



COMMUNIQUE

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

**BUSISIWE
NCAMA**
PROFESSOR

Dear colleagues

Please join me in extending heartfelt congratulations to our Academic Leader for Research in the School of Laboratory Medicine and Medical Sciences (SLMMS), Professor Bongani Nkambule, on being one of only two UKZN academics to receive the 2023 Vice-Chancellor's Research Award!

This award is an annual accolade designed to recognise academic excellence. It is open to academic staff under the age of 40 who have demonstrated exceptional contributions to research, alongside a sustained record of scholarship or creative endeavour. The award celebrates scholars whose work exemplifies the highest standards of innovation and impact.

From all of us in the College of Health Sciences, *sithi halala!*



BONGANI NKAMBULE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



Professor Bongani Nkambule was born in Ermelo, Mpumalanga, South Africa. He holds a PhD in Hematological Pathology obtained in 2015 (Stellenbosch University, South Africa), he is a Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) registered Medical Biological Scientist in the discipline of Hematology (Independent Practice), and is currently the Academic Leader of Research in the school of Laboratory Medicine and Medical Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Durban, South Africa.

Professor Nkambule has received several prestigious fellowships during his tenure at UKZN, including the UKZN Fogarty international Center (FIC)-funded Developing Research, Innovation, Localisation and Leadership in South Africa (DRILL) fellowship (2016-2021), a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Senior Research Fellowship (2021-2023) at the world's leading Laboratory of Hemostasis and Platelet Biology, National Institutes of Health/National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the Framingham Heart Study, USA. He has also received numerous research awards including the 2019 SLMMS Top-performing Senior Lecturer award (Research Productivity) and the UKZN Top 10 Young Researcher Award in 2021.

Professor Nkambule has published the largest study ever on dyslipidemia and platelet function. In his research career spanning just over eight years, he has published 109 peer-reviewed publications. He has graduated over six Doctoral students and 10 Master's students in the past six years (2018-2024). He is currently the main supervisor of 11 postgraduate students (five doctoral candidates and six Master's students).

Professor Nkambule is also Principal Investigator (PI) on several multi-disciplinary projects which have attracted over worth over R6million of local grant funding. He is currently the PI on a multinational population-based study on platelet function which is funded by the National Institutes of Health, which aims to provide the largest dataset on platelet traits in a Sub-Saharan Africa population. The primary focus of Professor Nkambule's laboratory at Westville campus is on immunohematology, platelet function and immune thrombosis in infectious disease and malignancies.