



Prof Alvaro M Viljoen

Alvaro completed a BSc, BSc Hons (cum laude) and MSc (cum laude) in Botany at Stellenbosch University. In 1994 he commenced with a PhD at the Rand Afrikaans University (now the University of Johannesburg) on the chemotaxonomy of the genus *Aloe* which was completed in 1999. In the same year he was appointed as a lecturer in Pharmaceutical Chemistry in the Department of Pharmacy, University of the Witwatersrand. In 2000 he established a Pharmacognosy research group and has since supervised 35 postgraduate students at the MSc and PhD level. In 2002 he was promoted to senior lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand and in 2005 to Associate Professor. In July 2005 he was appointed as a research fellow in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Tshwane University of Technology (TUT). Alvaro's research interest and passion lies in the phytochemistry and biological activity of medicinal and aromatic plants and he has penned 130 peer reviewed papers on this topic. As an internationally recognised scientist he has been elected onto the editorial board of several high impact scientific journals and has received the following awards: The University of the Witwatersrand awarded him 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, 2007 and 2009. In 2006 he received the same award for the best scientific publication in Pharmaceutical Chemistry. He has been recognised as TUT's senior researcher of the year in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

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Prof Josias H Hamman

Sias obtained a BPharm (1995), MSc (1997) and PhD in Pharmaceutics (2001) from the North-West University in Potchefstroom, South Africa. He is currently a Professor in Pharmaceutics at Tshwane University of Technology and leader of the research niche area entitled “Natural products in drug development”. Sias is an NRF rated researcher (C2 category), has published 35 articles in peer-reviewed international journals, is the author of 1 complete book and made contributions to 3 chapters in other books, participated at several international as well as national conferences and serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Drug Delivery Science and Technology. He has supervised and co-supervised several postgraduate students both on the master’s and doctoral levels. He received the award as junior researcher of the year at Technikon Pretoria in 2001. Five master’s students under his supervision or co-supervision have won the young scientist competition in 1999, 2000, 2002, 2008 and 2010 and he is co-author of publications that were awarded the best publication in 2003, 2009 and 2010 at the annual conference of the Academy for Pharmaceutical Sciences of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa. His research interests include investigating the use of materials from natural origin to improve the absorption and bioavailability of drugs, herb-drug pharmacokinetic interactions and the use of natural polymers as excipients in dosage form design. For the biopharmaceutical related projects, *in vitro* models are used for transport studies including Caco-2 cell cultures and excised porcine tissue (both intestinal and buccal tissue).

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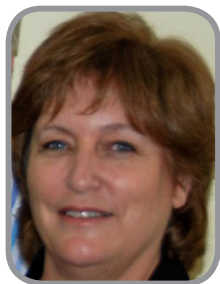
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Dr Patrick H Demana

Patrick is currently a senior lecturer at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT). He graduated with a BSc (Hons) degree in Pharmacy (Liverpool John Moores University), followed by MSc (Rhodes University) and a PhD in 2004 (University of Otago) in Pharmaceutics. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Emory University under the tutelage of Prof Dennis Liotta in the area of drug discovery and its development. Prior to joining TUT, Dr Demana has worked at the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology at University of Witwatersrand as a Lecturer in Pharmaceutics. He also has industrial experience working mainly in formulation of drugs in companies that include Merck, Sanofi-Aventis, Aspen Pharmacare, and Alliance Pharmaceuticals. He is a recipient of more than 10 academic awards including the Upjohn Outstanding Young Scientist Award from the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of South Africa (APSSA). His research interests are in the area of novel drug delivery systems. Patrick's research has been published in international peer reviewed journals and has also been presented at local and international scientific meetings. Due to this, he received a Y2 rating from NRF in 2008.

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Dr Gill M Enslin

Gill has been Head of Department: Pharmaceutical Sciences since 2002. She obtained her doctorate in 2006, the focus of which was the use of chitosan and other compounds as absorption enhancers for hydrophilic macromolecules. She has been a member of the Niche Area “Natural Products in Drug Development” since its inception, and has supervised a number of masters students and published and presented various papers on the topic at national and international conferences. Dr Enslin is also involved with the development of higher education qualifications and curricula for the Bachelor of Pharmacy and pharmacy support personnel.

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Dr Eugene I Olivier

Eugene is currently a senior lecturer in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Tshwane University of Technology. He obtained his BPharm degree in 1991 and MPharm in 1996 from the University of Pretoria, while his DTech was obtained from the Tshwane University of Technology in 2006. He has delivered six masters students and presented at numerous conferences. He has published six articles in various scientific journals. His research is focused mainly on the development of different dosage forms. This includes various technical aspects related to product development and includes preformulation studies mainly based on differential scanning calorimetry, stability, analysis, drug release and absorption. He is interested in the development of various dosage forms from conventional tablets to buccal tablets, chewing gums to effervescent tablets. His favourite research topic is, however, transdermal dosage form development which was also the subject of his doctoral studies.

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Ms Carmen M Leonard

Carmen started her career at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in 1996 as a Laboratory assistant and left in 1999 as a Chief Technician in the Department of Microbiology. She first joined the then Technikon Pretoria in 2000 as a junior lecturer in the Department of Biotechnology and Food Technology. In 2002 she joined the staff of the School of Pharmacy as a lecturer and is currently a senior lecturer in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. She completed her BSc (1991), BSc Hons (1992) and her MSc Microbiology (1998) all at the University of the Western Cape. She is currently registered for a doctorate degree, with Prof A Viljoen and Dr S van Vuuren, in the area of natural plant compounds and biofilms. She was a National Research Foundation (NRF) Thuthuka Researcher-in-Training grant-holder. She has supervised or co-supervised numerous students at Masters' level and has been the consultant on microbial biofilm research to postgraduate students from other departments at TUT and also from other universities. She has presented her work at both national and international conferences and has published in accredited journals. She is involved in both laboratory-based and teaching research. Her laboratory-based research centres around the effect of natural compounds and plant extracts on microbial biofilms while her teaching research focuses on using models and technology in teaching pharmaceutical biotechnology. She has been a team member of the niche area 'Natural products in drug development' which won niche area of the year at TUT (2006, 2007 and 2009), recipient of the Lural Excellence Award for Teaching (2003), Teacher of the Year in the Faculty of Science (2009) and the Johnson and Johnson Distinguished Teacher of the Year (2009).

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Ms Ilze Vermaak

In 2000, Ilze commenced with a BPharm degree at MEDUNSA (now UL) in collaboration with Technikon Pretoria (now TUT), which was conferred in 2004. After completion of a one-year internship and one year of community service, she enrolled for an MTech degree at TUT in 2006, which was conferred (*cum laude*) in 2009. Two peer-reviewed research papers emanated from her M Tech study. During 2006 she was appointed as a junior lecturer in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at TUT and in 2009 she was promoted to lecturer and registered for a D Tech degree. At the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences Conference in 2008 she was awarded the first prize in the Adcock Ingram Young Scientist competition. Ilze was also awarded the S₂A₃ (South African Association for the Advancement of Science) bronze medal: Best Masters student in Science, Engineering and Technology in 2009. She received the award for the best presentation in the Doctoral student category at the University of Johannesburg (Department of Botany) postgraduate symposium, 2009. Her DTech project, provisionally entitled "Quality control and biopharmaceutical aspects of *Hoodia gordonii* raw material and products", is still ongoing and three papers from this project have already been published in accredited journals. She has contributed to various presentations (10) and posters (5) at local and international conferences.

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Mr Clemence Tarirai

Clemence holds a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from MEDUNSA/TUT (2004), a Master of Technology (Pharmaceutical Sciences) degree (*cum laude*) from TUT (2006), postgraduate training in Public Health from the University of the Western Cape (2008-9), and he is currently completing a Doctor of Technology (Pharmaceutical Sciences) degree at TUT. Clemence served in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at TUT as a junior lecturer in 2006 before moving to the National University of Lesotho where he served as a Pharmaceutics lecturer from 2007 to 2008. He rejoined TUT in 2009 as a Pharmaceutical Sciences lecturer where he currently serves as a lecturer for the Bachelor of Technology (Pharmaceutical Sciences), the Bachelor of Pharmacy, and postgraduate degrees. Clemence is actively involved in research as team member of the multidisciplinary niche area *Natural Products in Drug Development* that is hosted by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. His research interests and publications cover the biopharmaceutical application of natural products with specific emphasis on the formulation of novel oral drug delivery systems and oral herb-drug interactions as well as Public Health promotion. His current research work investigates the pharmacokinetic effects of various plant extracts on conventional drugs using different *in vitro* models in order to identify potential bioexcipients that may be used to enhance the bio-availability of orally administered drugs.

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