

BIO: Dr Michelle Mulder

Michelle is currently a Manager of Intellectual Property and Business Development at the Medical Research Council's Innovation Centre. Her position involves the strategic management and commercialization of IP developed in the MRC's research units, including the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative. She also plays an active role in capacity building in the areas of IP management and technology transfer in South Africa and has worked extensively with other organizations to build capacity in Southern and East Africa. Michelle has a doctorate in Medical Microbiology from the University of Cape Town and has post-doctoral experience in a start-up biotechnology company, based originally at the University of Cambridge, UK, where she gained hands-on experience in all aspects of the development of a biotechnology company from proof of concept to product launch. She has been consulting on biotechnology and IP management through her company Idea to Industry (I2I) since 2002, and played an active role in the Cape Biotechnology Initiative and the establishment of the Cape Biotech Trust Biotechnology Innovation Centre in South Africa. Michelle is also the Project Manager for 2 South African companies developing and commercializing a plant-based medicine for the treatment of gastro-intestinal disorders.

Michelle holds the position of President-Elect for the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) (previously Vice-President for Innovation and Technology Transfer) and served for 2 years as Chair of the Board of Acorn Technologies, a government-funded Life Sciences Incubator, and for 18 months on the Board of the South African Chapter of the Licensing Executive's Society, where she founded a local chapter of the Life Sciences Committee of LES International. She also served for 2 years on the Innovation Strategy Group for Higher Education South Africa (HESA).