



## **Thirumala Govender**

Thirumala Govender was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship and completed a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Pharmacy (Pharmaceutics) at University of Nottingham (UK), the top ranked Pharmacy School for research in the UK. She is currently an Associate Professor in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmacology at UKZN and Heads the Drug Delivery Research Centre. She is an award winning researcher and teacher and has been the recipient of the following national awards from the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of South Africa: Johnson and Johnson Distinguished Teacher Award and the Roche

Achievement and Adcock Ingram awards for Best Research Publication in Pharmaceutics (three times to date).

Her principal area of research is the design and evaluation of novel drug delivery systems. Her Masters degree, awarded with distinction, focused on microparticulate systems for sustained drug release while her PhD focused on nanoparticulate systems for targeted drug delivery. Her findings, specifically in nanotechnology, have been published in international top ranked journals in drug delivery and enjoy high citations. She has also worked on other systems such as buccal and mucoadhesive drug delivery systems as well as electrospun membranes.

Prof Govender has successfully secured scholarships and research grants from the UK Commonwealth Association, NRF, MRC, Asia-Africa programme, CSIR and UDW/UKZN. Her research findings have been published in several leading international journals and presented at local and international conferences in the UK, USA and Europe. She has been invited by several leading international journals in drug delivery to be a reviewer including several journals in nanotechnology. Prof Govender is an invited examiner for undergraduate and postgraduate degrees for 7 universities in South Africa. She has also been an invited session chair at international and local conferences and an invited judge on national young scientists competitions.

Prof Govender is an elected Executive Member and Vice Chair of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of South Africa. She is also appointed as an Expert Evaluator on the Pharmaceutical and Analytical Committee of the Medicines Control Council of South Africa. She is also a member of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists and local professional and scientific pharmaceutical organizations. Within UKZN, Prof Govender is a member on the College of Health Sciences Women in Leadership and

Leverage Committee. She has also occupied various administrative positions on a School and Faculty level and has been the Convenor for a national pharmaceutical sciences conference.