

Collet Dandara

Professor Collet Dandara, BSc(hons), Ph. D, African Academy of Sciences (AAS) Fellow, Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) Fellow, is a geneticist and Professor of human Genetics in the Division of Human Genetics, Department of Pathology at the University of Cape Town (UCT). He is a Principal Investigator (PI) in the **“Pharmacogenomics and Drug Metabolism Research Group”** and a Unit Director of the South Africa Medical Research Council extramural unit on **“Pharmacogenomics Research and Translation”**. His research focusses on the role of host genomic variation on therapeutic drug responses. His group also investigates the role of epigenetics and microbiome profiles on differential response to therapeutic drugs including herbal medicine. Prof Dandara’s research has contributed to the understanding of the contribution of pharmacogenomics on the differential effectiveness of antiretroviral drugs, such as efavirenz, nevirapine and lopinavir. Current work in his group and research unit, is evaluating the pharmacogenomics of drugs used in the management/treatment of cardiovascular disease including hypertension. Collet is a full member of the Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine (IDM) in the Faculty of Health Sciences at UCT. He is a former Chair of the Faculty of Health Sciences Transformation and Equity Committee (FHS-TEC) and serves in several faculty and University Committees including the Senate Executive Committee. Prof Dandara serves on the board of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC). He is one of the founding members of the African Pharmacogenomics Network (APN). He has published more 165 publications and has an H-index of 35, with an i10-index of 100. Collet has successfully supervised to graduation least 20 MSc/MMed students, 12 PhD students and hosted several postdoctoral research fellows. He has a huge passion for **“seeding knowledge”**, which has seen him arranging an annual grade 11 (high school) learners open day for the last 10 years, bringing 200 high school learners to the faculty of health sciences at UCT annually to expose them to the various activities and programs offered in the biomedical space. In addition to high school learners, his own postgraduate students, Collet is a resource for academic colleague whom he mentors in their career trajectories.