

Itumeleng Zosela

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PROFILE

I am a dedicated and ambitious individual with a strong interest in science. I am currently doing my PhD in Physiology at Nelson Mandela University. I have excellent communication skills, enabling me to effectively communicate with a diverse group of people. I am a quick learner with an open mind. I can work well both in a team environment as well as using my initiative. I can work under pressure and adhere to strict deadlines.

EDUCATION

- MSc Nanoscience, 2021 – Nelson Mandela University, South Africa. Dissertation: In-vitro evaluation of *bridelia ferruginea* extract gold nanoparticles for the treatment of colon cancer.
- BSc (Hons) Medical Bioscience, 2017– University of the Western Cape, South Africa. Dissertation: Expression of the nucleocapsid protein of the human coronavirus n163 in a baculovirus expression vector system.
- BSc Microbiology, 2013 – University of Pretoria, South Africa.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Student Assistant: Nelson Mandela University, Research Development Office, 01 February 2024 to December 2024
- Research Assistant: Nelson Mandela University, Research, Innovation and Internalization Office, 01 June 2020 to December 2023.
- Next Generation Scientist Internship Program: Novartis Basel Campus, 01 June 2023 to August 2023
- Research Coordinator: University of the Western Cape, Research Office, 01 April 2017 to December 2018.
- NRF Research Intern: University of the Western, Research Office, 01 April 2016 to March 2017.

SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT

- Eskom Science Expo Mentor, 01 February 2024 to present : Mentoring program for high school students
- School engagement with grade 12 learners: Motivating young learners to follow their science passion, 14-16 March 2022

Schools visited: Imingcangathelo High School, Alice, South Africa Jabavu High

School, Alice, South Africa

Nzululwazi High School, Alice, South Africa

RADIO INTERVIEWS

- UmhloboWenene FM, Topic: Plant based synthesis of gold nanoparticles: A game changer in colon cancer treatment, 13 April 2023
- Tru FM, Topic: The future of nanomedicine in colon cancer treatment, 28 December 2022
- Forte Hare FM, Topic: Motivational talk for young scientists that are interested in pursuing Nanomedicine, 14 December 2022

MENTORSHIP

- Mentoring 1 second year Nanoscience Masters students – Assisting with Proposal writing, presentations, practical work as well as thesis write-up, Jan 2023-Present
- Mentoring 2 first year Nanoscience Masters students – Assisting with Proposal writing, presentations, practical work as well as thesis write-up, May- December 2021
- Mentoring 3 first year Nanoscience Masters students – Assisting with Proposal writing, presentations, practical work as well as thesis write-up, May- December 2022

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 04-05 November 2024. Zosela I. “ Exploring the therapeutic potential of plant-based gold nanoparticles in colon cancer treatment”. International Conference on Advanced Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology. Rome, Italy.
- 11-12 January 2024. Zosela I. “Golden innovation: Ecofriendly synthesis of nanoparticles in the fight of colon cancer”. Global Young Scientist Summit. Singapore.
- 12 May 2023. Zosela I. “Plant-based gold nanoparticles: A game changer for colon cancer treatment”. Nanoscience Vermouth 2023 (Hybrid event). University of Barcelona, Barcelona.
- 26 October 2022. Zosela, I. “Green synthesis of gold nanoparticles for in-vitro and in-vivo treatment of colon cancer.” NanoAfrica Conference2022, Cape Town, South Africa

- 10 October 2022. Zosela, I. "Plant-based synthesis of gold nanoparticles for colon cancer treatment." International Nanomedicine Webinar South Africa (Hybrid Event), Port Elizabeth, South Africa.
- 10 August 2022. Zosela, I. "Plant-based Synthesis of Gold Nanoparticles for the Next Generation of Colon Cancer Treatment.", Network for Sustainable Nanotechnology (N4SNano) Global Summit, Waterloo, Canada.
- 18 April 2022. Zosela, I. "Green synthesis of gold nanoparticles for in-vitro and in- vivo treatment of colon cancer." International webinar on nanoscience, nanotechnology C advanced materials, Conference mind.

HONORS / AWARDS

- Conference Moderator , International Conference on Advanced Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology, 14-15 November 2024, Rome, Italy
- Eskom Expo for Young Scientists Judge, August 2024
- Famelab Finalist , Nelson Mandela University, April 2024
- SACNASP Science communicator: Audio Category, 2023
- Novartis Next Generation Scientist, 2022
- Novartis Next Generation Scientist, 2023
- National Research Foundation PhD Scholarship, 2021-present DST-NRF Internship, 2016-2017
- First runner-up in the category for best learner, 2010
- Top Achiever award 2009 National Senior Certificate, 2010

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

- Department of Physiology, Faculty of Science Postgraduate Student Forum Representative, 2022 to 2023.
- Global Challenges University Alliance 2030 (GCUA2030) brand ambassador, 2020 to Present.

REFERENCES

- Dr. Thandi Mgwebi: Group Executive : Business Advancement, National Research Foundation, South Africa.

Email: tmgwebi@nrf.ac.za

- Prof Saartjie Roux: Supervisor, Department of Physiology, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa

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