

CURRICULUM VITAE

JENNIFER ANN THOMSON

Emeritus Professor
Department of Molecular and Cell Biology
University of Cape Town
P B Rondebosch 7701
South Africa

Tel: (27) (0) (21) 650-3256 (W)
(27) (0) (21) 794-2360 (H)

Email: jennifer.thomson@uct.ac.za

DoB: 16 June 1947
Nationality: South African

CURRENT APPOINTMENT

Emeritus Professor, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology (2008-)

EDUCATIONAL CAREER

PhD in Microbiology, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa (1971-73)
MA in Genetics, Cambridge University, England (1968-70)
BSc (with distinction) in Zoology and General Physiology, University of Cape Town, South Africa
(1965-67)
Matriculated, Hyde Park High School, Johannesburg (4 x A; 2 x B) Head Girl (1964)

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

University of Cape Town

Professor, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology (2001-2008)
Professor and Head, Department of Microbiology (1988-2000)
Deputy Dean, Faculty of Science (1996-98)

University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Associate Professor (1981-83)
Senior Lecturer (1979-80)
Lecturer (1977-78)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

Visiting Scientist (1982-83)

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa

Director, Laboratory for Molecular and Cell Biology (1984-1987)

Harvard University, USA

Research and Teaching Fellow (1974-77)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Rhodes University Alumnae Award (2010)
Honorary Doctorate, Sorbonne University, Paris (2005)
L'Oreal/UNESCO award for Women in Science for Africa (2004)
Fellow, University of Cape Town (2004)
Fellow, Royal Society of South Africa (2001)
Women in Science Award, SA Association of Women Graduates (2000)
Distinguished Teacher, University of Cape Town (1996)
Woman Achiever of the Year, Women's Bureau of South Africa (1990)
JAYCEE's FOYSA Award (Four Outstanding Young South Africans; 1984)
University of the Witwatersrand Council Overseas Fellowship (1982)
Rotary International Post-doctoral Fellowship to Harvard (1974-75)
Shell (SA) Research Fellowship (1972-73)

Class medals for top student in Zoology at UCT (1966-67)

MEMBERSHIP OF SELECTED INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF) of the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Committee of Assessors; 2010-2012
 International Consortium on Biotechnology Research (ICABR) Steering Committee 2008-present
 African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) Chair of board; 2003-2008; member 2009-present
 International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA) 2002-present (Vice-Chair 2013-present)
 European Action on Global Life Sciences (EAGLES) Member 2003-2008
 Interacademy Council (IAC) task group on “Women in Science”; 2005 - 2006
 International Centre for Research into Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) Advisory Panel Member 2007
 Generation Challenge Program of the CGIAR; Advisory Panel Member 2007
 Speaker, United Nations, New York; November 2002
 East African Regional Programme and Research Network for Biotechnology (BIO-EARN) 2002-2004)
 Interacademy Council panel on “Food for Africa: harnessing science and technology to increase agricultural productivity in Africa”;2002-2004
 Council for Biotechnology Information, USA; Distinguished Advisor 2000 - 2004
 WHO/FAO Seminar: Release of genetically modified organisms in the environment – is it a health hazard? Rome September 2000 (Chair)
 WHO & FAO: Safety aspect of genetically modified foods of plant origin. (Consultant 2000)
 Speaker, World Economic Forum, Davos; 1998 and 1999
 The African Academy of Sciences (AAS): Policy Committee on Research Priorities for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa; 1993-95

MEMBERSHIP OF SELECTED NATIONAL COMMITTEES

OWSD South African Chapter: Chair 2014-
 Public Understanding of Biotechnology, Dept of Science and Technology: Advisory Board 2014-
 Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference (ABIC) Chair Scientific Committee for the 2011 Conference, Johannesburg
 National Advisory Committee on Innovation (NACI) 2002-present
 National Biotechnology Advisory Committee (NBAC) Chair 2006-2009; member 2009-2012
 African Centre for Gene Technologies (ACGT) Advisory council member 2004-2011
 AfricaBio; Board member; 2000-2010
 Pebble Bed Modular Reactor; Steering Committee Member 2007-2008
 Roadmapping Exercise for Plant Biotechnology – where and how to position SA in 5-10 years – for Department of Science and Technology; 2003-2004
 UCT Council; 1996-2002
 SA Genetic Engineering Committee (SAGENE); 1993-1998, Chair 1990-1992
 Grahamstown Foundation: Steering Committee of the National Festival of Science and Technology; 1996-2001
 South African Women in Science and Engineering (SAWISE) Co-founder and Chair 1993-2000
 Royal Society of South Africa; Council 2000-2004
 University Science, Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA); Regional Research Projects in Biotic and Abiotic Stress Co-ordinator 2002-2004
 Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf); Vice-President 1996-98; Council member 2004-2006
 South African Biotechnology Strategy drafting committee; Member 2001-2002
 SA Society for Microbiology; Executive Committee 1984-86; President 1988-90
 SA Biochemical Society; National Committee 1981-86; Vice President 1986
 SA Genetics Society; Executive Committee 1979-87

STUDENTS SUPERVISED, GRADUATED AND CURRENT POSITIONS

Ph D Students:

Mavis Henderson (1983)	Research Scientist, University of California, Berkeley, USA
Anne Bowcock (1984)	Professor, University of Texas, Dallas, USA
Michele Ramsay (1986)	Professor, University of the Witwatersrand
Valerie Corfield (1987)	Medical Scientist, South African Medical Research Council, Molecular and Cellular Biology Unit, Tygerberg, South Africa
Jocelyn Webster (1990)	Professor, University of Pretoria and past CEO AfricaBio
Long-Liu Lin (1992)	Researcher, Culture Collection & Research Center, Food Industry Research & Development Institute, Hsinchu, Taiwan
Wenyen Wang (1993)	Researcher, Pig Research Institute Taiwan, Department of Pathology, Chunan, Miaoli, Taiwan
Gerardo Herrera (1994)	Senior Researcher, University of Auckland, New Zealand
Andrew Hackland (1994)	Frontier Micropropagation Laboratory, Cape Town
Volker Mittendorf (1994)	Senior Scientist, BASF, USA
Gordon Brown (1996)	Professor, UCT Medical School
William Bourn (1996)	Senior Scientist, UCT Medical School
Wusi Chen (1996)	Senior Scientist, University of Florida, USA
Katrina Downing (1997)	Science Administrator, UCT Department of Molecular Biology
Caroline Haworth (1997)	Clinical Scientist, Central Public Health Laboratory, London, UK
Santie de Villiers (1999)	Senior Scientist, Biotechnology East and Central Africa, Kenya
Tichaona Mangwende (2001)	Senior Scientist, NEPAD
Wata Mpoloka (2001)	Lecturer, University of Botswana
Thabani Dube (2002)	Deceased
Dionne Shepherd (2003)	Research Scientist, UCT
Dahlia Garwe (2003)	Head, Biotechnology Division, Tobacco Research Board, Zimbabwe
Viviene Matiru (2004)	Head, Department of Microbiology, Jomo Kenyatta University for Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi
Shaheen Mowla (2005)	Senior Scientist, UCT Medical School
Kershini Govender (2006)	Post-doctoral fellow, University of Cape Town
Alice Maredza (2008)	Post-doctoral fellow, University of the Witwatersrand
Richard Okoth (2009)	Lecturer, Kenyatta University, Nairobi

M Sc Students:

16 by Dissertation

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The development of genetically modified maize resistant to the African endemic maize streak virus and tolerant to drought.

Books published:

Genes for Africa (UCT Press, 2002)

Seeds for the Future (CSIRO Press and Cornell University Press, 2006)

Food for Africa: the life and work of a scientist in GM crops (UCT Press, 2013)