

## **Biosketch: Ben van Heerden**

Ben van Heerden graduated as a medical doctor from Stellenbosch University (SU) in 1978. He subsequently received an MSc in Medical Sciences (Nuclear Medicine) *cum laude* and the MMed in Internal Medicine from the same University. He is registered with the Medical and Dental Professions Board as a specialist in both Nuclear Medicine and Internal Medicine. His career in Nuclear Medicine included a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University in the USA and a year as visiting professor at the University of Leuven in Belgium. He was promoted to Professor, Chief Specialist and Head of the Department of Nuclear Medicine at SU in 2001.

He developed a keen interest in health sciences education when he was appointed as the Head of the School of Medicine at SU in 2001. In 2006 he became the founding Director of the Centre for Health Sciences Education of the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) at SU. He is the programme coordinator of the MB,ChB programme since 2001 and of the MPhil in Health Sciences Education since 2008.

Ben van Heerden has been actively involved with the SA Medical Association and the Medical and Dental Professions Board (MDPB) for many years and is currently a member of the Board and chairperson of the Undergraduate and Education Subcommittee of the MDPB.

He is a fellow of the Foundation for the Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER) since 2006 and is a member of the faculty of the Southern Africa FAIMER Regional Institute (SAFRI) since its establishment in 2008.

He is a recipient of the Rector's award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at SU and received the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of SA (HELTASA) and Council on Higher Education National Award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in 2010.