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Morris, Pamela Frances

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ACCULTURATIVE STRESS AND EATING DISORDERS IN BLACK ADOLESCENT FEMALES IN KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA.

Pamela Frances Morris

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Johannesburg

June 2008

DECLARATION

I Pamela Frances Morris declare that this thesis is my own work. It is being submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Psychiatry in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination at this or any other University.

Signed _____on this day of_____

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to:

- my late parents who always encouraged me to reach for my dreams;
- my mother who, by her example, taught me how to 'juggle' the conflicting expectations of motherhood, a career and a lifelong pursuit of academic growth;
- to my wonderful husband who, over 34 years of marriage has always given me the space to be who I needed to be and has continued to give his unconditional, patient and loving support through whatever I have needed to do as a mother, clinician and 'eternal' student;
- my three amazing children who have grown up to be truly remarkable human beings and who have always challenged me to continue growing;
- my three very special granddaughters, who are the future. I hope that the world we leave for you will discard the superficial metaphor of 'the body' and allow you to celebrate your 'internal self' as women of substance. 'Never leave yourself'.

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