

Born in 1969, Pretoria South Africa. Completed a BSc, BSc Hons. (*cum laude*) and MSc (*cum laude*) in Botany at Stellenbosch University. The topic of my research was the "Essential oil chemistry of indigenous *Pelargonium* species". In 1994 I commenced with a PhD at the Rand Afrikaans University (now the University of Johannesburg) on the chemotaxonomy of the genus *Aloe*. I completed my doctorate in 1999. Due to the commercial interest in *Aloe*, I visited the International Aloe Science Council (IASC) in Texas in 1999 and was invited back to Dallas in 2000 to present my research findings on *Aloe* to an international meeting of the IASC. In 1999 I was appointed lecturer in Pharmaceutical Chemistry in the Department of Pharmacy, University of the Witwatersrand. In 2000 I established a Pharmacognosy research group in the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology and supervised 25 postgraduate students in the group. Thirty-eight post-graduate students have graduated under my supervision since 2002. Presently I am supervising 14 students at master's and doctoral level. My research interest is the phytochemistry and biological activity of medicinal and aromatic plants which have lead to extensive international collaboration with scientists in the USA, Italy, Portugal, France, Turkey and many countries in Africa. In 2002 I was promoted to senior lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand and in 2005 to Associate Professor at the same institution. In July 2005 I was appointed as a research fellow in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Tshwane University of Technology (Pretoria). I have authored / co-authored 140 peer reviewed papers mostly on the phytochemical exploration and biological activity of indigenous medicinal and aromatic plants. A total of 150 papers / posters have been presented at various scientific conferences including eight invited plenary lectures at international meetings. In 2006 I assisted the editor-in-chief to coordinate the first special issue of the Journal of Essential Oils Research dedicated to the chemistry and biological activity of South African aromatic plants. In 2010 I was invited to be a guest editor for a special issue of the South African Journal of Botany (Elsevier) dedicated to plant volatiles, again in 2011 to co-edit a special issue dedicated to economic botany and in 2012 I have been requested to be the guest editor of SAJB for an issue dedicated to quality control aspects of traditional medicines. Based on research contributions in the field of medicinal and aromatic plants I have been elected on to the editorial board of the Journal of Essential Oil Research (Francis & Taylor), Frontiers in Ethnopharmacology and I am reviewing-editor for South African Journal of Botany (Elsevier) and associate editor of Journal of Ethnopharmacology (Elsevier).

I have received the following awards:

- Best Young Scientist Award in 1995 from the South African Association of Botanists.
- Several research grants between 1999 - 2012 to the value of R 20 million.
- The University of the Witwatersrand awarded me the Friedel Sellschop award as outstanding young scientist in 2000.
- Best ethnobotany contribution at the Annual Conference of the South African Association of Botanists in 2001, 2003 and 2004.
- An Award from the South African Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences for the best peer reviewed paper in the field of Pharmaceutics published in 2005 (I was a co-author) and again in 2006 and 2009 for the best scientific publication in Pharmaceutical Chemistry (of which I was the principal author).
- TUT's senior researcher of the year; 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 & 2010.

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