



# RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

CONNECTING RECs IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

## Newsletter

Issue 1/October 2020

# REASA

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### Upcoming Events

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Clinical Ethics and Consultation**

**Beyond borders: Exploring new frontiers**

**13-16 April 2021**

**Spier Estate, Stellenbosch, South Africa**

For more information, visit <https://iccec2021.co.za/>

**A series of 5 ethics talks by Professor Keymanthri Moodley**

**WEBINAR: Research ethics during pandemics**

**4 November 2021 at 19:00**

For more information, visit <https://www.pathcare.co.za/drs-portal/webinars/>

### SECTION ONE: First REASA webinar



On 1 October 2020, REASA held its first webinar entitled “COVID-19: Southern Africa Research Ethics committees’ Challenges and responses”. The webinar was attended by 57 people. Our speakers were Prof Keymanthri Moodley (Presentation entitled “The COVID-19 Pandemic requires RECs to think differently”), Prof Wayne Towers (Presentation entitled “Everyday initiatives by RECs to face the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic”), Prof Douglas Wassenaar (Presentation entitled “RESCOP as a response to support RECs in South Africa”), Dr Lillian Omutoko (Presentation entitled “A perspective on the ways other African

countries' RECs are coping with the COVID-19 pandemic"), Prof Marc Blockman (Presentation entitled "Challenges the RECs are facing during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic"), and Prof Stuart Rennie (Presentation entitled "An international perspective on the ways RECs are coping with the COVID-19 pandemic"). The webinar was well received. REASA will, in future, be offering webinars at least twice yearly.

## **SECTION TWO: Experiences, challenges and contributions of RECs during the COVID-19 pandemic**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we thought that it would be useful for our members to share their experiences, challenges and contributions made during this time and how they have dealt with the challenges that have arisen, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the concomitant lockdown restrictions that have been implemented by our respective governments. We asked the REASA members to provide us with a) a description of the experiences and challenges that they and their REC (or other ethics related entity e.g. faculty ethics office, research integrity office etc.) have faced, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of functioning e.g. organisation of meetings, review of applications, and training responsibilities, etc., b) a description of the manner in which they and their REC (or other ethics related entity e.g. faculty ethics office, research integrity office etc) have dealt with the aforementioned issues, c) a description of the responses of the various stakeholders to the implemented changes to the research ethics processes as well as d) any other general contributions made to support research ethics.

We received a great number of excellent responses from various RECs across Southern Africa, for which we are extremely grateful. In the following section, we share these contributions with our members, to inform and support them in their own responses to the challenges experience in response to the difficult times we are experiencing.

**Dr Sharlene Govender from the Nelson Mandela University Research Ethics Committee indicated that:**

"The NMU RECH changed monthly meetings to an online format and expedited RECH protocols dealing with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, guidelines for online data collection were distributed to all researchers, which led to several researchers requesting amendments to previously approved protocols undertaking face-to-face interviews. As a result, there were two RECH meetings per month for consideration of new protocols as well as amendments for changes in data collection to accommodate an online format. This increased the overall workload which was difficult, as all RECH members are also full time academic staff, who do not receive any remuneration for being part of the research ethics committee. The challenge was how to standardize the process of obtaining informed consent that was remotely gathered. The RECH advised that this could be achieved via audio-recordings, photos of consent forms sent via WhatsApp, voice notes, etc. to assist the researchers who had to replace face-to-face interaction with remote interaction. The other issue was the data costs associated with the online interaction, because in some cases the researcher was able to afford this additional load and thus, were able to reimburse participants for data expenses, while other researchers used the availability of a device and data as an inclusion criteria for selection of participants. In cases where online data collection was not possible e.g. if researchers needed to go into communities where there is no internet/wifi, the RECH required a motivation from the researchers and details of the precautions and Protective Personal Equipment which they would be implementing, as was mandated by the governmental regulations."

**We had two authors from the Faculty Committee for Research Ethics, Faculty of Science, Tshwane University of Technology, namely Prof Lentsha Ramoshebi and Prof David Katerere, who shared the following contribution entitled, "Challenge Accepted: a judicious response by a faculty research ethics committee of a university in Pretoria to the Covid-19 pandemic." The authors stated that:**

“The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in the first quarter of the South African university calendar year posed serious challenges to the faculty ethics committee of the university in several ways. First was the disruption caused by the sudden closure of the university and the suspension of in-person academic activity, including ethics committee meetings. The question was whether the committee should continue with its mandate or suspend its work until further notice. In this regard, the committee resolved to continue with its scheduled meetings as set out before the appearance of the pandemic, through virtual videoconferencing platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Zoom. The use of these platforms had the initial challenges of people not knowing how to use them, including the subscription and data costs associated with their use. Second was whether the committee should call back and re-examine some of the non-COVID-19 research proposals that had been approved prior to or at the beginning of the pandemic. The committee resolved not to interfere with the ongoing research projects in the hope that the researchers would naturally adopt and implement research protocols that would mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic. In any case because of the hard lockdown which came into effect at the end of March, any kind of research involving COVID-19 risky behaviours such as in-person interviews and travel was impossible for at least 6 weeks. The institutional REC under which the faculty committee falls, subsequently issued guidance about how projects would be handled as things started to open up. Third was whether the committee should continue to review newly submitted non-COVID-19 research proposals. Regulatory conditions introduced by the government in response to the pandemic, required that all research affected by the pandemic should set up protocols to mitigate the transmission and spread of the disease. The committee resolved to continue its work to review, and where appropriate, approve some proposals on condition that the researchers show resolve and evidence of how they would take action to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic. Fourth was whether and, if so, how the committee should prioritise COVID-19 related

research. The committee resolved to hold special unscheduled meetings to review the COVID-19 proposals. During the early period of the pandemic, the committee received two so-called rapid COVID-19 related proposals. The first proposal was for research to be undertaken by university staff, on behalf of an external funder. The second proposal was for an internal (intra-institutional) research to be undertaken by university staff. Both proposals were determined to be high risk by the faculty research ethics committee and were, therefore, referred to the institutional research ethics committee, with different outcomes. The review process for the first proposal took about forty (40) days from submission to approval. This relatively long process was considered to be due to the unavailability of a coordinated and comprehensive institutional strategy to handle the ethics review of COVID-19 research. In contrast, the review process from submission to approval for the second proposal only took about sixteen (16) days. This relatively short process was considered to be due to the establishment of a communal and coordinated response by the two committees. We anticipate that subsequent COVID-19 projects will take even shorter turnaround times as the route for rapid response has now been mapped. By all accounts, the faculty research ethics committee was very successful in adapting and implementing the strategy of business continuity despite the initial shock of the disruptive lockdown regulations. Adaptation and adjustment to the new *modus operandi* has led us to be able to meet every month as scheduled, albeit virtually. In general, COVID-19 has actually thrust us into the online meeting mode which we will likely continue well into the future since physical meetings were sometimes delayed due to late arrivals and student strikes.”

**A contribution from the point of view of an animal ethics committee from Prof Frederic Michel of the University of the Witwatersrand Animal Research Ethics Committee (WITS AREC) was also sent to us. Prof Michel shared that:**

“In face of the lockdown and the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, WITS Animal Research Ethic Committee (AREC) was obliged to adapt its activities. Some of them

(inspection of the animal facilities and audit of the protocols) are on hold, while some others (those related to the AREC executive committee) are not affected as they were already being dealt with by emails. Therefore, the major changes that needed to be implemented, was to our monthly AREC meeting, where new applications are reviewed. Before the pandemic, all members reviewed the new applications before the meeting and a collegial decision was taken following an open discussion. During the pandemic, the meeting had to be held on MS Team. It was then decided that each member of the AREC would give their written feedback the day before the meeting. The comments were then compiled and reviewed in order to arrange them logically and avoid repetition. All members received the new version of the agenda including all the comments, a few hours before the meeting. Obviously, this adaptation has imposed an extra strain on the secretary and the Chair of the AREC, but it has proven to be an efficient method. During the meeting, only the controversial points were discussed. In the first meetings, some comments appeared to be a bit severe. Indeed, written feedback seemed to allow members to express themselves more freely, but also sometimes without restraint. In addition to the harshness of certain comments, it was also noticed that there was a decline in the quality of some applications (mostly submitted by post-graduate students). Despite clear instructions for online submission, many applications were not filled properly or properly articulated. In addition to our ethical review process, members had to decrypt some applications which may have added to some frustration. In any case, the WITS AREC is fortunate enough to have experts in most fields of animal research as well as very experienced members. The comments were easily moderated during an open discussion which resulted in a straightforward collegial decision to be taken for each application. The duration of each meeting was quite reasonable and the quality of the review process was of a very high standard. As the Chair of the WITS AREC, I am very proud and would like to acknowledge the willingness and the professionalism of the WITS AREC members during this difficult time.

**We also received inputs from individuals that are leaders in the field of research ethics. Professor Minrie Greeff, an Emeritus Professor from the North-West University and the chairperson of REASA, shared her experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic as follows:**

“Since my retirement in December 2019, my role in research ethics has undergone a change, from being the former Head of the Ethics Office in a Faculty of Health Sciences, an advisory Research Ethics Committee (REC) member on several RECs, as well as serving on the National Health Research Ethics Council to now becoming a contracted part time mentor, consultant and trainer in qualitative research and research ethics, specifically advising and mentoring the newly appointed Head of the Ethics Office, as well as remaining an advisory member on several RECs. I also looked forward to spending more time on enjoyable activities like bowls and art. COVID-19, however, had other things in mind for me and brought about a dramatic change in my plans. Qualitative researchers as well as researchers in general and RECs were suddenly challenged by the pandemic and were in desperate need of direction and support on how to handle the challenges presented by COVID-19. I was inundated with consultation requests, as numerous qualitative researchers could no longer conduct their research as per usual. They were also prevented from undertaking research in communities, due to lockdown regulations and could no longer continue with their studies as planned and approved by RECs. On the other hand, quantitative researchers that had planned to do research with individuals in close proximity could also no longer do so. Research methodologies had to be amended to address the risks caused by COVID-19. RECs had to become innovative and adaptive, not only in how they managed applications but also in the manner in which they reviewed these applications. Suddenly more risks were introduced to studies due to COVID-19. Many request for consultations led to me developing three supportive documents i.e. Conducting Qualitative Research during a Period of Lockdown and Social Distancing (Greeff, 5 May 2020); Implications of Alert Levels for Researchers and Postgraduate Students during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Greeff, 21 May 2020); and COVID-19 Research

Risk Assessment and Management Approach (Greeff, 29 June 2020). These documents were shared with members of REASA, as well as on a broader national platform. Soon there were requests to present these documents in the form of training sessions. The change in the online arena, with everyone having to adjust to this new primary method of communication, lead to the possibility of making these training sessions available through the online platform to the many individuals that had requested it. Three online training sessions were presented on the topics indicated in the aforementioned documents. As chairperson of REASA, I was also instrumental in planning and presenting a webinar on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October for REASA members that focussed on the challenges created by and the responses to COVID-19 that RECs in Southern Africa had to face. I also joined the Research Ethics Support in COVID-19 pandemic (RESCOP) group which is a national research ethics advisory group that was setup during the COVID-19 pandemic. On a different level, I became more involved with the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) when in March 2020, I became a member of the ASSAf Standing Committee for Health that also became very active in matters concerning COVID-19. Soon my involvement in ASSAf was extended by my nomination and appointment on the “Expert panel of the InterAcademy Partnership’s COVID-19 Advisory Group” (20 members) representing 140 academies of various countries. Although I am in voluntary self-isolation, which will have to continue for some time, due to my age and co-morbidities, I have involved myself wholeheartedly in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to do so.”

**Finally, we also received a contribution from the Research Integrity Office (RIO) of the University of South Africa (UNISA). Dr Retha Visagie, Ms Tanya Coetzee, Ms Kgomotso Gill and Ms Thando Mdaka produced a document entitled, “Rapidly adjusting to a new world with agility”. In it, the authors stated that:**

“The COVID-19 pandemic was unprecedented and unexpected and has had far-reaching implications for the Research Integrity Office (RIO) in the Directorate: Research Support at UNISA. One of the key strategic objectives of the RIO is to build the research ethics and integrity capacity of employees. Before

COVID-19, the research ethics and integrity capacity events involved contact sessions. The national lockdown, however, propelled the RIO team out of our comfort zone. We cancelled all April 2020 capacity-building events to re-strategise and regain our momentum. A key stepping stone, was coming to grips with virtual meeting technology, specifically MS Teams. Even though MS Teams had been an available and recommended platform at Unisa pre-COVID-19, we had never used it and rationalised that our old ways served us well. After MS Teams training, networking, and hours of virtual meetings to plan and consider the future, we were able to present two COVID-19 related webinars. The success of these two webinars assisted us to regain our confidence and our training programme, in turn, regained momentum. We were surprised by a sharp increase in the number of attendees at the capacity-building events. Our resistance to exploring and using virtual platforms diminished greatly. We find MS Teams to be a safe and easily accessible space for participants despite its shortcomings. Facial cues and visible non-verbal interactions are absent, but we have found that facilitators and participants quickly adapted to this new way of communication. Suddenly, we were able to invite colleagues from other universities to participate in the workshops. Our reach extended our national borders to include colleagues from the Open University of Mauritius, Kenya and Botswana. We are proud that our efforts encouraged cooperation and the sharing of best research ethics and integrity practices beyond the borders of South Africa. During the lockdown period, 455 Unisa employees, external guests and postgraduate students participated in the various training webinars hosted and co-hosted by the RIO. Paradoxically, we were forced into isolation to capitalise on networking opportunities and to build stronger ties with colleagues sharing similar concerns. We joined RESCOP and this opened vistas for us to build our own capacity by participating in several international webinars in bioethics.

UNISA was also among the leading universities that responded rapidly to put guidelines in place for researchers to deal with the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on their work. REC members reported that their most challenging experience during the hard

lockdown phase was fielding the questions from researchers and postgraduate students regarding changes in data-gathering methods and informed consent procedures. At UNISA, we are proud to report that most of our RECs faced their challenges with agility and endurance, although this meant working long hours in virtual space, while being confronted with domestic challenges. Phrases like “Can you hear me?”, “Can you see my slides?” and “Sorry for the background noise” have become part of our new world of work. We adjusted to the uncertainties of this new world with a confidence which we have not felt initially when COVID-19 disrupted our lives. As a team we are stronger, more agile and willing to be stretched due to shared realities and strong ties.”

### SECTION THREE: Introduction of the Executive Committee and new members 2019-2022



**Prof Minrie Greeff**, the present elected chairperson of REASA is an emeritus professor since 2020 in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the North-West University, South Africa. As research professor in the Africa Unit for Transdisciplinary Health Research since 2002 and Head of the Faculty of Health Sciences Ethics Office for Research, Training and Support (2015 – 2019), Prof Greeff has been sharing her experience and expertise in research and ethics for many years. She has been the chairperson of the HREC for 8 years and before that served as a member on this committee for 15 years. As research ethicist, she has been instrumental in developing a university wide research ethics structure to ensure quality and safe ethical research practices. She serves on several ethics committees (both human and animal). Over the past three years she has been a member of the National Health Research Ethics Council. Prof Greeff has received numerous awards: the

induction into the Researcher’s Hall of Fame of the Forum of University Deans in South Africa (2011); and the most prestigious induction into the International Nurse Researcher’s Hall of Fame of Sigma Theta Tau International on the 2nd of August 2012 in Australia. In 2014, she received the SA Academy of Science and Arts’ Stals prize for Nursing. She is a National Research Foundation rated researcher. She is also an inducted member of the SA Academy of Science and Arts, ASSAf and ANSA. In March 2020, she became a member of the Standing Committee for Health of ASSAf and in July 2020 was invited to become an expert member on the Expert Panel of IAP COVID19 Advisory Group.



**Dr Lillian Omutoko** is the Vice-Chairperson of REASA. She holds a Bachelor of Education; Master and PhD in Education and Administration.

She is currently pursuing a Master of Global Bioethics at Anahuac University, Mexico and has trained in Responsible Conduct in International Research, University of Washington; Postgraduate Diploma in Health Research Ethics, Stellenbosch University. She is a Senior Lecturer at University of Nairobi; a member of Kenya National Bioethics Committee, Kenyatta National Hospital-University of Nairobi Ethics Research Committee, International Association of Ethics Education; Secretary, Bioethics Society of Kenya and Vice Chairperson, Research Ethics Association of Southern Africa. She is currently involved in supporting the establishment of Clinical Ethics Committees in Kenya and training Research Ethics Committee Members. Over the last three years, she has been involved in capacity building in Bioethics among scientists and researchers in NIH and EDCTP funded programs as well as development of Postgraduate Bioethics Curricula.



**Dr Toby Tobe P Nwachukwu** is part of the Education and Training Portfolio, and a Research Fellow at the Thabo Mbeki School of Public Affairs and International

Relations (UNISA); Research Fellow. He was a teacher for grades 10-12 on environmental science, biology and agricultural science at the Government Secondary School Ilesha-Bariba, Kwara State 2003-2005; and has lectured and developed modules for Operational Management, Social Work Ethics; Substance Abuse, Field Practicum at undergraduate levels and Research Ethics /Methodology at the post-graduate levels at the University of Zululand, KwaZulu-Natal from 2014-2016. He is a member of the South African Development Studies Association (SADSA), an associate member of the Industrial Engineering and Operational Management (IEOM); a member of the International Third Sector Research, African Forum (ISTR), and also of the South African Council of Social Services Professionals (SACSSP) among others. He is a member of the Education and Training Committee. He was the in the ethics committee as a clinical social work practitioner at the Infectious Disease Hospital, Calabar, Cross River State (2001-2002); and an ethics supervisor/peer group education coordinator of the HIV/AIDS and the Family Planning programme from 2004-2006 with the Kosobosu Local Government, Kwara State in Nigeria (2004-2005). He served as an ethics compliance officer with the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC, Abia State) (2009-2010); and the National Union of Shops and Distributive Employees (NUSDE, Calabar) (2006-2009) as an assistant secretary administration officer. He is an Ethics Ambassador Trainer with GLOBETHICS.NET. His areas of specialty are on ethical-ecology (Development-: ethics in eco-entrepreneurship) and (Administration and advocacy: socio-ecological justice ethics); with interest in trans-disciplinary research in the humanities and social sciences (psycho-social patterned behaviours) were he is currently publishing. He is part of the team on the Policy Research Ethics Review Committee of the University of South Africa, and he is an instructor and enabler on ethics and moral capital imagination within the Afrocentric ethical development with the HIV and Social Diversity Curriculum Integration Project at the University of South Africa since 2018.



**Dr Jillian Gardner** is a Senior Lecturer in the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Witwatersrand, where she also heads the masters

programme in Bioethics and Health Law. Dr. Gardner has qualifications in philosophy, bioethics and health law, and medical law. She is also trained in conflict mediation and project management. She has served on the South African National Health Research Ethics Council and boards of human rights non-governmental organisations. She currently serves as an executive member of the Research Ethics Association of Southern Africa, in the Marketing and Communication sub-committee, and is a member of UNESCO's International Forum of Bioethics Teachers; the Wits research ethics committee, and the research ethics committee of the Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa. She has published extensively in peer reviewed publications and presented at national and international conferences.



**Dr Emmanuel Obasa** is currently a lecturer and ARESA postgraduate coordinator in the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Department of

Medicine at Stellenbosch University. Dr Obasa completed his MSc, and PhD studies at the Division of Medical Virology, He is currently registered for a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Ethics at Stellenbosch University. Dr Obasa also serves as a committee member on the Human Research Ethics Committee at the Stellenbosch University. He has 5 years' experience in HIV-1 diversity and drug resistance research. In addition, he has also worked at the Desmond Tutu Tuberculosis Centre (DTTC) at the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, as a Laboratory Technologist on the HIV Prevention Trial Network (HPTN) PopART studies. He is part of the Education and Training sub-committee.



**Dr Philani Nongogo**, is a new member on the Marketing and Communication sub-committee of REASA. He is a Sport Scientist and holds a doctoral degree in Human Movement Science. He is currently a Senior Lecturer of Sports Studies at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT, Pretoria West Campus). As a senior academic within the Department of Sport, Rehabilitation & Dental Sciences of the Faculty of Science, he has served in various research capacities and activities within the Department and the Faculty, including being a member of the Departmental Research Committee (DRIC – 2005 to date); Departmental representative in the Faculty Committee for Research and Innovation (FCRI -2008 to date); and in 2017, following the completion of several Ethics training programmes, he was invited by the Faculty of Science’s Committee for Research Ethics and Innovation (2017 to 2019), he is currently the second Departmental representative to the Faculty Committee for Research Ethics and also tasked with the responsibility to handle research ethics matters within the department. He is a full member of REASA since 2017. He completed several research training programmes at TUT and this culminated in the completion of the “Ethics Educator Course”, in 2017, which is offered jointly by the University of South Africa’s (UNISA) Directorate: Research Support and HIV, Social Diversity and Inclusion Curriculum Integration Project. Dr Nongogo is regularly invited as the sole Tshwane University of Technology staff member, to participate in the facilitation of the “Ethics Educator’s Course”.



**Tanya Coetzee** received the Fogarty NIH grant in 2012 and completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Research Ethics at the University of Stellenbosch as part of the ARESA Programme in 2013. In 2018 she has completed the M Phil Applied Ethics at the same University. Tanya is the newly elected Treasurer and is also acting Secretary of the Research Ethics Committee Association of Southern Africa (REASA). Tanya is passionate about ethics education and the importance of teaching ethics education to undergraduate students. She was part of the inauguration of the Faculty of Science Ethics Committee at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) in 2012 and was a member of this Committee until November 2015. During the 2016-2018 period she was a co-opted member of this Committee and one of the presenters of the Ethics Capacity Training Course that is co-presented by TUT and UNISA. She is currently a member of the South African Medical Association Research Ethics Committee (SAMAREC). She has extensive experience in ethics review of postgraduate research proposals. Tanya is currently employed as a research integrity officer in the Directorate of Research Support at the University of South Africa and is also serving on their ethics review committee (URERC). She is the Treasurer on the REASA Executive Committee as well as the Acting secretary.



**Eleni Flack-Davison**, is a new member on the Marketing and Communication sub-committee of REASA. She is an Admitted attorney of the High Court of the Republic of South Africa, Non-Practicing, Legal Adviser and Research Compliance Manager, Head: Office of Integrity and newly appointed Research Data Protection Officer at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (Wits University). As the legal

adviser for the Research Office: Legal Services, she provides legal services and legal advice to the Senior Management of the University as well as to academics / researchers, which enables research and innovation through research contracts as well as the management and operation of the Research Office: Legal Services. Eleni is the Research Compliance Manager and Head: Office of Research Integrity. She encourages high quality research integrity as well as ethics in the sphere of research. This includes, but is not limited to supervision, management, and oversight of the University Research Ethics Committees and management of the Ethics administrative personnel. Wits has 5 University Research Ethics Committees that deal with Non-Medical, Medical, Animal Ethics Screening and Control, Biobanks, Clinical Drug Trials, and Institutional Biosafety.



**Associate Professor Gordon Wayne Towers** is the current Head of the Ethics Office for Research, Training and Support in the Faculty of Health Sciences at North-West University. He holds a PhD in Biochemistry and

completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Research Ethics at Stellenbosch University in 2015 (cum laude). His research focus is currently on genetic epidemiology, but he is building a research track in the ethical, legal and social implications (ELSI) of genetic and genomic research. In 2014, Prof Towers was appointed as a member of the newly established North-West University Health Research Ethics Committee (NWU-HREC) at the university and became vice chairperson of this committee in September 2014. He then became Chairperson of the NWU-HREC from September 2017 to September 2019 (after which he became a committee member) and is currently a member of the North-West University Animal Care, Health and Safety Research Ethics Committee (NWU-AnimCareREC), the North West University Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (NWU-HSSREC) and the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural

Sciences Research Ethics Committee (FNASREC). He is also a member of the Senate Committee for Research Ethics (SCRE) since February 2016 and is heading up the Communication and Marketing sub-group of REASA.



**Prof Yvonne Paul** is an Associate Professor in Department of Sport, Rehabilitation and Dental Sciences at the Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria, Gauteng,

where she has been a faculty member since 1999. Yvonne has completed her PhD, which focused on the discipline of Biokinetics and Sport Science, at the University of Pretoria. Her undergraduate was completed at University of Durban Westville in Kwa-Zulu Natal (currently called University of Kwa-Zulu Natal). Her research interest lies in the area of Diabetes Mellitus and in particular the efficacy of exercise as a modality of treatment for Diabetes Mellitus. She works in research areas related to Diabetes Mellitus and uses exercise as the treatment modality core treatment. She has published numerous articles in the area pertaining to health and wellness. She is also a registered Biokineticist, a profession that uses exercise as a core modality as a final phase rehabilitation. Yvonne is currently one of the Directors on the South African Biokinetics Board for National and International relations, she has served on national and international scientific committees, and has chaired national and international conferences. She has been invited as keynote speaker to national and international conferences. She has published many articles in accredited journals and a chapter for a book. She has continuous interests in researching on exercise and the various topics related to Diabetes mellitus. Her research has also extended into other areas related to health and wellness and rehabilitation. Yvonne is currently the Head of Department of Sport, Rehabilitating and Dental Sciences at the Tshwane University of Technology, Gauteng, South Africa and is involved in lecturing pathophysiology and chronic diseases for the Biokinetics students. Yvonne was born in a rural valley called Glendale in Kwa-Zulu Natal, north of Durban.

Yvonne is married to Dr Elton Joseph a specialist physician and has 3 sons; Ethan (11 years), Jadon (10 years) and Jared (4 years). Before becoming a proud and obsessed mum, Yvonne enjoyed outdoor activities mainly athletics and dancing; now she usually manages to read only research related documents and does the occasional ice-skating and swimming. She serves on the REASA ExCo in the Education and Training portfolio.



**Dr Carolina Henn**, a registered Counselling Psychologist since 1996, is a senior lecturer in the Department of Industrial Psychology and People Management, in

the College of Business and Economics, at the University of Johannesburg. She serves on the REASA ExCO in the Education and Training portfolio. In 2006 she obtained her PhD in Psychology from the University of the Free State. After having a private practice for a few years she joined the University of Johannesburg in 2008. Since doing her Master's dissertation on dealing with confidential information in different professions, she has been interested in ethics in social sciences. Since 2009, she served on the then Faculty of Management's ethics committee which dealt with research ethics and academic dishonesty such as plagiarism. In 2018, she was elected chairperson of the newly established College of Business and Economics' Research Ethics Committee, and as such led the design and implementation of a new and more rigorous ethical clearance process. Carolina is married and has three children, and her family is always her first priority.



**Prof Marelize Schoeman** is qualified as social worker (1993) at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She was employed for 10 years as a social worker at the Department of

Correctional Services. During this period, she specialised in Criminal Justice Social Work and obtained a Master's degree in 1998 and her DPhil degree in 2004. She conducted research part-time until 2005 when she started a research and training consultancy. Since then she has been involved in various research projects for, amongst others, the Department of Correctional Services, CSIR Crime Prevention Centre, Khulisa Social Solutions, Restorative Justice Centre and the National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders (NICRO). Prof Schoeman is employed at the University of South Africa since 2008 and is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology and Security Science. Her research interests are focused on children in conflict with the law and at risk children, child justice, restorative justice as well as research methodology and ethics. Prof Schoeman is a member of the Unisa Research Ethics Committee since 2012 and was the deputy-chair of the committee from 2013 – 2015. She is also a member of the College of Law Research Ethics Committee and was the chairperson of the committee from 2012 to 2014. She is furthermore a member of the Unisa Academic Integrity sub-committee. She is a member of the Education and Training Committee.

**We are very proud to introduce our Ex-Officio members which are playing a pivotal role in REASA:**



**Prof Keymanthri Moodley** (MChB (Natal), MFamMed cum laude (Stell), MPhil cum laude (Applied Ethics) (Stell), FCFP (SA), DPhil (Stell) Executive MBA (UCT)) is a

Professor in the Department of Medicine and Director of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Faculty of Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University. She is a family physician and a bioethicist. In 2013, she was rated by the National Research Foundation (NRF) as an established researcher based on her numerous national and international publications, conference presentations, her role on national bodies like the MRC Board and the National Health Research Ethics Council (NHREC) and her involvement in international organisations such as the WHO, International AIDS Society (IAS) and NIH DSMBs. She has worked as principal investigator on clinical trials since 1999 and served on the University Research Ethics Committee. The Centre for Medical Ethics and Law has been designated as a Collaborating Centre in Bioethics by the World Health Organisation, one of seven in the world and the first on the African continent. The main activities of the Centre include bioethics teaching, empirical research in bioethics and clinical ethics consultation. Since 2011, Keymanthri has co-hosted an NIH Fogarty program to develop capacity in Health Research Ethics in Africa in collaboration with the Bioethics Center, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, USA. The program has graduated 40 postgraduate scholars from 10 African countries over the past 4 years. In 2013, she was awarded a second NIH grant to examine the ethical and social issues associated with HIV Cure research. In 2015, the Centre was awarded its third NIH grant to explore ethical, legal and social issues related to genomic biobanking. Keymanthri is a member of the Academy of Science in South Africa and completed an Executive MBA in 2015. She is currently Chair of the MRC REC.



**Prof Stuart Rennie** (MA Anthropology, 1995, University of Leuven, Belgium; PhD Philosophy, 2001, University of Leuven, Belgium) is a Research Assistant Professor in Social Medicine and is Co-Chair of UNC-

Chapel Hills Institutional Review Board for social and behavioural research. His background is in philosophy and medical anthropology, and his doctoral dissertation concentrated on the impact that luck and chance can have on attributions of moral responsibility. Prof Rennie's current teaching and research interests focus on research ethics, public health ethics and medical ethics, particularly in the context of the developing world. He is currently co-Principal Investigator of a NIH/Fogarty International Center bioethics capacity building project in Central Francophone Africa ('Building Bioethics Capacity and Justice in Health') and works as an ethics consultant for CDC/Global AIDS Projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar. Prof Rennie was a visiting lecturer at the Center for Bioethics in Stellenbosch, and a lecturer in philosophy at UNC-Greensboro, as well as lecturer in applied ethics in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Cape Town. In addition to giving guest lectures on research ethics and bioethics within various departments at UNC, Prof Rennie regularly leads a graduate seminar on Global Health Ethics and co-teaches a doctoral seminar on the history and philosophy of epidemiology at the UNC School of Public Health. As ethics consultant, Prof Rennie has acted as lead author of the Ethics Guidance for Research (2009) of the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) and has provided ethics consultation for UNC researchers as a member of the International Core of the UNC's Center for AIDS Research (CFAR). He was also ethics consultant for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) of the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Prof Rennie is also ethics reviewer for the European and Developing World Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) and the Wellcome Trust. Prof Rennie has also successfully applied for NIH grants to conduct qualitative research on rationing AIDS treatment in DR Congo and

community attitudes to male circumcision as an HIV prevention strategy in Malawi. He has published in peer-reviewed journals such as PLoS Medicine, Science, the Hastings Center Report, Developing World Bioethics and the Journal of Medical Ethics on a variety of themes, including informed consent, HIV testing policies, medical rationing, implementation ethics, research involving children, health surveillance, health inequality and social justice. He also writes for his own Global Bioethics Blog.



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