



Unisa Library and Information Services

“Community over Commercialization”

Dr Nokuthula Mchunu

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Nokuthula Mchunu holds the position of Deputy Director at the African Open Science Platform, which is hosted by the National Research Foundation in South Africa. With a rich and diverse background, she brings a wealth of expertise to her role.

She has dedicated her career to bridging the gap between academia and local communities through outreach programmes, as well as promoting science and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) awareness. Her previous role was as a Senior Researcher at the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa within the Biotechnology Platform.

She holds a doctoral degree in fungal genomics, and her academic journey includes over 15 years as a Senior Scholar in the Department of Biotechnology at Durban University of Technology. Dr Mchunu's research has also taken her to various international institutions, including the University of Cincinnati (USA), Lund University (Sweden), Tianjin University (China), and the Centre for Chemical Biology (Malaysia). Notably, she is the inaugural recipient of the Young Scientist Programme, a collaboration between China and South Africa.

Her research interests are wide-ranging and encompass such critical areas as COVID and pathogen surveillance in wastewater, fungal genetics, cannabis and African legume genomics. Dr Mchunu's commitment to scientific exploration and community engagement has established her as a respected figure in the field, making significant contributions to both local and global research endeavours.