

Dr Michelle Mulder



Michelle Mulder is the Executive Director, Grants, Innovation and Product Development Unit at the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) where she oversees research and innovation funding, strategic funding partnerships, research capacity development and health innovation, both within the SAMRC and in the broader national system of innovation.

Dr Mulder holds a doctorate in Medical Microbiology from the University of Cape Town and has post-doctoral experience in a start-up biotechnology company emanating from the University of Cambridge (UK). She has previously spent 10 years consulting on technology innovation through her own company and has been involved for the last 21 years in the strategic management of the SAMRC's intellectual property and previously 10 years in capacity building in these areas in southern and east Africa. She has also spent the last 14 years managing grant funding for the SAMRC.

She has headed the Technology Transfer Office, the Global Health Innovation Accelerator and the GIPD HIV Programme, and provided oversight of various other grant programs and strategic projects for GIPD.

Dr Mulder was a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern African Research & Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) for 10 years, including 3 years as Vice President: Innovation and Technology Transfer, and 2 years as President. She served previously as Chair of the Board of Acorn Technologies, a life sciences incubator, a Director of the Licensing Executive's Society South Africa, the South Africa Liaison for the Life Sciences Committee of LESI, a member of the Higher Education South Africa (HESA) Strategy Group for Innovation and Technology Transfer and a board member of the Biologicals and Vaccines Institute of SA (Biovac). She currently serves as a board member for two SAMRC linked companies and is a member of the NHLS Research and Innovation Committee, the IDORI Advisory Committee and the IP3 Steering Committee.

Victor van Vuuren



Vic has a law degree. He started his working career at the South African Department of Justice, then moved into the private sector as a corporate legal advisor and human resources director at executive level in large corporates.

Victor later helped establish a unified South African business federation, Business Unity South Africa, and was appointed as the first Chief Operations Officer. During this time, he served on the South African Council for Higher Education, the National Economic Development and Labour Council, the International Labour Organisation Governing Body, the Council of the Pan African Employers' Confederation, and the South African Power Utility Research Advisory Board.

In February 2009 Victor joined the United Nations specialised agency, the International Labour Organization, in a diplomatic capacity. He was Director for Southern and Eastern Africa covering 23 countries and thereafter, from 2016, Victor was appointed Director of a global enterprise portfolio at the ILO, Geneva. During this time, he was the chairman of, the UNTFSSSE (United Nations Task Force of the Social and Solidarity Economy), member of the Capitals Coalition Supervisory Board and member of the COP26 Energy Transition Council. Victor is also a founder member of the Geneva Innovation Movement Association. Victor was also the Chairman of PAGE (partnership for Action in the Green Economy, Chairman of COPAC (The Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives). He retired from the UN in December 2023 and returned to South Africa. He is now a Director of HolaVic Consulting and working on various initiatives to stimulate economic growth and create sustainable jobs.

Vic facilitated and drafted the South African MEDTECH Master Plan and is now managing its implementation. He is also advising the International Labour Organisation in its organisational redesign and consulting with GIZ in the pharmacare industry.

Marli Heynemann



Marli Heynemann holds a Master's degree in Engineering and is currently Lead Engineer: Product Development at Coba Biomedical, where she leads the development of medical devices from concept through verification and regulatory approval.

Working within a small and agile MedTech company, Marli has been closely involved in navigating regulatory pathways, design verification and validation, and building compliant development processes aligned with international standards.

Her experience reflects the realities of developing medical devices within the SME environment—balancing innovation, regulatory requirements, and resource constraints while progressing products toward market readiness.



Luvuyo Sume



Luvuyo Sume is the co-founder and Managing Director of Prosthetic Engineering Technologies with clinical prosthetist Riaan Knight.

An industrial by training, Sume has over 20 years' experience in engineering design, production management, and business process re-engineering in the manufacturing industry. Luvuyo is currently spearheading the implementation of ISO 13485 at PET in order to gain access to international markets and has been instrumental in the company achieving NAPPI registration and a SAHPRA license.

Prosthetic Engineering Technologies, a prosthetic component manufacturing company, was founded in 2020 with the goal of localising the production of prosthetic components.

PET is the first company on the African continent to localise the production of prosthetic components and was one of the first entities to receive funding and support from the MeDDIC programme.

An amputee, Sume has experience in using prosthetic components himself and his engineering design experience puts him in the unique position of designing products based on an understanding of user experience and clinical relevance based on his business partner's experience.

PET's goal is to make world class prosthetic components accessible to all amputees, irrespective of economic standing.



Luvuyo has presented his entrepreneurial journey at various platform such as the Post doctoral and Research Fellows Symposium (Nelson Mandela University) and SMME IP Commercialisation Workshop (NIPMO)

Kahesh Dhuness



Dr Kahesh Dhuness holds a Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the University of British Columbia. He has over 19 years of experience across industry and academia, specialising in biomedical engineering and medical device development.

He has led and contributed to several high-impact health technology initiatives, including the development of the Umbiflow device, which reduced stillbirth rates by 43% in a clinical study involving more than 19,000 patients through improved foetal monitoring. He also contributed to the South African National Ventilator Project during the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in over 18,000 ventilators being produced and distributed to government hospitals.

In addition to his engineering work, Dr Dhuness has taught and supervised students, published research, and worked closely with clinicians, regulators, and industry partners to translate engineering innovations into practical healthcare solutions.

Sudesh Sivarasu



Professor Sudesh Sivarasu holds the DSTI/NRF SARCHI Chair in Biomedical Engineering Innovation and serves as Professor, Head of the Division of Biomedical Engineering in the Department of Human Biology, and Director of the Biomedical Engineering Research Centre at the University of Cape Town. He is the creator of the FrugalBiodesign™ methodology and founder of UCT MedTech, a medical device research and innovation platform focused on developing appropriate technologies for low-resource settings across invention, translation, and local manufacturing pathways.

His MedTech intellectual property portfolio comprises more than 70 patent applications across 23 patent families, with over 30 granted patents, and has led to five spin-out companies. Several of his innovations and open-source solutions are deployed in more than 17 countries. He contributed to the South African National Ventilator Project, which produced 20,000 ventilators during the COVID-19 pandemic, and continues to lead medical device initiatives supporting pandemic preparedness, including work aligned with the National Institute for Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention.

Professor Sivarasu has supervised more than 99 postgraduate students and early-career researchers and has authored over 125 peer-reviewed publications. He edited the textbook Medical Device Innovation for Africa and co-edited a volume on frugal innovation. His contributions have been recognised through multiple awards, including UCT's Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Award for Innovation and the NSTF TW Kambule Award. He is an elected member of the Global Young Academy and the South African Young Academy of Science, where he has served on the executive committee and as Co-Chair.

Etienne du Toit



Etienne currently serves as the Quality Manager at Fluorobitech and Laboratory Manager at LaunchLab CERI Bio, where he ensures the facility effectively supports the needs of startup organizations operating within the space.

He also assists startups with quality and operational matters, including ISO implementation and product development.

He holds an MSc in Biochemistry from Stellenbosch University, where his research focused on peptide synthesis and strategies to overcome antibiotic resistance.

He later completed a Diploma in Management Studies through the Open University in the UK. Prior to this, Etienne held senior roles in Operations Management and Quality Assurance across several biotechnology and diagnostics companies, bringing extensive industry experience to his current position.

Ashley Rasebotsa



Ashley Rasebotsa is a Senior Manager within the Investment Attraction Unit at the OR Tambo International Airport Special Economic Zone (ORTIA SEZ), one of South Africa's strategic industrial development zones designed to promote export-oriented manufacturing, industrialisation, and investment-led economic growth.

In his current role, Ashley is responsible for Enterprise Development, where he focuses on ensuring the meaningful participation of startups and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the operations of the Special Economic Zone. His work is centred on building inclusive industrial ecosystems that allow emerging enterprises to participate as investors, suppliers, and strategic partners within the value chains of companies operating in the SEZ.

Through enterprise development initiatives, Ashley works to strengthen supplier development, support MSMEs to meet industrial standards, and facilitate opportunities for small businesses to integrate into high-value sectors such as advanced manufacturing, medical cluster, jewellery manufacturing, agroprocessing, green economy, medical devices manufacturing, Pharmaceuticals and logistics linked to the OR Tambo International Airport logistics hub.

His work at ORTIA SEZ also involves collaboration with government institutions, industry leaders, investors, and development agencies to build sustainable enterprise pipelines that contribute to job creation, industrial competitiveness, and inclusive economic participation.

Khanyisile Nkuku



Ms Khanyisile Nkuku, in her current role, applies her expertise in the assessment and policy of medical devices and in vitro diagnostics (IVDs) in South Africa, contributing to improved access to safe and effective medical technologies globally, with a particular emphasis on African countries.

She has over seven years of experience in the medical device & IVD regulatory field. She holds a Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) degree from the University of the Witwatersrand and a master's degree in pharmacy administration and policy Regulation from the University of the Western Cape. Recently completed her Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Leadership and is currently pursuing her PhD a at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Ms Nkuku is an experienced pharmacist with a strong background in medical device and IVD regulation and regulatory system strengthening. Her key competencies include policy advocacy, policy development, implementation, and regulatory compliance. She has extensive experience in medical device and IVD registration, clinical trials regulation, law enforcement, post-market surveillance, and the application of good regulatory and reliance practices.

Her recent professional achievements include being featured among the 10 Key Women Leaders in Medical Device Development and Innovation 2025 by Women's World Magazine and receiving a nomination for the TOPRA Awards for Regulatory Excellence in the Horizon category.

Simone Shortt



An Industrial Pharmacist of 30 years. Started her career at Adcock Ingram (pre – Sterling Winthrop) in production of Panado tablets and Syrup before moving to Smith & Nephew in 1992, which became BSNmedical (2001), National Bio-products (2004) as Pharmacist Plant Manager (ampoules / Vials) followed by own Consulting business 2005.

At Smith & Nephew, Introduced to medical devices such as burns creams, wound dressings, bandages and plasters and the new quality management system, at the time, ISO9001 and moving to ISO 13485 in 2000.

Worked in Production, Quality Assurance, Regulatory affairs, Validation and Laboratory Management of a chemistry, microbiology and textile laboratory.

In 2005, the consultancy business started providing;

- Consultation on quality management systems (ISO9001/22001/13495) regulatory requirements, product licensing, company registration for medicines and medical devices
- Training in-house or public venue on the development, implementation and maintenance of a quality managements system (ISO13485), good manufacturing practices and internal auditing for conformity assessment certification and
- Documentation requirements for risk assessment (ISO 14971), procedures, clinical evaluation, technical file and declaration of conformity

A member of PSSA, SAAPHI, SAHFE, SAMED , MDPG (Chairperson 2019) MDMSA (chairperson 2021), and is a committee member of the SAMED Regulatory and Procurement committees and the SABS Technical committees for textiles and medical devices.

Sarah Cohen



Executive Officer of SALDA (since 2019) as well as an Independent Consultant in the IVD/Laboratory industry. Ms. Cohen has over 30 years' experience in laboratory testing and research, specializing in IVDs and clinical trials.

She liaises with SALDA members and other stakeholders with regards to the MedTech Industry, emphasis being IVDs, and is solutions driven to assist the industry to navigate regulatory requirements, product importation, tenders, validation and health technology assessment.

She represents SALDA on the SAHPRA Regulatory Technical Forum, MEDDIC and MedTech Masterplan Steering committees respectively and GMTA Africa WG .

Her passion is training, lecturing, and mentoring of clinical trial and laboratory personnel as well as upskilling the next generation of pharmaceutical sciences students for the MedTech industry. She is a member of the Medical Devices Professionals Group and South African Clinical Trials Association

Education:

She obtained her Bachelors degree in Laboratory Management (Pretoria), Masters in Operations Management (Johannesburg) and MBA (Australia)



Tanya Vogt



Tanya Vogt holds a BA Honours degree in African Literature from Wits University. Since 2006, she has served as the Executive Officer of SAMED - a voluntary, not-for-gain trade association, whose members include medical device, medical equipment, and In Vitro Diagnostics companies. SAMED's vision is a sustainable, ethical, diverse and inclusive medtech sector in South Africa.

Tanya plays a critical role in several key initiatives and advisory bodies. Nationally, she is on the NAPPI Advisory Board, serves on the steering committee for the Medical Devices and In Vitro Diagnostics Innovation Cluster (MeDDIC) and the Health Sector Anti-Corruption Forum. Additionally, she supports the implementation of the MedTech Master Plan. Internationally, Tanya represents South Africa in the Global Harmonization Working Party and serves on the board of the Global Medical Technology Alliance.

Fundile Gebremedhin



Senior Manager with the National Department of Health, focussed on advancing universal health coverage goals and establishing the NHI as a single purchaser and payer to the health system. I work closely with EXCO to establish the national health financing policy and implement transitional plans. As health technology topic owner, I lead policy change focussed on HTA and procurement management of medical devices in order to support development of the formulary and health benefits. In this work, I engage with stakeholders across industry to cultivate partnerships and cooperation.

Successfully managed public procurement of medical devices and technologies and completed commissioning of a 530 beds health facility project. I have developed health facility feasibility studies, business plans, value-engineered designs and managed technology integrations.

Ben Durham



Chief Director of Bio-innovation at the National Department of Science and Innovation in South Africa. His responsibilities include the implementation of the South African Bio-economy Strategy, launched in January 2014, and he oversees innovation developments in Agriculture, Health, Industry & Environment, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems. Ultimately, the purpose is to develop and improve the efficiencies of the National System of Innovation through science and technology, ensuring socio-economic and environmental benefits to the broader society.

Ben has been appointed to or is currently serving on: Deputy Chair of the GMO Act Executive Council, The Board of the National Health Laboratory Service, and Bioeconomy Metrics committee of the National Advisory Committee on Innovation, and a variety of steering committees for Research Infrastructure and Centres of Excellence.

Daniel Ndima



Biotechnology entrepreneur who is the CEO of CapeBio Technologies, a spin-off of the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), which manufactures molecular biology reagents, enzymes and kits for diagnostics, forensic DNA analysis and other applications. He worked at the CSIR towards the commercialisation of technologies as a technologist and business developer for the CapeBio project. One of CapeBio's recent successes was a South African Health Products Regulatory Authority-approved PCR testing kit for coronavirus detection. Mr Ndima has a master's degree in the structural biology of infectious diseases from the University of Pretoria, and is trained in protein engineering and crystallography, bioprocess engineering and biomanufacturing.

He has a string of awards and scholarships for excellence in academics, social responsibility, student leadership and entrepreneurial initiatives, including a Mandela Rhodes Scholarship and an Allan Gray Orbis Foundation fellowship. He was listed as an African Influencer for Change by the United Nations Development Programme Africa in 2020. Mr Ndima advocates for science that creates jobs, improves the quality of ordinary lives, and contributes to national development and the economy. He aims to empower the local biochemical manufacturing industry by developing local networks and value chains.

Mandi Swanepoel



I facilitate partnerships that transform health systems. From innovators to funders, governments to NGOs, I connect people, ideas and resources to drive meaningful change in global health. Specialising in health innovation, strategic partnerships, ecosystem development, and investment facilitation — turning complex challenges into actionable solutions that strengthen systems, improve access, and deliver impact. If it's about impact, investment, and building ecosystems that save and improve lives, I'm in.

I don't just manage programs; I accelerate health innovations into action and scale solutions that truly matter.

Phumlani Tetyana



Dr. Phumlani Tetyana is a seasoned scientist with expertise in biomarker validation, research and development of medical devices.

He holds a PhD in Chemistry from the University of the Witwatersrand and has worked in various roles including Research Scientist at Mintek and Portfolio Manager: Health at the TIA.

Dr Tetyana's responsibilities include the development of rapid diagnostic tests for human and animal diseases, implementation and maintenance of quality management standards, large-scale manufacturing of medical devices, marketing and commercialization of medical devices.

Lina Muhoni



Lina Muhoni is a highly experienced environmental and certification professional with over two decades of expertise in systems certification, accreditation management, environmental compliance, and SHEQ governance. She currently holds the position of Senior Manager: Systems Certification at South African Bureau of Standards, where she provides strategic leadership in certification system oversight and supports the maintenance of accreditation requirements.

Her professional career spans a broad range of responsibilities, including environmental management, technical assessment, and lead auditing across various countries, with sector experience covering mining, engineering, consulting, and regulatory environments. She holds advanced academic qualifications in environmental sciences and business management and is widely recognized for her contribution to quality assurance, sustainability advancement, and effective management system leadership.

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