c. Determine the effects of demographic characteristics and a child's degree of disability on the caregivers' quality of life, mental health, towards their child and involvement with family support networks;
d. Test the reliability and validity of the quality of life, mental health, caregiver attitudes towards their child, family support and measure of processes of care scales in this population;
e. Determine whether a difference exists between rural and urban families with regard to a positive family outcomes;
f. Establish what caregivers consider a successful outcome of rehabilitation therapy to be;
g. Document and describe, through in depth interviews, caregivers perceptions and experiences of rehabilitation services.

The study population comprises children with a diagnosis of CP Aged between one and eighteen years living in a poorly resourced peri-urban or rural area who receive rehabilitation therapy at public hospitals in Gauteng or Limpopo province.

The study will be conducted in two phases:
Phase one will be a quantitative cross sectional study for objective 1 to 5 and phase two will look at the objectives 6 to 7 using a qualitative method of data collection.

Interviews with staff and clients will be organized and completed and documents and records will be reviewed.

The Wits Ethics committee has approved the protocol with amendments which were attended to by the investigator.

Attached please find a copy of the letter from Ethics committee, the reply from the researcher and the protocol.

There is sufficient justification to conduct the study because of the important of the topic which is a poorly researched area.

There is also clear evidence that the outcome of the study will be beneficial, but despite the fact that the study does not mention any sponsor, there is also no indication of any direct financial implications from the Department. After completion, a report will be sent to you. The research team should contact local managers of selected hospitals to obtain permission to access physically the facility.

For now we have no objection to recommend that the study be conducted in our Province.

Yours faithfully,

Dr ML Likibi
Specialist, Research and Epidemiology Unit

Approved /not approved.
HOD

Dr L Rispen
26/5/2004

-295-