

HEALTH THEME

**SA – Lesotho FP7 NCP Meeting
DST, 21 July 2009**

Niresh Bhagwandin

South African Medical Research Council (MRC)



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Overview of Presentation

- **NCP Team**
- **Role of the Health NCPs**
- **Activities of the NCPs**
- **Challenges**
- **Successes**
- **Opportunities in SA**



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Health NCP Team

- **Prof Iqbal Parker (NCP)**
 - Director: ICGEB
 - Director MRC/UCT Oesophageal Cancer RU
- **Dr Virna Learner (Assistant NCP)**
 - Academic & Researcher: Medical Biochemistry, UCT
- **Dr Nireesh Bhagwandin (Assistant NCP)**
 - Exec Manager: Strategic Research Initiatives, MRC



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Role of Health NCPs

- Raising awareness and preparing the South African research community for participation in FP7.
- Signposting concerns from the South African research community to the DST.
- Advising, assisting and training South African participants with regard to FP7 rules of participation as well as strategic objectives.
- Marketing South African scientific and technological excellence in other FP7 participating countries; and
- Networking with counterpart NCP's in the European Union to assist South African FP7 participants in finding European partners.



Activities

- Researcher database
- Roadshows
 - [New calls](#)
- Workshops
- Presentations in EU countries
- Linking SA researchers with EU counterparts & *vice versa*
 - [Partner search form](#)



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Challenges

- Research agenda
- Reluctance of researchers to engage
- Ethics
- Proposal development
- Mobility
- Exchange rate fluctuations
- Time constraints



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Successes

FP6

- AVIP
- EMPRO
- PHARMAPLANTA

FP7

- 10 health research projects
- EDCTP – €400 m



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Health Science Research in South Africa

- **Universities**
- **Government Funded Agencies**
- **Private**



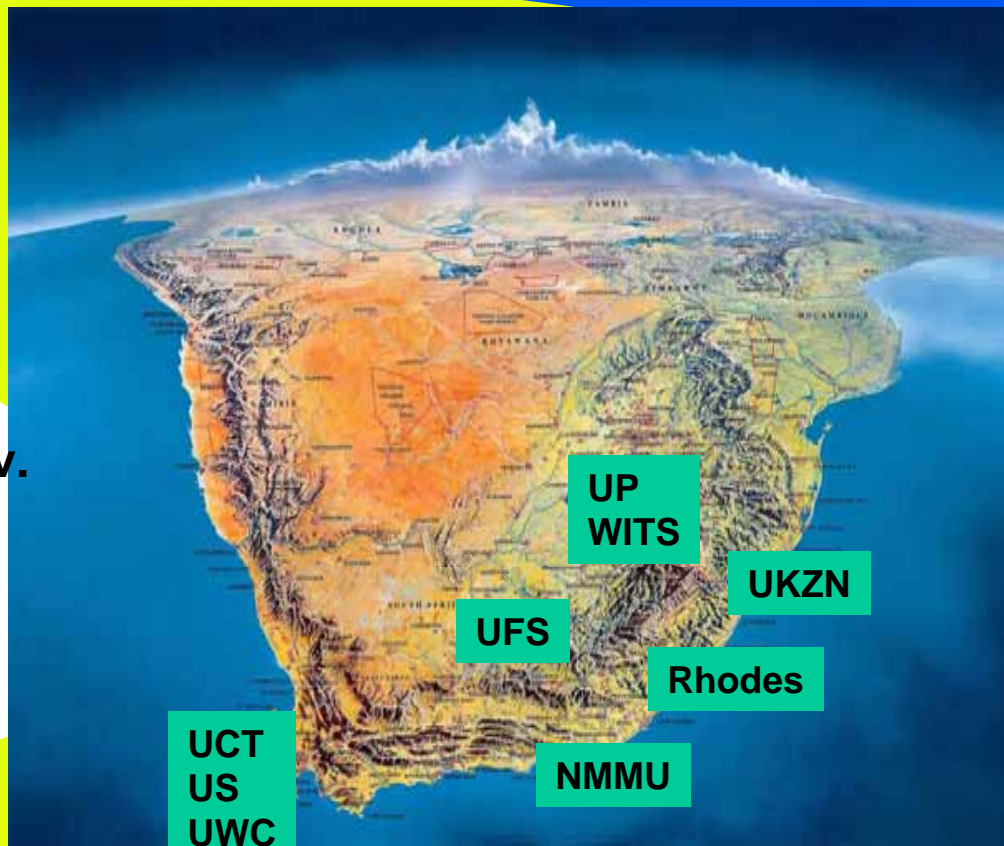
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Health Science Research: Universities

(for full list see: <http://www.nrf.ac.za/links/universities.stm>)

- University of Cape Town
- Stellenbosch University
- University of the Western Cape
- University of the Free State
- University of KwaZulu-Natal
- Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Univ.
- Rhodes University
- University of Pretoria
- University of the Witwatersrand

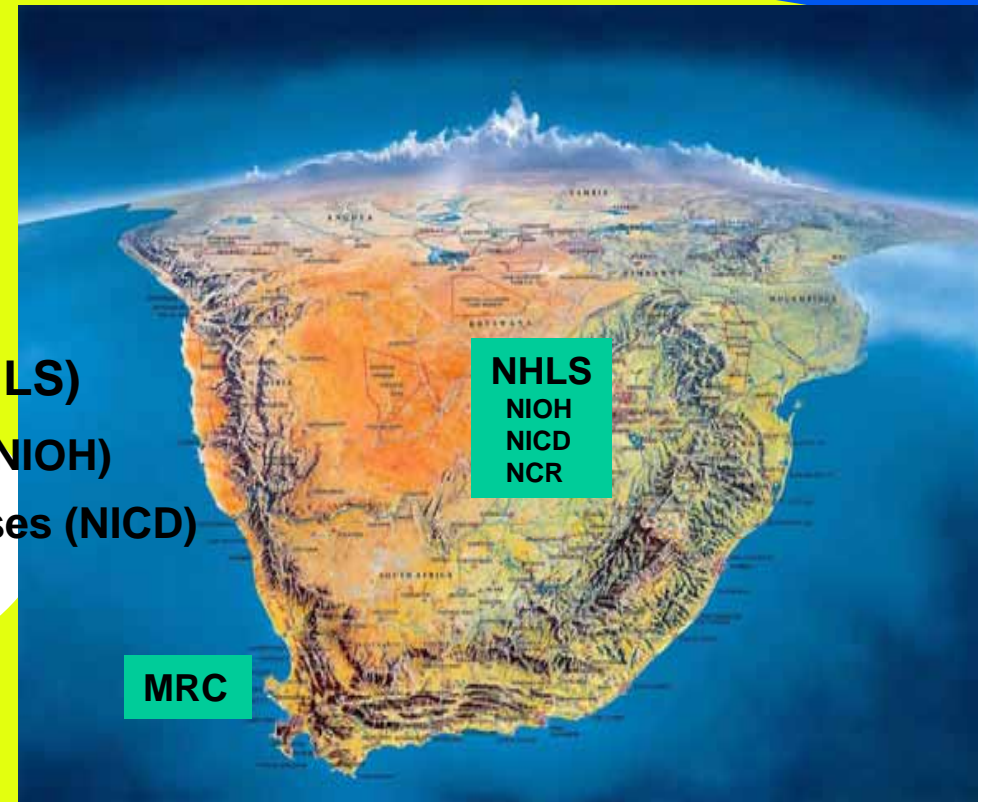


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Health Science Research: Government Funded Agencies

- **Medical Research Council (MRC)**
- **National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS)**
 - National Inst. for Occupational Health (NIOH)
 - National Inst. for Communicable Diseases (NICD)
 - National Cancer Registry (NCR)



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Board
appointed by
the Min. of
Health

**MRC
President**

**Executive
Management
Committee**

**National Programme-
Environment and
Development**
Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Research Group
Exercise Science and Sports
Medicine Research Unit
Health and Development
Research Group
Health Promotion Research
and Development Group

**National Programme-
Woman and Child
Health**
Gender and Health Research
Group
Maternal and Infant Health Care
Strategies Research Unit
Mineral Metabolism Research
Unit
Nutritional Intervention Research
Unit
Pregnancy Hypertension
Research Unit

**Research
Directorate**

**National Programme-
Infection and Immunity**
Amoebiasis Research Unit
Clinical and Biomedical Tuberculosis
Research Unit
Diarrhoeal Pathogens Research Unit
Genital Ulcer Disease Research Unit
HIV Prevention and Vaccine
Research Unit
South African AIDS Vaccine
Initiative
Immunology of Infectious Disease
Research Unit
Inflammation and Immunity
Research Unit
Malaria Research Lead Programme
Operational and Policy Tuberculosis
Research Group
Pneumococcal Disease Research
Unit
South African Traditional Medicines
Research Unit
Tuberculosis Research Lead
Programme

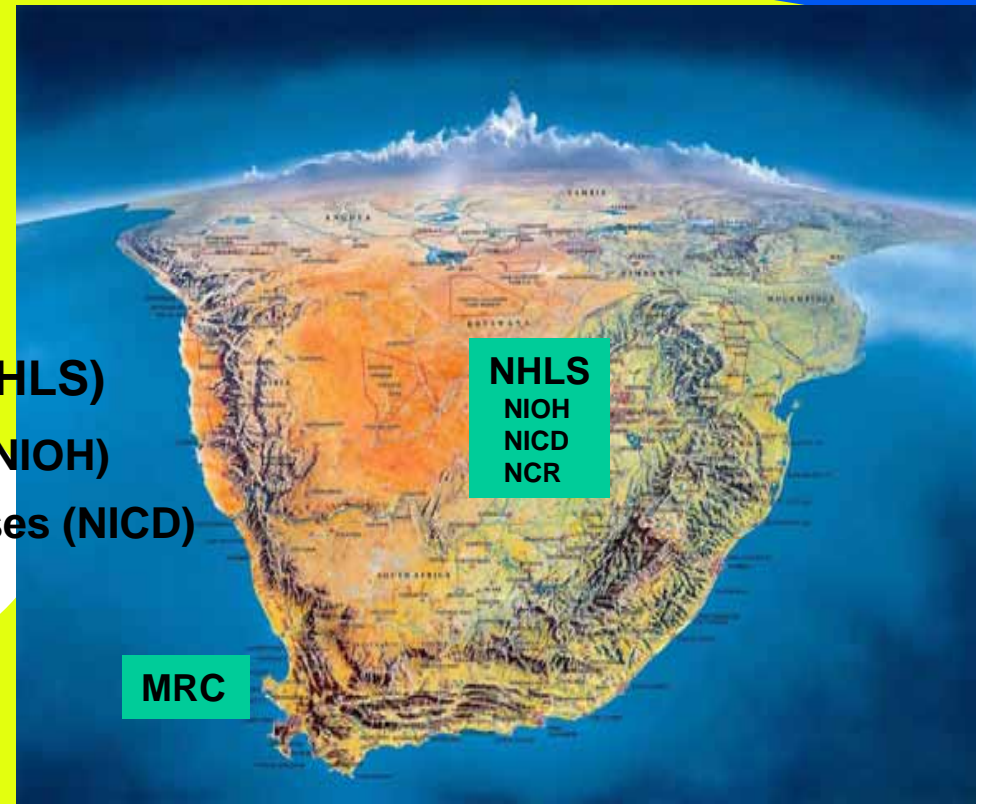
**National Programme-
Non Communicable
Diseases**
Anxiety and Stress Disorders
Research Unit
Cancer Epidemiology Research
Group
Chronic Diseases of Lifestyle
Research Unit
Crime, Violence and Injury Lead
Programme
Diabetes Research Group
Interuniversity Cape Heart
Research Group
Medical Imaging Research Unit
PROMEC Unit

**National Programme-
Health Systems and
Policy**
Burden of Disease Research Unit
Biostatistics Unit
Cochrane Centre
Health Policy Research Group
Health Systems Research Unit
National Telemedicine Lead
Programme
Indigenous Knowledge Systems

**National Programme-
Molecules to Disease**
Bioinformatics Capacity Development
Research Unit
Bone Research Unit
Centre for Molecular and Cellular
Biology
Human Genetics Research Unit
Human Genomic Diversity and
Disease Research Unit
Liver Research Centre
Molecular Hepatology Research Unit
Molecular Mycobacteriology Research
Unit
Oesophageal Cancer Research Group
SA MRC/British MRC Molecular
Reproductive Endocrinology Research
Group

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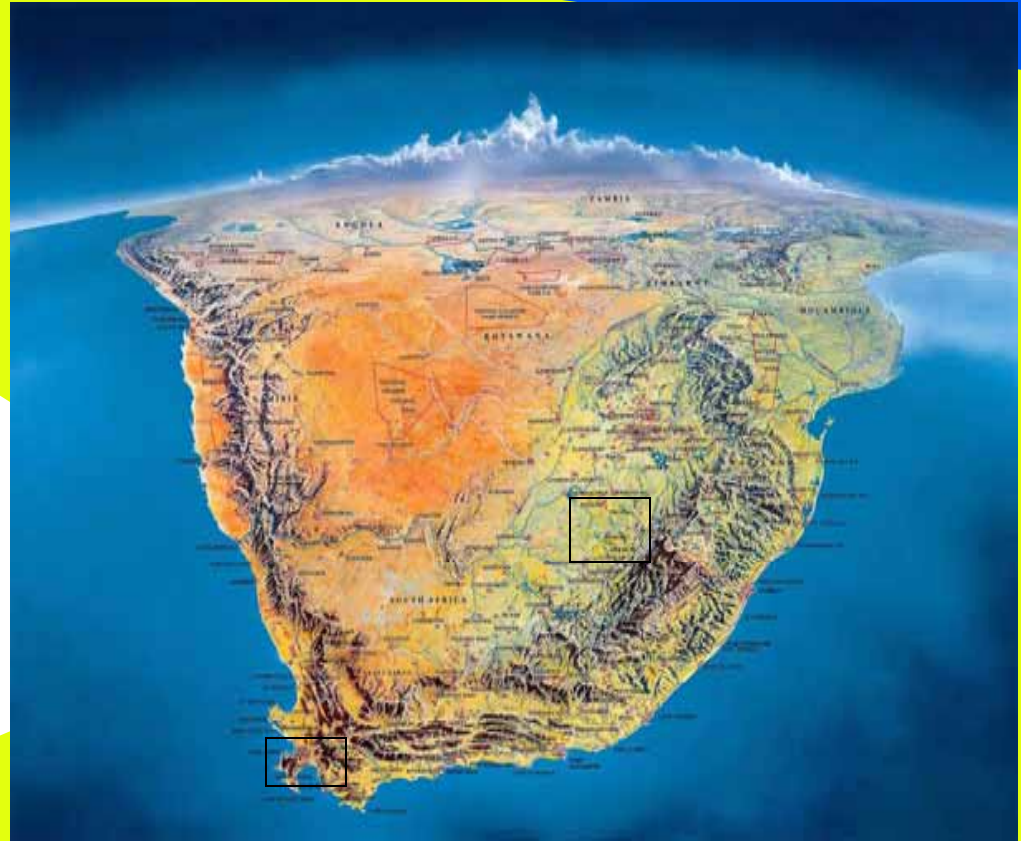


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Health Science Research: Private

- **Pharmaceutical**
- **Health Biotechnology**
- **Clinical Trials**



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Research Areas

- **Infectious Diseases**
- **Prevalent Cancers**
- **Prevalent Genetic Disorders**
- **Drug Screening & Clinical Trials**



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Research Areas: Infectious Diseases

- **HIV/AIDS**
- **Tuberculosis**
- **Malaria**
- **Cholera**
- **Diarrhoea**

- **Drug Development**
- **Vaccines**
- **Drug Resistance**



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Research Areas: Prevalent Cancers

- **Liver**
 - **Oesophageal**
 - **Cervix**
 - **Colon**
 - **Breast**
 - **Lung**
- **Epidemiology**
 - **Molecular Biology**
 - **Vaccines**



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Research Areas: Genetic Disorders

- **Familial Hypercholesterolaemia**
 - **Diabetes**
 - **Cardiovascular Disease**
 - **Hypertension**
 - **Downes Syndrome**
 - **Bone Disorders**
-
- **Drug Design**
 - **Molecular Biology**



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Research Areas: Clinical Trials

- **EDCTP**
- **Pharmaceutical Companies**



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Research Infrastructure

- **National Bioinformatics Network**
- **DNA Sequencing Facilities**
- **DNA Microarray Facilities**
- **Biotechnology Regional Innovation Centres**
- **Proteomics Facilities**
- **Drug development from indigenous plants**
- **SAAVI**
- **etc**

Competitive Advantages

- **High incidence of specific diseases**
- **In bred populations**
- **Good Infrastructure**



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Thank you.



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