

Honorary Research Fellows



Emeritus Professor Elvis M Irusen

Professor Irusen began his pulmonology training under the supervision of Professor Umesh Laloo at King Edward VIII hospital and the then, University of Natal. Thereafter, he followed in the footsteps of senior academics in South Africa with a visit to the Royal Brompton Hospital in London, where he trained in research in Professor Barnes' Unit at the National Heart and Lung Institute at Imperial College. He worked with Professors K Fan Chung and Ian Adcock in molecular immunology and biology as related to asthmatic inflammation, which culminated in his PhD at the University of Natal.

Prof. Irusen is a past-president of the SA Thoracic Society and was the SA representative at GOLD (Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease: 2010 - 2018).

He has received distinguished service awards by the European Respiratory Society and the Allergy Society of South Africa as well as the prestigious Rector's Excellence in Community Service award, several research prizes and Annual Service Awards

for research and teaching at Stellenbosch University.

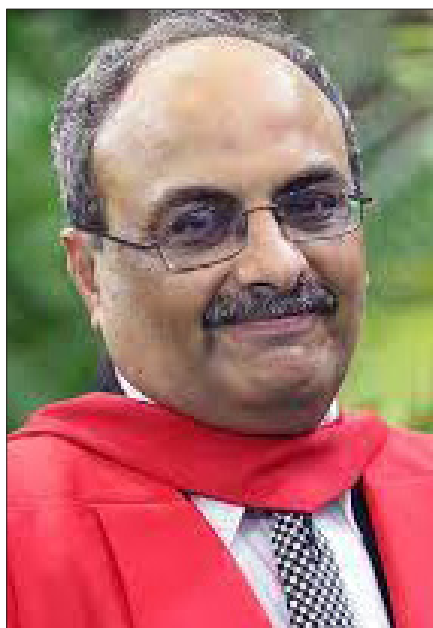
He currently serves or has served as

- principal investigator/ sub-investigator of over 100 pharmaceutical trials,
- national examiner in undergraduate and post-graduate Medicine, Masters and PhD theses,
- a reviewer for a number of esteemed respiratory journals and has been involved in the development of numerous guidelines and has over 130 publications.

A number of academic and private practice pulmonologists have trained under his guidance.

His research interests include epidemiology and clinical and molecular aspects of respiratory medicine, particularly asthma and COPD. Particularly sought after in the department are his radiological skills and he is often called on to assist with the interpretation of difficult images.

Prof. Irusen enjoys reading- particularly on astronomy, and running. He has completed 12 Two Oceans half-marathons and achieved a milestone of 250 parkruns.



Professor Prakash Jeena

Professor Jeena, the Head of Department of Paediatrics at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital, is a well-respected paediatric pulmonologist who has made a huge contribution in the field of paediatric pulmonology, paediatric critical care and allergology in South Africa.

He has been instrumental in the care of respiratory diseases, locally and internationally having served as the Chairperson of the Paediatric Tertiary Essential Medicines List team and on WHO committees on pneumonia and TB. He is also a past chairperson of NAEP and executive member of SATS.

He has contributed to a number of paediatric guidelines including asthma, bronchiolitis and

pneumonia in children in South Africa and his contribution to research in paediatric HIV lung disease, measles and TB have been instrumental in guiding treatment in children in South Africa. He has over 90 peer reviewed publications and 10 book chapters.

He has supervised Masters and PhD students, and contributed to general paediatric teaching as an examiner for Part 1 and Part 2 exams as well as an examiner for both Paediatric Pulmonology and Paediatric Critical Care fellowship exams; the only paediatric pulmonologist in the country to examine in both fields. He is also active in allergology teaching in KwaZulu Natal and has been instrumental in many people getting the Diploma in Allergology in which he has also served as an examiner.