

WHAT'S IN HER POCKET?

By Lisa Crutchfield

She's one of the medical school's most distinguished and resourceful teachers.

Marjolein de Wit, M.D., M.S., associate professor of internal medicine, is legendary among students, residents and fellows for her innovative and unusual style. Whether it's eating chocolate-and-canned fruit sandwiches, doting on her beloved dog Ben or, most importantly, passing on critical care knowledge, she keeps students engaged and passionate about the field.

"I'm an analog person," she says, forgoing a tablet computer in favor of pen and paper, on which she makes copious notes and observations. At the end of the day, she passes these notes on to students, residents and fellows. Those coveted notes, called *The Book of de Witicisms*, have been collected and shared throughout the medical school's hallways and call rooms.

Her pockets might not be organized, but her mind is. De Wit is noted for her ability to incorporate evidence-based medicine into daily teaching, breaking it down into a methodical system for various levels of learners simultaneously, without missing a beat. Though her students say they never know what might come out when she reaches into a pocket, they know they'll end up with a rich knowledge of medicine.

Though she's not a fan of tablet computers, de Wit loves to roll up a WOW (workstation on wheels) and search out the latest information from sites like CDC and NIH when she's rounding.

Photography by Kevin Schindler

STERILIZING FOAM / STETHOSCOPE

She might be the heaviest user of sterilizing foam in the hospital. "I'm usually covered in it. Nobody is going to get a hospital-acquired infection from me." Her stethoscope? Properly sterilized, too, of course.

PHOTO OF HER DOG

"When housestaff pull out their children's photos, I can pull out my pup's numerous photos – professionally photographed of course." And though she doesn't always have a photo at hand, she's always ready to pull from her memory tales of her adventures during a childhood spent all over the world. The one from when she faced a herd of African elephants keeps students engaged.



BEEPER

"I'm still an analog person. I have a phone, but I still like the beeper."

PEN & A LOT OF PAPER

"I write stuff out during rounds and I give it to the residents." Her notes might include some of the myriad equations she tosses out. "Life is merely applied math. All you need is the right equation. And I don't have enough."

TO-DO LIST

The physician's list itemizes the procedures and attention each individual patient will need each day. "As the day goes on, you check it off. It's a way to stay organized."

CHOCOLATE

To keep her fueled, it's "dark only. Milk chocolate is a waste of calories."

