award for the best young presenter at the 37th Annual Conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (2007).