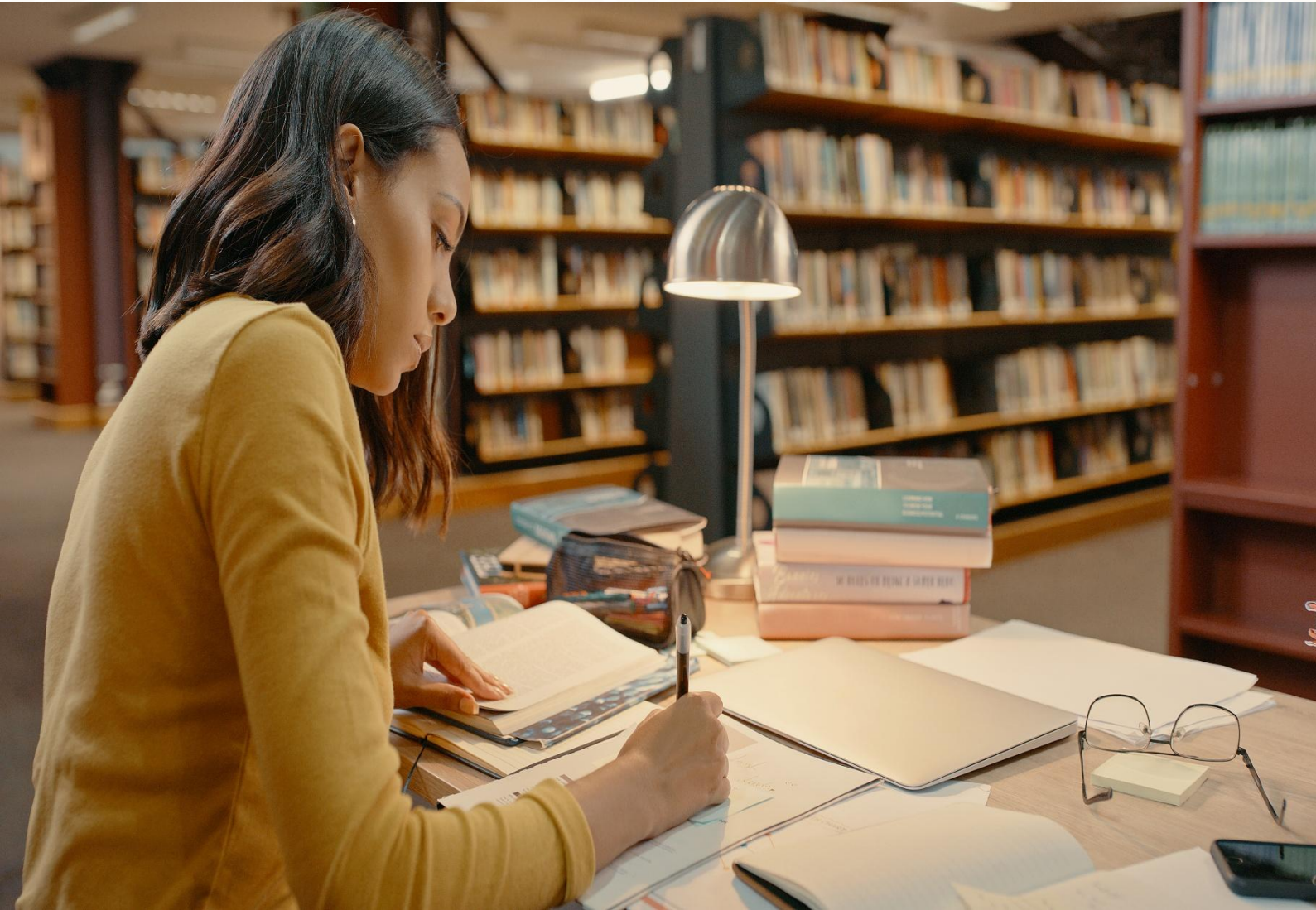




**Stellenbosch**  
UNIVERSITY  
IYUNIVESITHI  
UNIVERSITEIT



The Division of Health  
Systems and Public  
Health  
Stellenbosch University

forward together  
sonke siya phambili  
saam vorentoe



# Outline

- 1.1 Positioning the Division
- 1.2 People and expectations
- 1.3 Key Postgraduate programmes
- 1.4 Learn more about us!



*"We are committed to futureproofing health systems - preparing for the challenges of tomorrow while acting on the priorities of today."*

*“Strengthening health systems. Advancing public health.”*

## 1.1 Positioning the Division

Public health is defined as the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting well-being through the collective efforts of society. It is both evidence-driven and values-based, grounded in principles of equity, justice, and solidarity.

South Africa, like many countries, faces a dual burden: persistent communicable diseases such as HIV and TB, alongside a rapidly rising prevalence of non-communicable conditions including cancers, cardiovascular disease, and mental health disorders. These challenges intersect with climate change, urbanisation, inequities in access to services, and social determinants of health.

Against this backdrop, health systems are under pressure to adapt and respond. The Division of Health Systems and Public Health, situated within the Department of Global Health in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Stellenbosch University, positions itself as a space of innovation and partnership, combining teaching, research, and policy engagement to shape stronger, more equitable health systems. Our work not only addresses immediate health priorities but also anticipates the “wicked problems” of the future.

Anchored in the vision of advancing health equity, the Division undertakes inter- and transdisciplinary teaching, research and social impact activities that respond to the growing complexity of public and global health, as well as, systemic challenges facing South Africa’s health sector.

### Vision, Mission, and Values

#### Our Vision

To advance the attainment of health equity in South Africa and beyond.

#### Our Mission

To engage in transformative scholarship, rooted in social justice, by co-creating, sharing, and translating knowledge that enhances health and equity.

#### We believe in ICARE<sup>2</sup>

- Inclusivity – embracing diversity and fostering belonging.
- Compassion – recognising and supporting the well-being of staff and students.
- Accountability – accepting responsibility for actions and commitments.
- Respect – upholding dignity, equality, and environmental stewardship.
- Excellence – pursuing integrity, renewal, and relevance in scholarship.
- Equity – striving for fairness and restitution in response to historical legacies.

## Strategic Priorities



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*"We are committed to futureproofing health systems - preparing for the challenges of tomorrow while acting on the priorities of today."*

The Division of Health Systems and Public Health advances its mission through four interconnected strategic priorities. We shape research priorities by undertaking interdisciplinary studies that respond to pressing health system challenges, with a strong emphasis on co-creation, stakeholder engagement, and translation of evidence into policy and practice.

We strengthen teaching and training by embedding public health and systems competencies into undergraduate curricula and offering a comprehensive suite of postgraduate programmes, underpinned by robust mentorship and supervision.

We aim to build partnerships across government, civil society, academia, and international networks, enabling innovation, capacity development, and policy influence.

Finally, we strive to sustain the Division by fostering a supportive environment for staff and students, diversifying funding sources, and enhancing visibility, ensuring that our impact endures both locally and globally.



### Shaping Research Priorities

The Division conducts research that addresses health systems challenges and public health needs. We prioritise co-creation with communities, engagement with stakeholders, and translation of findings into guidelines, policy briefs, and interventions.



### Strengthening Teaching and Training

The Division integrates public health and health systems competencies into undergraduate medical training, while offering a range of postgraduate pathways including registrar training (MMED), MPhil, MSc and PhD programmes, and short courses.



### Building Partnerships

We collaborate with governmental departments, NGOs, universities, and international networks. These partnerships enable policy influence, innovation, and capacity building. The Division's networks extend from local communities in South Africa to global academic and professional societies.



### Sustaining the Division

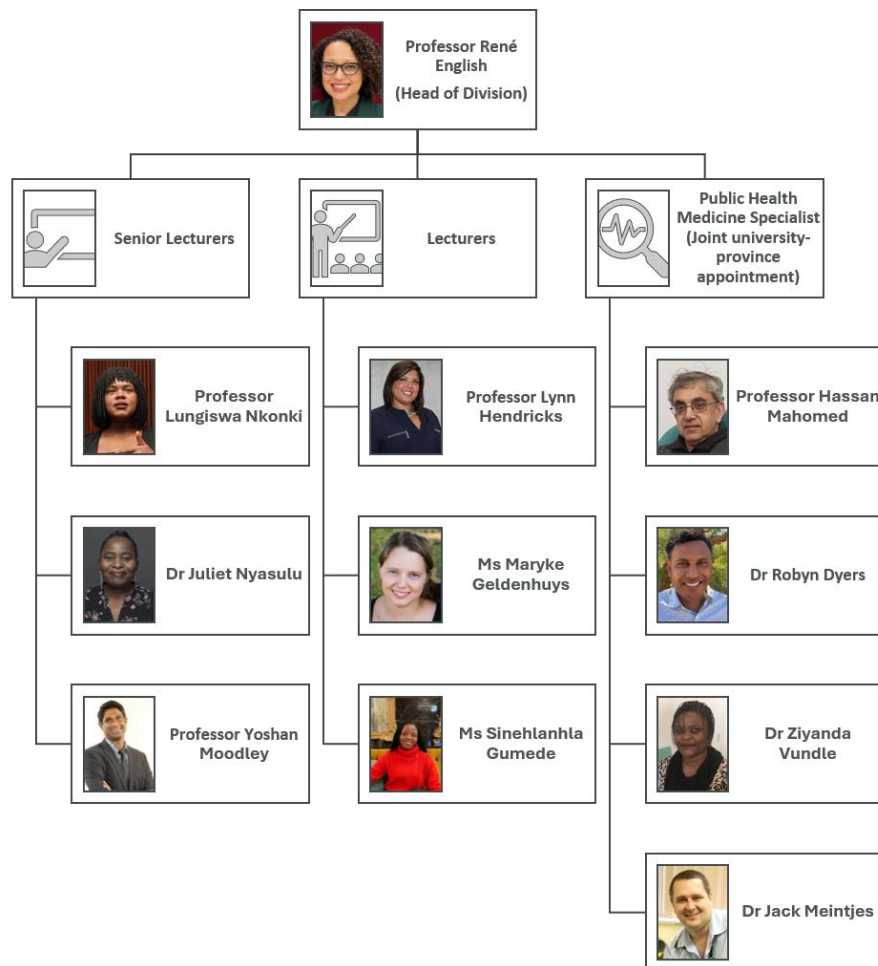
A thriving Division depends on supporting staff and students, diversifying funding, and enhancing visibility. We are committed to fostering collegiality, encouraging professional development, and pursuing sustainability through short

# 1.2 People and Expertise

## Our collective strength

The Division's strength lies in its multidisciplinary team: public health medicine specialists, occupational health experts, epidemiologists, health economists, psychologists, and social scientists.

Staff bring expertise in policy development, health economics, community-based research, implementation science, and occupational medicine. Together, this collective expertise equips the Division to address health system complexity and advance equity.



## Get to know our academic team

### *Professor René English*



## Niche

*Health policy  
Community-engagement and  
participation*



Professor René English is a Medical Doctor and Public Health Medicine Specialist and holds a Doctorate Degree. She has experience in clinical and health systems research and in the development of responsive and innovative health systems solutions.

She developed the first syndromic respiratory guideline in South Africa, then called the Practical Approach to Lung Health in South Africa (PALSA) which has subsequently been expanded into the PAK guideline. She was head of the Health Systems Research Unit at the Health Systems Trust and has served as a co-editor for the South African Health Review and District Health Barometer publications. She was a past fellow of the Africa Science Leadership Programme.

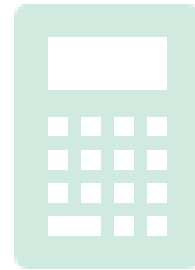
She is currently the Head of the Health Systems and Public Health Division in the Department of Global Health, in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Stellenbosch University. She served on the South African Health Ministerial Task Team, for Human Resources for Health and was the Chair of the Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation Workstream. She has served on the South African Lancet National Commission on High-Quality Health Systems.

## Professor Lungiswa Nkonki



Niche

*Health Economics*



Professor Lungiswa Nkonki's research focuses on health economics and health systems, with interests in the economic evaluation of healthcare programmes, the measurement of inequalities in health outcomes, pandemic preparedness, and the governance of public and private health systems in pursuit of universal health coverage. Professor Lungiswa Nkonki has had the privileged to have the opportunity to conduct high quality and relevant research aligned with the significant health and health services and systems challenges in South Africa and on the continent. She has an h-index of 15, with two publications with more than 100 citations and six with more than 50 citations.

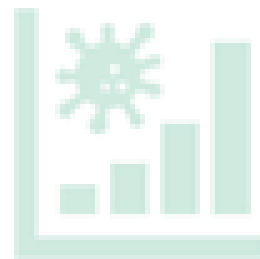
The highest of her first-authored papers has 90 citations. Her policy engagement activities include serving as a panel member in the first health market inquiry into private healthcare (2013 – 2019), being appointed by the minister of health Interministerial committee on Human Resources for Health strategy, and an evaluation of Gauteng Province's response to COVID-19. Currently, she is a lead author for a book chapter (Chapter 3 – Social, economic, and environmental determinants of health) in the book titled South African Health Reforms (2015 – 2020). The output from the private health market inquiry continues to inform discussions and plans towards universal health coverage and the planned national health insurance.

## Dr. Juliet Nyasulu



Niche

*Quality health care  
Implementation science*



Dr Juliet Nyasulu is a Health system-strengthening technical expert with over 25 years' experience working the African health systems including in South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, and sub-Saharan Africa. She has a PHD in Public health with focus on health systems strengthening through quality Assurance.

Her research passion is around access to basic and essential health services and at present she is a principal investigator on three research projects around HIV access during 95-95-95 strategy implementation, Maintaining Maternal and Child Health essential services during the COVID-19 Pandemic and trends in immunization coverage with support from medical research Council (MRC) and National Research Fund (NRF) funding institutions. Currently Dr Nyasulu is the Acting head of division, Division of Health Systems and Public Health, Department of Global Health, Stellenbosch University, and she serves as a National Certification Committee (NCC) Chair for South Africa overseeing the polio eradication initiatives for the country. She also collaborates with Malawi based institutions and organisations to strengthen implementation of public health programs with focus on youths and women

## Professor Yoshan Moodley



Niche

*Cancer Science*



Prof. Moodley is an epidemiologist and public health researcher. He is convenor of the Masters in Cancer Science Program at Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, South Africa. He has shown a strong commitment to addressing public health problems in South Africa, including the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases such as cancers.

He has a sustained track record of epidemiological research which broadly spans the fields of noncommunicable disease, communicable disease, and health systems. His current research is focused on the receipt of substandard oncology care in cancer patients, more specifically colorectal cancer patients. The research encompasses quantitative surveys, qualitative interviews, and machine learning analyses to develop a risk model for predicting failure to engage in oncology care amongst colorectal cancer patients from KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa. Prof. Moodley has been a principal investigator on several self-initiated research studies. He also had a leadership role (as a site principal investigator) on an international, multicentre surgical oncology study (The GlobalSurg-2 Study).

## Professor Lynn Hendricks



### Niche

*Arts-based, participatory research.  
Qualitative research*



Prof Lynn Hendricks is a Research Psychologist and Epidemiologist who holds a BSc Psychology from Freed-Hardeman University, United States, a dual MA Research Psychology degree from the University of the Western Cape and Oslo University, and an MSc in Clinical Epidemiology from Stellenbosch University. She has a joint PhD in Public Health, Stellenbosch University and Social Science, KU Leuven. She holds a visiting Professorship and a member of the Qualitative Inquiry Team, Centre for Sociological Research at KU Leuven, Belgium.

She is an executive member for the Psychological Society of South Africa and engages in promoting the decolonisation of research methods in academia. She is involved in teaching, mentoring, designing, and conducting qualitative systematic reviews and knowledge translation. Her research interests include health equity, research equity, arts-based research methods, academic activism, participatory community research, the psychological effect of climate change, and qualitative evidence synthesis. She currently leads the COCREATE Research Equity Hub in the Division.

## Ms Maryke Geldenhuys



### Niche

*Undergraduate teaching*



Mrs Maryke Geldenhuys is a Lecturer in the Division of Health Systems and Public Health where her focus is primarily on the coordination of public health and community-based education in the undergraduate MBChB curriculum. She is currently a joint PhD scholar on the 'Transforming Staff Doctorate Research' transnational structured doctoral programme in the field of Higher Education between Stellenbosch University and the Research Centre for Global Learning, Coventry University, United Kingdom. Research interest includes resilience in medical education, medical student wellbeing, training within the primary health care context and aspects related to public health.

## Ms Sinehlanhla Gumede



Niche



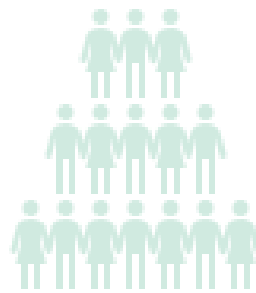
Ms Sinehlanhla Gumede has extensive experience in Healthcare Management, having worked as an Assistant Director at Tygerberg Hospital in the Department of Health and Wellness. A graduate of the Division's MPhil in Health Systems programme, her research interests focus on strengthening Health Technology within the public sector. She currently coordinates the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Care Management.

## Professor Hassan Mahomed



Niche

*Undergraduate teaching*



Professor Hassan Mahomed is currently a Public Health Medicine Specialist at the Western Cape Provincial Department of Health and the Division of Health Systems and Public Health at Stellenbosch University. He previously worked at the University of Cape Town (UCT) from 2004 to 2012 and for the City of Cape Town from 1998 to 2003.

## Dr. Robyn Dyers



Niche

*Digital health  
Design Science*



Dr. Robin Dyers is a public health medicine specialist in the Western Cape Government: Health and Wellness department, as well as the Health Systems and Public Health at Stellenbosch University. While supporting the development of the electronic medical record systems for the province, Robin completed a PhD in Public Health by applying Design Science Research methods to the emerging practice of User Experience Design in Data Visualisation.

He participated in the Digital Health Multistakeholder Dialogue as part of the Global Initiative on Digital Health hosted by the World Health Organisation in Geneva in May 2024. His other interest includes health policy analysis, geographic information systems, artificial intelligence, blockchain cryptography for health, clinical terminological systems, diagnosis related groups, interventions to support continuity of care and health professions education.

## Dr Ziyanda Vundle



Niche

*Quality in health care*



Dr Ziyanda Vundle is a specialist in Public Health Medicine, with special interests in Health Systems Leadership and Management, Social Determinants of Health, and Non-communicable diseases epidemiology and control.

She is a specialist within the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness, in the Assurance Directorate, providing public health technical expertise to the portfolios of Quality Assurance, Infection prevention and control, while continuing to provide support to the Occupational Health portfolio and other portfolios within the directorate. She is also appointed as a senior lecturer in the Division of Health Systems and Public Health.

## Dr. WAJ (Jack) Meintjes



Niche

*Occupational Medicine*



Dr. Jack Meintjes is a specialist in Occupational Medicine, with a special interest in the health of the healthcare worker and maritime and diving medicine. He is the programme coordinator of all the biomedicine programmes at the university. He serves on several national and international committees, including the Diving Advisory Board of the Department of Labour, the European Diving Technology Committee (EDTC), the Diving Medical Advisory Committee (DMAC), the Southern African Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Association (SAUHMA), the Divers Alert Network Southern Africa (DANSA). Dr Meintjes also has a special interest in epidemiology and biostatistics and has supervised several research projects and has authored epidemiology chapters in two textbooks.

## Support Staff

### Tracey Pietersen



Tracey Pietersen joined the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science as an Administrative Officer on 1 February. She successfully completed the following courses: Professional Learnership US, Professional Financial Learnerships (AAT), Office Administration Management and Finance for Non-Financial Managers Programme. She joined the Division of Community Health currently known as the Division of Health Systems and Public Health on 1 February 2017. Tracey is the PA to the HOD of the Division, Administrator for the MPhil Health Systems and Mmed programmes and Finance Administrator for the Division.

### Candice De Mink



My name is Candice de Mink, and I am an administrator in the Division of Health Systems and Public Health. I have been working at the university for 12 years. Currently, I am providing administrative support for various programmes, including the Postgraduate Diplomas in Health Care Management and Occupational Medicine, the Diving Medicine degree programmes, the Hyperbaric Medicine short course, and the MBChB programme.

# 1.3 Key postgraduate programmes

## Occupational Medicine

- PGDip Occupational Medicine
- BSc (Hon) Hyperbaric Medicine
- BSc (Hons) Underwater Medicine
- MSc Biomedicine
- MMED Occupational Medicine (medical specialization)

## Health Systems and Public Health

- PGDip Health Care Management
- MPhil in Health Systems (with two active tracks (1) Health Systems and Services (2) Health Economics)
- MMED Public Health Medicine (medical specialization)
- PhD Public Health



*"Our graduates should be more than practitioners — they should be leaders, innovators, and changemakers."*

# 1.4 Learn more about us!

## *For more information on the Division*

**Division Homepage:** <https://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/healthsciences/global-health/health-systems-public-health/Pages/default.aspx>

## *Enquiries*

### **General and MPhil Health Systems:**

Ms Tracey Pietersen

+27 21 938 9375; [traceyp@sun.ac.za](mailto:traceyp@sun.ac.za)

### **Short and Occupational Medicine courses:**

Ms Candice de Mink

+27 21 938 9498; [cdemink@sun.ac.za](mailto:cdemink@sun.ac.za)

### **PhD enquiries:**

Ms Chanelle Windvogel

+27 21 938 6451; [chaneller@sun.ac.za](mailto:chaneller@sun.ac.za)

## *Social Media*

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SUFPPublicHealth/about>

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/division-of-health-systems-and-public-health/about>

**Twitter:** @FP\_PublicHealth

**Instagram:** [https://www.instagram.com/fp\\_publichealth](https://www.instagram.com/fp_publichealth)



*"Knowledge gains power when it is translated into policy and practice that changes lives."*