

SHORT PROFILES OF SARChI CHAIRS FOR 2007

Prof Vladimir B. Bajic

[Research Chair in Bio-informatics & Human Health - University of Western Cape \(UWC\)](#)

Vladimir Bajic is a Professor of Bioinformatics and Deputy Director of the South African National Bioinformatics Institute (SANBI), University of the Western Cape. He worked in various institutions and industry in Yugoslavia, South Africa and Singapore. He authored numerous refereed publications in several fields and designed over 50 bioinformatics products some of which are used commercially.

Professor Bruce A. Bassett

[Research Chair in Theoretical Particle Cosmology - University of Witwatersrand \(WITS\)](#)

Professor Bruce Bassett obtained his PhD from the International School of Advanced Studies in Trieste. Professor Bassett received grants and funding such as the UCT Fellows Award and the Royal Society/JSPS Fellowship. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and member of the International Astronomical Union.

Professor Nigel C. Bennett -

[Research Chair in Mammal behavioural Ecology & Physiology - University of Pretoria \(UP\)](#)

Professor Nigel Bennett has a PhD in Zoology which he obtained from the University of Cape Town. He is currently a Full Professor at the University of Pretoria and prior to this position he was an Associate Professor at the same institution. Professor Bennett was a member of numerous internationally and nationally acclaimed bodies including the council of the Zoological Society of Southern Africa.

Dr Holger F. Bettinger

[Research Chair in Applied Molecular Modelling - North West University \(NWU\)](#)

Dr Holger Bettinger has been a Faculty Member at the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum in Germany since 2005. He was previously an Associate Professor at the Institute for Organic Chemistry at the same university. Dr Bettinger obtained his PhD in Organic Chemistry in 1998. He was awarded the Heisenberg Fellowship of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) for 2006 - 2009. He is also a member of the German Chemical Society (GdCh), as well as the American Chemical Society (ACS).

Prof Jonathan M. Blackburn

[Research Chair in Functional Proteomics - University Of Cape Town \(UCT\)](#)

Prof Jonathan Blackburn is the Director of Research at the Centre for Proteomic and Genomic Research in Cape Town and is also an EPSRC Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Manchester. Previously, Prof Blackburn held a Royal Society University Research Fellowship at the Department of Biochemistry, University of Cambridge. He was also a Fellow of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, and was the academic founder and Chief Scientific Officer of a UK biotechnology company, Sense Proteomic Ltd. Prof Blackburn obtained his DPhil degree in Organic Chemistry at the Dyson Perrins Laboratory, University of Oxford. He serves on a number of committees including the Biotechnology Committee of the International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry and the International Scientific Committee for the 13th International Biotechnology Symposium to be held in Dalian, China in 2008.

Prof Johannes R. Botha

[Research Chair in Nanophotonics - Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University \(NMMU\)](#)

Prof Reinhardt Botha holds the position of Associate Professor in the Department of Physics at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) in Port Elizabeth and was previously a Senior Lecturer in the same department at the University of Port Elizabeth. He obtained his PhD in Physics from the same institution. Amongst his numerous awards, he received the GM Delpont Trophy for Academic Achievement from his alma mater, Kirkwood High School in the Eastern Cape, as well as a Von Humboldt Research Fellowship. He is affiliated with the South African Institute for Physics (SAIP), amongst other organizations.

Prof Daniel Bradlow

[Research Chair in International Development & African Economic Relations - University of Pretoria \(UP\)](#)

Prof Daniel Bradlow is currently a Professor and Director of the International Legal Studies Programme at the Washington College of Law at the American University. He has also worked as a Research Associate at the International Law Institute. He obtained his MLIC degree from Georgetown University in the USA. Prof Bradlow is a member of the High Level Panel on International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board Accountability.

Prof Frank Brombacher

[Research Chair in Immunology of Infectious Diseases in Africa - University of Cape Town \(UCT\)](#)

Prof Frank Brombacher holds a PhD from the Max Planck Institute for Immunobiology Freiburg in Germany. He is a Fellow of the University of Cape Town, acting Head of the Division of Immunobiology and Member of the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM) at the Health Science Faculty as well as Director of a MRC Unit on Immunology of Infectious Disease. He received several prestigious awards, among them International Senior Wellcome Trust Fellow, Oppenheimer award and an A1 'world leader' rating by NRF. He has editorial functions and member of various international journals and associations.

Prof Kelly Chibale

[Research Chair in Drug Discovery - University of Cape Town \(UCT\)](#)

Professor Kelly Chibale was born in Zambia, but is now a permanent resident of South Africa. He is a Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Cape Town and is also a full member for the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM) at the same university. His current research interests lie in drug discovery of potential drugs that fight malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and cancer.

Professor Maureen Coetzee

[Research Chair in Medical Entomology & Vector Control - University of Witwatersrand \(WITS\)](#)

Professor Maureen Coetzee obtained her MSc and PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand. She is the Head of the Vector Control Reference Unit (NICD), previously Department of Medical Entomology NHLS (SAIMR) and has professional appointments as Research Professor of Medical Entomology for the School of Pathology and Honorary Professor in the School of Animal, Plant & Environmental Studies of the University of the Witwatersrand. Professor Coetzee has numerous scientific achievements and honours. She serves on World Health Organization and other international/national committees and has established an extensive research and training network in Africa and the developed world. Her research focus is on the mosquitoes that transmit malaria in Africa and their control.

Dr Marc I. Combrinck

[Research Chair in Clinical Neurosciences Research - University of Cape Town \(UCT\)](#)

Dr Marc Combrinck obtained his PhD from the University of Cape Town in 1994. He works as a Lecturer and Specialist in the Department of Medicine, Division of Neurology at UCT and Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town. He is a Member of the Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom. He was also awarded the Nuffield Medical Research Fellowship from the University of Oxford.

Prof Drucilla L Cornell

[Research Chair in Customary Law, Indigenous Values and Dignity Jurisprudence - University of Cape Town \(UCT\)](#)

Dr Marc Combrinck obtained his PhD from the University of Cape Town in 1994. He works as a Lecturer and Specialist in the Department of Medicine, Division of Neurology, at UCT and Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town. He is a Fellow of the College of Physicians (Neurology) of South Africa and a Member of the Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom. He was a Nuffield Medical Research Fellow at the University of Oxford.

Dr Phillippus L. Crouse

[Research Chair in Fluoro-material Science & Process Integration - University of Pretoria \(UP\)](#)

Dr Phillippus Crouse obtained his PhD in Physical Chemistry from the University of Pretoria. Dr Crouse is a member of the South African Chemical Institute, as well as the American Chemical Society. Professor Crouse was previously a scientist at De Beers Industrial Diamonds Ltd.

Prof Okkie C. de Jager

[Research Chair in Astrophysics & Space Physics - North West University \(NWU\)](#)

Prof Okkie de Jager has been a Professor at North West University since 2004. Prior to this appointment, he was an Associate Professor at the same institution. He obtained his PhD in Physics from the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education. Prof de Jager was awarded the British Association Medal for the Advancement of Science (South Africa), and received the National Research Foundation (NRF) President's Award in 1988 and again in 1992.

Prof Robert de Mello Koch

[Research Chair in Fundamental Physics & String Theory - University of Witwatersrand \(WITS\)](#)

Prof Robert de Mello Koch acquired his PhD in Theoretical Physics from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1997. He currently serves as an Associate Professor in the School of Physics, also at the University of the Witwatersrand. He has received a number of awards which include the South African Institute of Physics (SAIP) Silver Jubilee Medal in 2001 and a National Research Foundation (NRF) President's Award during the same year.

Dr Keertan Dheda

[Research Chair in Lung Infection & Immunity in Poverty Related Diseases - University of Cape Town \(UCT\)](#)

Dr Keertan Dheda is a consultant in Respiratory and General Internal Medicine, as well as a Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Infectious Diseases and International Health in London. He is also a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Pulmonology at the University of Cape Town. He obtained his PhD in Mycobacterial immunity from the Royal Free and UC Medical School. He was awarded the Pfizer Award for Best Clinical Presentation at Queen Mary's University in London in 2005 and also received the British Lung Foundation Project Grant in 2003.

Prof Heinrich W. Dirr

[Research Chair in Protein Biochemistry & Structural Biology - University of Witwatersrand \(WITS\)](#)

Prof Heinrich Dirr is a Professor of Biochemistry at the School of Molecular and Cell Biology, Gate House, at the University of the Witwatersrand. He holds a PhD in Biochemistry. He worked as Professor and Head of Department of Biochemistry at the University of the Witwatersrand until 1998. Professor Dirr has received a number of research grants, fellowships and awards and which include, among others, the Mellon Postgraduate Mentoring Award and the NRF Open Research Programme Grant. Professor Dirr is currently the leader of the URC Protein Structure - Function Research Unit at the University of Witwatersrand.

Professor Jean-Paul Franzidis

[Research Chair in Minerals Beneficiation - University of Cape Town \(UCT\)](#)

Professor Jean-Paul Franzidis has a PhD which he obtained from the Open University, Walton Hall, and Milton Keynes in the UK. He is a member of the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and is currently a Senior Manager for Academic Linkages and Training at Julius Kruttschnitt Mineral Research Centre at the University of Queensland in Australia. Professor Franzidis has received a number of awards and prizes including the South African Coal Processing Society Prize for contributions to the South African coal industry - flotation research.

Professor Nceba Gqaleni

Research Chair in Indigenous Health Care Systems Research - University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)

Professor Nceba Gqaleni obtained his PhD in Bioscience and Biotechnology from the University of Strathclyde. He is the Deputy Dean at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and was also the Operations Director: Doris Duke Medical Research Institute at the same institution. Professor Gqaleni is a member to Professional Societies such as the International Society for Indoor Air Quality and Climate, as well as the National Association for Clean Air and Allergy Society of South Africa. He serves on the Presidential Task team on Traditional medicines and the World Health Organisation (African region) expert committee on traditional medicines.

Prof Jens Gutzmer

Research Chair in Geometallurgy - University of Johannesburg (UJ)

Prof Jens Gutzmer is a Professor of Geology at the University of Johannesburg and was previously an Associate Professor at the Rand Afrikaans University (RAU), now University of Johannesburg. He obtained his PhD in Geology from RAU in 1996. Prof Gutzmer was awarded with the Waldemar E. Lindgren Award of the Society of Economic Geologists in 2002, and a National Research Foundation (NRF) President's Award in 1999, to name a few. One of his numerous memberships is with the Society of Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits (SGA).

Prof Carolyn A. Hamilton

Research Chair in Archive & Public Culture – University of Cape Town (UCT)

Prof Carolyn Hamilton obtained her PhD from the Johns Hopkins University in 1993. Formerly Director of South Africa's first Graduate School for the Humanities (University of the Witwatersrand), she currently leads the Constitution of Public Intellectual Life Research Project at Wits. An authority on the pre colonial history of southern Africa, she is recognized internationally for her work in interrogating the concept of archive that holds sway in modern epistemology and in elucidating its political effects.

Prof Susan T.L. Harrison

Research Chair in Bioprocess Engineering - University of Cape Town (UCT)

Prof Susan Harrison obtained her PhD in Chemical Engineering from Cambridge University. She is the Director of the Bioprocess Engineering Research Unit at the University of Cape Town and was previously head of the Department of Chemical Engineering at the same institution. She is a member of the Academy of South Africa (ASSAf) and the Biochemical Society, to name two organizations.

Prof Christopher S Henshilwood

Research Chair in the Origins of Modern Human Behaviour - University of Witwatersrand (WITS)

Prof Christopher Henshilwood obtained his PhD in archaeology from the University of Cambridge in 1995. He received an international award - the Chavelier dans l'Orde des Palmes Académiques - awarded by the French Prime Minister, Jean-Pierre Raffarin in 2004.

Prof Bruce C. Hewitson

Research Chair in Climate Change - University of Cape Town (UCT)

Prof Bruce Hewitson is in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science at the University of Cape Town. Prof Hewitson obtained his MSc in 1990 and PhD in 1991 from the Pennsylvania State University. He has been developing climate change research in South Africa for the past 20 years and has a strong international profile, for example, as the coordinating lead author on regional climate projections for the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change.

Dr Catherine A.O Hoppers

Research Chair in Development Education - University of South Africa (UNISA)

Dr Catherine Hoppers is currently a Visiting Professor at the Institute of International Education at Stockholm University and a Co-ordinator for the Sweden Systems Research Collaboration (SSRC) in South Africa. Her previous position was Associate Professor at the University of Pretoria in the Faculty of Education. Dr Hoppers obtained her PhD in Social Sciences in International and Comparative Education.

Professor David Steve Jacobs

Research Chair in Animal Evolution & Systematics - University of Cape Town (UCT)

Holding a PhD in Zoology from the University of Hawaii, Professor David Steve Jacobs's thesis was entitled "Character release in the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat, *Lasiurus cinereus semotus*". A keen sportsperson, Professor Jacobs's undergraduate teaching culminated in the inception of the new third year Behavioral Ecology course in the Zoology Departments of the Universities of Cape Town, Stellenbosch and the Western Cape. Professor Jacobs is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Cape Town.

Prof Sandra Pamela Klevansky

Research Chair in Complex Systems - University of Pretoria (UP)

The well traveled IT strategist, Prof Sandra Pamela Klevansky is employed by Deutsche Bahn in Frankfurt and has extensive experience in Germany that includes teaching at the University of Heidelberg. Prof Klevansky lectured in various topics on all aspects of physics, mathematical methods in physics and IT.

Professor Murray V. Leibbrandt

[Research Chair in Poverty & Inequality Research - University of Cape Town \(UCT\)](#)

Besides being involved in the Council for Research on Poverty (CROP) Scientific Committee, Professor Murray Leibbrandt has engaged in a series of professional activities. He attained his PhD at Notre Dame in 1993 and serves in leadership roles in a number of research projects in South Africa and Africa. Professor Leibbrandt is the Principal Investigator on the National Income Dynamics Study funded by Office of the President.

Dr Shabir Ahmed Madhi

[Research Chair in Vaccine Preventable Diseases - University of Witwatersrand \(WITS\)](#)

Assuming responsibility in various positions, Professor Shabir Ahmed Madhi is the Co director at the Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit - University of Witwatersrand/MRC, Senior Consultant; Intensive Care Unit and Honorary Consultant at the Department of Paediatrics. Professor Madhi has notched sizeable awards in his prolific career and in 2006 was bestowed the Young Investigator Award by the European Society for Infectious Diseases; Professor Madhi attained an MBBCh qualification in 1990 and also holds a PhD in Health Sciences from the University of Witwatersrand.

Professor Helder Marques

[Research Chair in Bio-inorganic Chemistry - University of Witwatersrand \(WITS\)](#)

Professor Helder Marques, presently Head of the School of Chemistry at the University of Witwatersrand, has worked in the field of bioinorganic chemistry for over twenty years. His work is at the interface of chemistry and biology and its principal thrust is to explain the function that metals play in biological systems. He uses a wide range of techniques, including those of computational chemistry, to study the biological chemistry of iron and cobalt.

Prof Diane Elizabeth McIntyre

[Research Chair in Health & Wealth in SA - University of Cape Town \(UCT\)](#)

Professor Diane McIntyre is a Professor at the University of Cape Town and was the founding director of the Health Economics Unit. Professor McIntyre is one of the leading health economists working on issues of relevance to low and middle-income countries. Professor McIntyre has provided extensive and high level policy inputs within South Africa and other African countries.

Professor David McQuaid

[Research Chair in Marine Ecosystems & Resources - Rhodes University \(RU\)](#)

Born in Northern Ireland, Professor McQuaid scored distinctions in major subjects in his undergraduate studies at the University of Cape Town where he had enrolled for a B.Sc. Zoology and Botany. Professor McQuaid completed his PhD titled "Spatial and Temporal Variations in Rocky Intertidal Communities" at the University of Cape Town. At present he holds the Chair of Zoology at Rhodes and serves as the Director of the Southern Ocean Group.

Professor Rajend Meshtrie

Research Chair in Migration, Language & Social Change - University of Cape Town (UCT)

After attaining a BA (Hons) in Mathematics *Cum Laude* at the University of South Africa (UNISA) in 1977 & in English at UCT in 1978, Professor Rajend Meshtrie, went on to attain an MA in Linguistics at the University of Texas (Austin) and a PhD in Linguistics at the University of Cape Town (UCT), where he is currently a Professor of Linguistics and Head of Section. A regular contributor to media programmes such as SAFM 's *Word of Mouth*, Professor Meshtrie has been extensively involved in research in areas including General Sociolinguistics, South Asian Languages in South Africa and Varieties of English in Asia and Africa. He is currently serving a second term as President of the Linguistics Society of Southern Africa and is series editor for Cambridge University Press's *Key Topics in Sociolinguistics*.

Professor Mammo Muchie

Research Chair in Innovation Studies - Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)

Holding a D.Phil in Science and Technology Policy from the University of Sussex in the UK, Prof Mammo Muchie is currently Professor, Chair and Director of the Research Centre for Development and International Relations, Aalborg Universitet, Fibigerstraede, Denmark. Professor Muchie 's research interest are vast and range from International political economy, world order, developmental studies and the building of an African system of political economy of production and consumption.

Professor Thumbi Ndung'u

Research Chair in Systems Biology of HIV/AIDS - University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)

Associate Professor in HIV/AIDS Research at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Professor Thumbi Ndung'u holds a PhD-Biological Sciences in Public Health (Virology) from the prestigious Harvard University. With extensive experience on the continent, Professor Ndung'u did his undergraduate studies in his home country of Kenya at the University of Nairobi. Amongst his many community service assignments, Professor Ndung'u is a member of the, Africa AIDS Vaccine Programme (AAVP) Biomedical Working Group. Professor Ndung'u 's research interest is in HIV-1 pathogenesis and in bridging the gap between basic biomedical research and public health research and practice, as they relate to resource poor settings.

Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza

Research Chair in Land Reform & Democracy in SA: State & Civil Society Dynamics - University of Cape Town (UCT)

Currently a principal researcher and manager of a joint research initiative between the Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town and the Democracy and Governance Programme of the Human Science Research Council, as well as teaching Sociology at the University of Cape Town, Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza holds a PhD in Sociology. Professor Ntsebeza is the author of the book: *Democracy Compromised: Chiefs and the Politics of Land in South Africa*.

Professor Linus U. Opara

Research Chair in Postharvest Technology - Stellenbosch University (SU)

Armed with a PhD in Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvest Technology obtained at Massey University in New Zealand, Professor Linus O Opara's research combined engineering skills with knowledge of agricultural production and post-product practices to develop strategies for reducing pre-harvest and post-harvest losses in the New Zealand pip fruit industry. Professor Opara is currently a Director at the Agricultural Experiment Station at the Sultan Qaboos University in Al Khod, Sultanate of Oman.

Professor Francesco Petruccione

Research Chair in Quantum Information Processing & Communication - University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)

Born in Genoa, Italy, Professor Francesco Petruccione is currently a Professor of Theoretical Physics at the School of Physics at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The globally experienced Professor has held various positions in his illustrious career and one of his leadership roles include the directorship of the Research Group on Theoretical Physics at the University Of KwaZulu-Natal. Professor Petruccione 'research interest includes "Master Formulation of Option Pricing" .

Dr Edgar Arthur Pieterse

Research Chair in Urban Policy - University of Cape Town (UCT)

Currently responsible for advising the Premier of the Western Cape on development policy and strategy questions that stem from government's programmes and the external environment, Dr Edgar Pieterse has been intrinsically involved in developmental work. Amongst the array of developmental work he has done, Dr Pieterse prepared a policy review paper on: Urban Development Policy in South for the international group of Non Governmental Organizations, OXFAM. Dr Pieterse holds a PhD from London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and his thesis topic was "Rebuilding amongst Ruins": The Pursuit of Urban Integration in South Africa (1994-2001). Dr Pieterse's current research focuses on urban social movements and "everyday" cultural practices.

Professor Viness Pillay

Research Chair in Pharmaceutical Biomaterials & Polymer-Engineered Drug Delivery Technologies – University of Witwatersrand (WITS)

Professor Viness Pillay is the Head of the Wits Drug Delivery Platform and Division of Pharmaceutics and at the University of the Witwatersrand. As a Fulbright Scholar he obtained his Ph.D. from Temple University School of Pharmacy in the United States. Professor Pillay's research findings have been extensively published in international peer-reviewed journals and he has also been awarded a patent on a monolithic device for controlled drug delivery, with several other South African and international applications currently under review. Professor Pillay is the Chairman of the newly formed Biomaterials Association of South Africa (BioMatASA).

Professor Dorrit Ruth Posel

Research Chair in Economic Development - University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)

Professor Dorrit Posel graduated with a PhD in Economics from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) in the USA in 1999. She has been the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships and has published widely, including a paper in *Nature* in 2005, co-authored with Professor

Samuel Bowles. Professor Posel is currently an Associate Professor in Economics at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Deputy Director of Economic Research Southern Africa.

Professor Deresh Ramjugernath

[Research Chair in Fluorine Process Engineering & Separations Technology - University of KwaZulu-Natal \(UKZN\)](#)

Currently the Director of the Thermodynamic Research Unit at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Professor Deresh Ramjugernath, holds a PhD in Engineering (Chemical) from the University of Natal. Professor Ramjugernath was recently honoured by the National Science and Technology Forum Awards. Professor Ramjugernath has been extensively involved in research, postgraduate student supervision and research contracts and has undertaken numerous projects for Industry, both in South Africa and abroad.

Professor Neerish Revaprasadu

[Research Chair in Nanotechnology - University of Zululand \(UZ\)](#)

A member of the Royal Society of Chemistry (GRSC), Professor Neerish Revaprasadu is a highly rated researcher involved in research in the area of Materials History. Professor Revaprasadu is also actively in other spheres of research including three projects with Mintek on Gold Nanoparticles. Professor Revaprasadu's work has been extensively covered within the country's mainstream media. Professor Revaprasadu's interest in research includes the Synthesis of Semiconductor Nanoparticles and Nanocomposites.

Professor Soraya Seedat

[Research Chair in Post-traumatic Stress Disorder - Stellenbosch University \(SU\)](#)

Having featured among the top 10 matriculants in KwaZulu-Natal in 1984, Professor Soraya Seedat has come a long way and is currently a co director at the Medical Research Council Unit on Anxiety and Stress Disorders, at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Stellenbosch. Among her many accolades and qualifications Professor Seedat holds a PhD from the University of Stellenbosch and was selected for an Anxiety and Stress Program Research Fellowship at the University of California (USA). Professor Seedat is currently involved in various research areas that include research for prevention of post traumatic stress disorder in adult women.

Professor Gary Stevens

[Research Chair in Experimental Petrology - Stellenbosch University \(SU\)](#)

recipient of the then Rand Afrikaans University (RAU) Vice - Chancellor's medal for best M.Sc thesis, Professor Gary Stevens, has a distinguished career in Geology and he is currently director of the Central Analytical Facility at the Stellenbosch University. Professor Stevens' PhD thesis at Manchester University centered around "Compositional Controls on Partial Melting in high Grade Metapelites". Professor Stevens' current research focus area is Experimental Petrology i.e. the use of special autoclaves to directly simulate the very high pressure and temperature conditions of rock formation deep within the Earth. Prof Stevens' Experimental Petrology Laboratory at Stellenbosch University is the only such facility in Africa and is being used to study the evolution of South Africa's ancient and rich geology.

Professor Abdulkader Tayob

[Research Chair in Islam, African Publics & Religious Values - University of Cape Town](#)

Professor Adbulkader Tayob obtained his PhD from Temple University (USA) with a critical study of Islamic Historiography. He started his career as a mathematics teacher in Rustenburg and has over the years worked for renowned institutions around the world including a position as Chair at the International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World in the Netherlands from 2002 to 2006. Professor Tayob's current research includes a comparative study of Muslim Publics in Africa, and modern Muslim intellectual history.

Professor Servaas van der Berg

[Research Chair in Economics of Social Policy - Stellenbosch University \(SU\)](#)

A renowned Professor of Economics at the University of Stellenbosch, Professor Servaas van der Berg started his career as a journalist. Professor van der Berg's research outputs concentrate on economic and social policy issues, including education. His research has had a significant impact on policy. An example is his research on social security which culminated in the appointment of the Lund Committee, which proposed the institution of the Child Support Grants. R17 billion is now being spent annually by government on these grants to improve the economic situation of the poor. Professor van der Berg's illustrious career includes consultations for international organisations such as the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Professor Andries Johannes Van Der Walt

[Research Chair in Property Law - Stellenbosch University \(SU\)](#)

Specialising in Comparative Constitutional Property Law, although not practicing as an advocate, Prof Andries Van Der Walt has received numerous awards and is a highly rated researcher. Among the many milestones covered by Professor Van Der Walt, is the "Stellenbosch University Excellence in Research Award" in 2004. Professor Van Der Walt's recent research includes the importance and theoretical effect of historical perspectives and discourse in legal theory.

Professor Anna-lise Williamson

[Research Chair in Vaccinology - University of Cape Town \(UCT\)](#)

Based at the Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine and Division of Molecular Virology at the National Health Laboratory Services, Groote Schuur, Professor Anna-Lise Williamson has since 2000 headed a team of up to 35 people at UCT developing candidate HIV vaccines in a project jointly funded by the South African Aids Vaccine Initiative and National Institute of Health (NIH) in the USA. Amongst the many successes notched by Professor Williamson is the successful application for her laboratory to become a World Health Organisation (WHO) regional HPV reference laboratory and it is the only laboratory in Africa to receive that status.