

Nicole van der Merwe – SASHG Committee Member

FamGen Counselling, and Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University

Dr Nicole van der Merwe is a medical scientist and a registered genetic counsellor. She is the Founder of FamGen Counselling, a telegenetics company established to meet local genomic counselling and health professional (HP) training needs. She is also currently the co-PI and project manager of two MRC and TIA-funded precision medicine research projects conducted at Stellenbosch University (SU), respectively. She obtained her PhD in Molecular Pathology at SU in 2016, with her research addressing familial, co-morbidity and therapy-induced risk in the field of breast cancer. She subsequently obtained a MSc (Med) degree and HPCSA registration in Genetic Counselling at the University of Cape Town. Her published MSc research explored local stakeholder views on the return of individual genetic research results and incidental findings. She has a special interest in the return and impact of various genomic findings on a patient and population level, and is passionate about community engagement, and HP and public education for ethical implementation of genomic medicine.