



COMMUNIQUE

from Health Sciences
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
and Head of College,

**BUSISIWE
NCAMA
PROFESSOR**

Dear colleagues

Please join me in congratulating our colleagues in the College of Health Sciences who recently received promotions.

We recognise your commitment to excellence, which is evident in your research output, community outreach as well as teaching and learning. Thank you for flying our flag high!

Halala!



DHAYENDRE MOODLEY

FULL PROFESSOR



Prof Moodley completed her BSc and Hons degrees majoring in Zoology at the University of Durban-Westville in the 1980s. She was awarded a MRC scholarship in 1989 to continue her career in medical science at the Research Institute of Diseases in a Tropical Environment (RIDTE) in Durban. She completed her MMedSc in 1991 under the supervision of the Late Prof Vinod Gathiram. This being the beginning of the HIV epidemic, Prof Moodley later completed her PhD under the supervision of the Late Prof Jerry Coovadia in 1996 and her dissertation comprised a series of publications addressing the early diagnosis of perinatal HIV infection. Together with other colleagues in Paediatrics and under the mentorship of Prof Coovadia, this group of scientists was one of the first in the country to study the natural history of perinatally acquired HIV infection.

What followed were two decades of clinical trials and Prof Moodley served as either a PI or Co-PI in several Phase II and III clinical trials investigating various antiretroviral regimens to prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV. All of these studies have generated several scientific publications that contributed substantially to policy change and development of prevention and treatment guidelines both locally and internationally. These include the WHO PMTCT and WHO PrEP for pregnant women policies and guidelines. Prof Moodley serves on several international and national PMTCT and PrEP Committees. Following the landmark single dose Nevirapine trial that was presented at the AIDS 2000 meeting in Durban, she was seconded to the Dept of Health 2002-2005 and led the PMTCT program in KZN. Notably, MTCT rates dropped from 30% to <2% following the implementation of this program at 52 hospitals and 365 primary health clinics in the province. During her stay as Director of the PMTCT Program in KZN, Prof Moodley was instrumental in drafting the first Global Fund for this province.

She has over 150 publications, several in high-impact journals including NEJM, Lancet, Lancet HIV, and JIAS. She has a h-index of 32 (Scopus) and over 3700 citations. Importantly each of these publications has been key to advancing our understanding of HIV acquisition and prevention in infants and enhancing the lives of both women living with HIV and not living with HIV. Through her partnership with CAPRISA, she established a Clinical Research Site at Prince Mshyeni Hospital, Umlazi in 2010 and overseen several clinical trials involving new HIV prevention and treatment regimens for women and children through the International Maternal Paediatric and Adolescent Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) network. Prof Moodley has been awarded several large grants over the years and her latest grant from the Technical Innovation Agency (SA) was to establish a Clinical Trials Unit at UKZN for mainly non-communicable diseases and building capacity among UKZN staff to serve as Principal Investigators in clinical trials. This unit has facilities for Phase 1 to 3 clinical trials and will be operational in January 2025 or earlier.



LELIKA LAZARUS

FULL PROFESSOR

Professor Lelika Lazarus holds a Bachelor of Medical Science (with Honours), Master of Medical Science (cum laude), Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education, and a PhD (Health Sciences) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). Since joining the Department of Clinical Anatomy at UKZN (former University of Durban Westville) in 1997, she has established herself as a distinguished anatomist, evidenced by her NRF rating and extensive scholarly output.

Professor Lazarus is a member several professional bodies including the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA), International Federative Association of Anatomists (IFAA), International Association for Medical Education (AMEE) and the Organization for Women in Science in the Developing World (OWSD). She contributes to the academic community through editorial roles, serving as an editorial board member for Translational Research in Anatomy and a book series editor for Biomedical Visualization published by Springer.



Professor Lazarus lectures human anatomy at both under and postgraduate levels, and supervises numerous students at honours, masters and PhD levels. Her research and teaching interests are primarily in gross and clinical anatomy, human anatomical variations as well as anatomy education (including mental health and well-being). Professor Lazarus is a part of dynamic and diverse neuroanatomy and cranio-facial research teams; the former of which focuses on areas of anatomy that directly relate to clinical settings and neurosurgical procedures. The latter team focuses on research done in cranio-facial anatomy and reconstructive surgery such as cranio-facial defects and the anatomical basis of surgical repair.

Professor Lazarus also collaborates on research involving the clinical anatomy of the spine, shoulder and hip joints, as well as cardiovascular anatomy. Furthermore, she spearheads a multi-institutional study funded by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), investigating student mental health and well-being in South Africa. She is a strong advocate for the incorporation of humanities in the study of the human body. She is also a recipient of several NRF grants.

Her extensive experience and training in the anatomical and medical sciences allows her to conduct research on a variety of topics, which provides a multitude of research opportunities for students.

BOITUMELO PHAKATHI

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



Prof Boitumelo Phakathi is the Academic Head of Discipline of General Surgery and the Chief Specialist Surgeon with interest in Breast Surgery. She also serves as the Chairperson of the School of Clinical Medicine Staff Development Task Team & the Council member of the College of Surgeons, South Africa. She holds the Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery (UKZN), Fellowship of the College of Surgeons' certificate(FCS(SA) and Masters in Surgery (UP). She completed PhD in Surgery through the University of Witwatersrand, investigating the PAM50 Intrinsic subtypes in HIV positive & HIV negative patients with Breast Cancer in 2021. She is a recipient of Hamilton Naki Clinical Scholarship (now known as Prof Bongani Mayosi Clinical Scholarship) and has received several awards, including the Scales Antrobus Research prize for the Best Breast Cancer Research at the 48th Surgical Research Society of Southern Africa Research Conference.

She is currently the Principal Investigator of an Interdepartmental, Inter-institutional research investigating the synchronous & metachronous breast cancer and cervical neoplasia(CIN & Cervical cancer), one of the aims being to determine the causal relationship of HPV in HIV negative & HIV positive patients with breast cancer. She was recently awarded the NRF Black Academic Advancement Program (BAAP)-post-PHD track. She is also involved in the supervision of MMED/ MMEDSci & PhD students in UKZN & University of Witwatersrand.

She previously served at the Council member of the National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI), the leading advisory body providing evidence-based advice to the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation and through the Minister, the Cabinet on Science, Technology and Innovation matters, through the research expertise and stakeholders engagement. She also served as the Chairperson of NACI Transformation sub-committee.



REINA ABRAHAM

SENIOR LECTURER

Dr Reina M. Abraham is the Clinical Skills Coordinator, Cardinal Symptoms of Disease Module Coordinator, and Senior Lecturer at the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). With a robust background in both clinical practice and medical education, she holds an MBBS from Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria. She furthered her qualifications with a Postgraduate Diploma in Anaesthesia (DA) from the West African College of Surgeons, a Postgraduate Degree in Public Health (PGDPH) from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, as well as a Master's in Medical Sciences (MMedSc) and a PhD (Medicine) from UKZN.

Dr Abraham is a distinguished educator with significant expertise in clinical skills teaching and simulation-based medical education. As a leader in the MBChB programme's clinical skills curriculum, she has developed and implemented innovative tools such as feedback scoring systems, peer assessment strategies, and simulated patient programmes. These tools have led to measurable improvements in student performance, particularly in Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) and communication skills.

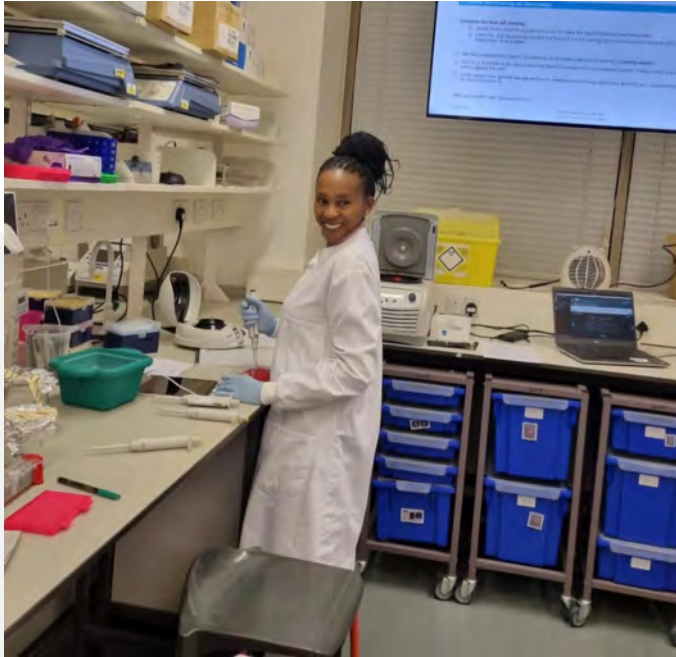


Her research focuses on feedback and assessment in medical education, with an emphasis on how feedback and feed-forward practices enhance students' clinical competencies. Her MMedSc and PhD research explored perceptions of feedback in clinical skills training and introduced action plan tools to foster student-centred learning. Dr Abraham has published over 15 peer-reviewed articles and continues to explore the role of artificial intelligence in medical education, particularly the use of virtual patients. Recognized for her contributions, Dr Abraham has received several awards, including the Dean's Award for Leadership in Teaching and Learning in 2021 and the Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award from the College of Health Sciences in 2024. Her research has been presented at national and international conferences, including prestigious conferences, such as the International Association for Medical Education (AMEE).

Dr Abraham is dedicated to advancing clinical teaching through the integration of innovative technologies, aiming to enhance both student learning and patient outcomes. Her long-term vision is to inspire and train the next generation of medical professionals using cutting-edge educational strategies.

NOMONDE MVELASE

SENIOR LECTURER



Dr Nomonde Mvelase (MBChB, Dip HIV Man, FC Path Micro, MMed, PhD) is a Senior Pathologist and Lecturer in the Department of Medical Microbiology at the National Health Laboratory Service and the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She currently heads the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial TB laboratory located at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital and she forms part of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Drug Resistant TB Technical Forum and the National Mycobacteriology working group.

Dr Mvelase has over ten years of experience in teaching medical students, science students as well as registrars. Her research interest is in the diagnosis and management of drug resistant TB where she has supervised and mentored several postgraduate students. She has published several peer reviewed journal articles and presented at local and international conferences.



WAHEEDHA EMMAMALLY

SENIOR LECTURER

Dr Waheedha Emmamally has been promoted to senior lecturer in the Discipline of Nursing School of Nursing & Public Health. She has worked as a clinical nurse specialist in critical care nursing for 13 years and as an educator for 17 years. Has published in accredited journals, internationally and nationally.

Her research interests are in Acute care (relational practice, spirituality in nursing focusing in family nursing), clinical scholarship in nursing.

