

Dr E N Madela-Mntla

Edith is an academic and independent consultant on transdisciplinary research, health management, medicines regulatory affairs and Mental Health. She holds a Doctoral degree in Mental Health Nursing and a year course in Research Methodology from the University of Johannesburg (then RAU); a Certificate in Advanced Health Management from the University of Pretoria; a Diploma in Health Outcomes Research (Clinical Trials) composed of Modules in Evidence-Based Medicine, Pharmacoeconomics and Drug Pricing and Reimbursement Policy as well as a Certificate in Ethical Issues of Clinical Research, from the Vienna School of Clinical Research, Austria. She also holds a Senior Management Development Programme (SMDP) certificate from the University of Stellenbosch Business School, consisting of Strategic Management, Project Management, Human Resource Management, Accounting, and Marketing.



She has vast experience in South Africa's public health systems and policies, including research, as well as in the academic context. In 2017 she served as the Data Champion for the Gauteng Mental Health Relocation Project of the previous Life Esidimeni patients, in her capacity as consultant to the National Department of Health and thereafter was contracted to do a rapid assessment of Mental Health Services in the other provinces. From January 2011 to end of June 2016, she was the Regional Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU), heading its Regional Office for Africa (ROA), which has been hosted by the government of South Africa since 2005. In this capacity, she has accumulated a considerable amount of experience in global transdisciplinary research issues. In the main, she coordinated collaborative research activities and mobilized programme/project funding for 4 broad areas, across Africa, and with scientists from other continents: Global Environmental Change, particularly Climate Change and adaptation; Sustainable energy; Natural and Human-induced hazards and disasters; as well as Health and Human well-being. The main highlight of her previous role was driving the establishment of the Future Earth initiative (transdisciplinary research) in Africa, which has finally seen two coordinating offices being launched in two countries on the continent (S.A. and Rwanda). Prior to this role, she was the Executive Manager for Human Capital Management and Development of the South African Medical Research Council (2005 -2010), during which she also served as expert reviewer for research funding organisations at national and international levels. Was Director for Mental Health and Substance Abuse at the National Department of Health (1997 -2004), during which she pioneered the Deinstitutionalisation programme and formulated the accompanying Psychosocial Rehabilitation policy; lecturer in Departments of Family Medicine (post-grad) and Nursing (under-grad) at the then Medical University of Southern Africa (MEDUNSA) – 1995 – 1997; and worked as a Psychiatric Nurse Specialist both in a child and adolescent development institute (1993 - 1995) and a provincial tertiary hospital (1989 -1993).

Expert roles: She has been the Deputy Chair of the Clinical Trials Committee since 2005 and a member of the National Health Research Committee since 2010, which she currently chairs since 2017. She also served in the Joint Health-Education Technical Task Team of the Departments of Higher Education and Health for unbundling two public universities that were previously merged (Medical University of Southern Africa and University of the North), from 2012 -2014 – to form the institution now called the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU). Was a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) panel that developed the Consensus Report on Revitalising Clinical Research in South Africa (2009).

Current expert/consultancy roles

- Board member of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), which recently replaced the Medicines Control Council (MCC)
- Chair of the National Health Research Committee
- Chair of the African Traditional Medicines Working Group and member of the Working Group on Cannabis for Medicinal Use of SAHPRA.
- Member of the Health Intervention Task Team to assist the Gauteng Provincial Health Department to strengthen its health systems
- Part-time Senior Lecturer, Researcher and Project Manager at SMU,
- Technical Expert to the Council for Medical Scheme's panels for developing Prescribed Minimum Benefits.

International Level

Southern African Anglophone Steering committee member of the Initiative to Strengthen Health Research Capacity in Africa (**ISHReCA**), an Africa-led, Wellcome Trust-facilitated and TDR-supported initiative for sub-Saharan African countries to develop their own capacity to conduct health research while improving fragile health systems on the continent – established in 2007.

Served as an expert in the UNECA panel for Climate Change and Development. In this capacity, she served as ICSU's Regional representative at the Rio+20 conference in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, and also as a panelist in a series of events and conferences over a 3-year span, for Africa's preparation leading to the COP21 negotiations, coordinated by the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). She was mainly addressing the topic on Means of Implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals from a research and technology perspective. She has served as an expert in the UNECA panel for Climate Change and Development. In this capacity, she served as ICSU's Regional representative at the Rio+20 conference in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, and also as a panelist in a series of events and conferences over a 3-year span, for Africa's preparation leading to the COP21 negotiations, coordinated by the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). She was mainly addressing the topic on Means of Implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals from a research and technology perspective.

Since 2008 to date, she has served as reviewer and occasional Co-Chair for the Expert Review Committees of the European-Developing Country Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), for medicines regulatory and ethics capacity building grants.

She has been engaged in research at different stages of her 30 year career. She has published in peer reviewed journals, written book chapters, presented at national and international events and also chaired sessions at national and international conferences and events, including being speaker and convening panels. Most notably, she has presented and chaired sessions at various UNECA Climate Talks forums held in different African countries, and at the COP21 in Paris (2015).