



Mashiko Setshedi

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Why I chose this field

I hold an MBChB (UKZN), FCP and Certificate of Gastroenterology (Colleges of Medicine of SA), an MPH and PhD both from UCT. I joined UCT in 2005 initially as a clinical research fellow, and subsequently as a gastroenterology registrar. During my doctoral studies between 2009 and 2011 I was at Brown University where I studied signalling impairments in alcohol and hepatitis B related liver disease. Upon my return to UCT I worked as a specialist consultant and educator in the Department of Medicine, building a large teaching portfolio mainly at undergraduate, but also post-graduate level. In the undergraduate programme I served as a convenor, tutor and examiner in both the departments of Medicine and Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. In 2015 I was awarded the Oxford Nuffield Medical Scholarship and spent two and a half years at Oxford on a post-doctoral fellowship. I have recently returned to assume my new role.

I don't have vivid childhood recollections of wanting to become a doctor. Conversely, by the time I was in high school I was positive I didn't want to become a teacher (because my grandparents and aunts on both sides of the family as well as my parents are all teachers). I guess no one told me that in fact teaching is central to the practice of medicine; nonetheless I have absolutely no regrets.

My career path has been what I used to regard as unstructured, because I have done clinical work, clinical and basic science research, as well medical education, all of which fascinate me greatly.

Professor



St Anne's Chair &
HOD of Gastroenterology



Dept. of Medicine



Faculty of Health Sciences



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Setshedi**

Whereas it used to unsettle me, I am happy to say that I now appreciate the advantages of my diverse portfolio. It has made me a better doctor and ironically, a willing teacher.

I am excited about my work

Coming to work and interacting with my colleagues, dealing one-on-one with a vulnerable and anxious patient who I am able to successfully assure, and seeing the distinct look of understanding in the face of a medical student I am teaching, are some of the things that give me the greatest joy; it's a feeling of fulfilment, that although my choice of career was serendipitous, it was undoubtedly the right choice.

I aim to achieve...

An environment in the division where each individual is recognized for their talent and supported to prosper so that collectively we can build a world-class unit that excels in clinical service, training in gastroenterology and meaningful translational research, and I want to stress this, not doing research for its own or our sake, but because it will directly impact patient care.

