



Makobetsa Khati is a Molecular Pathologist and Research Group Leader at CSIR Biosciences. He is also an Associate in the Department of Medicine, Groote Schuur Hospital and University of Cape Town. His areas of specialisation include Molecular Medicine and Molecular Pathology and have technical expertise and experience in Aptamer Technology, High throughput Screening (HTS) and Drug Discovery, HIV Neutralization Assays and Surface Plasmon Resonance (Biacore[®]) Technology. Makobetsa holds several degrees including a Masters and DIC in Molecular Medicine from the Imperial College School of Medicine at the Hammersmith Hospital in London; and a Doctorate (D.Phil) from the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology at the University of Oxford, UK. During his stay in Oxford, Makobetsa was a Demonstrator in General Pathology and following completion of his Doctorate he held a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, University of Oxford for 2 years. He was also a visiting scientist at the Scripps Research Institute in California, USA in 2002 and he spent 2004-2005 at the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IIDMM) in Cape Town as a Travelling Research Fellow. Makobetsa is a recipient of numerous awards including the International Wellcome Trust Fellowship and acts as a consultant and specialist lecturer on the natural history of HIV/AIDS and ARVs treatment. His research interests include exploiting the aptamer technology to dissect HIV entry and AIDS pathogenesis with a view to elucidate the disease mechanisms at the molecular level and develop novel therapeutics. He is also exploiting the aptamer technology for targeted delivery of drugs. In addition he is developing rapid and reliable point of care TB diagnostics. Dr Khati is also interested in Public Health and the Socio-Economic aspects of HIV/AIDS and has recently completed a Masters in Public Health at the School of Public Health and Family Medicine at the University of Cape Town.