About the contributors

Millicent Atujuna (PhD) is a Social Behavioural Scientist and Division Head at the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation. She is a Sociologist/Population Scientist with a focus on issues relating to social and behavioural aspects of health among adolescents. Her previous research has focused on adolescent perceived risk behaviour and HIV prevention; barriers to antiretroviral (ART) uptake, ART scale-up and its impact on human resources in public health facilities as well as the movement of skilled health care workers from South Africa to developed countries.

Yolande Baker is Executive Director of ChildSafe South Africa, at the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital. She has a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Manchester. Previous to ChildSafe, she has postings with UNICEF as a Child Protection Specialist in three different countries focusing on strengthening child protection systems to prevent violence against children. She uses her experience in her current focus on preventing unintentional injuries in children to raise awareness and include childhood injuries on the national child health agenda.

Sadna Balton is the Head of Department of Speech Therapy and Audiology at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital. She has her Masters in Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) and her PhD in Communication Pathology. She is a founding member of the Gauteng Early Childhood Intervention Workgroup and Chair of the Professional Board for Speech, Language and Hearing. She is also a part-time lecturer for the ECI Masters programme at the university of Pretoria. Her interests include capacity building in ECI of professionals working in the public sector, caregiver training, early communication intervention and paediatric dysphagia. She is committed to developing research in the public sector. She is involved in collaborative research looking at children’s participation.

Lesley Bamford works as a Technical Specialist in the Child, Youth and School Chief Health Directorate in the National Department of Health. Her work focuses on ensuring that mothers and children survive and thrive through strengthening delivery of maternal, newborn and child health services at community, primary health care and hospital levels. She is a Paediatrician and holds post-graduate degrees in African Studies and Public Health.

Adam Bertscher is a research assistant at RAND Europe, a research organisation based in Cambridge, United Kingdom. Prior to joining RAND Europe, Adam was a researcher at Health Systems Trust, a not-for-profit consultancy established to support the post-apartheid transformation of South Africa’s healthcare system. Adam’s expertise focuses on the health system, social policy evaluation, and the politics, global governance and international law of health policy. Adam holds a Master of Public Health degree in health systems; a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree in philosophy and psychology from the University of Cape Town, and a Bachelor or Arts (Honours) in psychology from the University of South Africa.

Maryke Bezuidenhout is a Physiotherapist with extensive experience providing rehabilitation services within a rural, under-served, public sector context. As a strong/committed advocate for disability rights, including the right to rehabilitation services, she co-founded Rural Rehab South Africa (RuReSA), and works with governmental, non-governmental and civil society organisations on provincial, national and international platforms to change policy and inequities in universal health care for people with disabilities and their families in low resource settings. Maryke was a Mail & Guardian’s 200 Young South Africans 2016 and RuReSA received an ASAIPA Award 2019 for their work in enhancing health care in rural communities.

Jane Booth worked as an Advanced Paediatric Clinical Nurse Practitioner (APCN) at Red Cross War Memonal Children’s Hospital (1984 – 2019). She was responsible for initiating and co-ordinating the Tracheostomy and Ventilation Home Care (TVCH) Programme (Breatheasy Programme). This programme is suited to our unique needs in South Africa. Jane works with the Child Nurse Practice Development Initiative at UCT. She is Senior Lecturer on the Masters’ Programme with the intention of sustainability of paediatric advanced practice nursing in Africa.

Jason Bantjes (PhD) is a practicing counselling Psychologist and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology at Stellenbosch University. He has previously served as the South African National Representative for the International Association for Suicide Prevention. His research interests include suicide prevention, mental health promotion and disability.

Debbie Bradshaw is the former Director of the South African Medical Research Council’s (SAMRC) Burden of Disease Research Unit that monitors health status and determinants and led the first National Burden of Disease Study, followed by a Comparative Risk Assessment. She trained as a biostatistician and moved into the field of epidemiology. She led the team that developed a rapid mortality surveillance system that identified the impact of HIV on mortality in South Africa and has continued to track high-level mortality indicators for the country. She has been a technical advisor to WHO and Government on health statistics and co-heads the WHO Family of International Classification (WHO-FIC) collaborating centre based at the SAMRC.

Elma Burger is the Deputy Director for Rehabilitation services at Gauteng Health Department (GDH) She has a Master of Science degree. She worked as an Occupational Therapist at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital prior to her appointment at the GDH. She has a keen interest in child health and especially early childhood intervention. She has initiated the early childhood intervention project in the GDH.
Witness Chirinda is a Specialist Scientist and Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Health Systems Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council. His research interests include maternal and child health research and programming, including prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), HIV interventions among adolescent girls and young women.

Sara Chitimbo is a freelance Communications Specialist working at Gun Free South Africa with experience working on social justice and change projects such as Intersexions, Zazi and Brothers for Life. As a storyteller, she is passionate about telling authentic, emotionally compelling stories that invoke empathy and curiosity. She is continually mastering her craft as a filmmaker and made her first short film as part of the National Film and Video Foundation Women Filmmakers project in 2018.

Lucie Cluver is a Professor at Oxford University and UCT. She works closely with a superb team of partners, postdoctoral, doctoral and master’s researchers. Together, they collaborate with the South African Government, UNICEF, USAID-PEPFAR and CDC, UNDR IAS, the World Health Organisation and Global Fund, and with other international NGOs, to provide evidence that can improve the lives of children and adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa.

Minette Coetzee is an Associate Professor in UCT’s Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital in Cape Town. She is the Founder and Director of a broad-based Practice Development Initiative, committed to postgraduate training of children’s nurses; education and clinical practice development establishing supportive systems in clinical care provision and children’s nursing education across sub-Saharan Africa; and a research programme contributing to policy and evidence-based practice in the region. Minette is committed to finding local best practice models and facilitating the design and implementation of curricula that facilitate learning in region- and purpose-fit children’s nursing curricula.

Vanessa Comley is a Paediatrician in private practice in Ballito, KwaZulu-Natal. Prior to this she worked at General Justice Gizenga Mpanza Hospital (formerly Stanger Hospital) for five years as a paediatrician. She is passionate about programme implementation and using health systems to improve and facilitate child-friendly health care services.

Berenece Daniels is the Director of Inclusive and Specialised Education Support in the Western Cape Education Department responsible for Specialised Support Services, Special Schools and the Care and Support Programme since 2011. Prior to this appointment, she has worked in district specialised support services. She was seconded to the National Department of Education, as a co-ordinator of the National Commission on Education Support Services and then as one of the writers of the Special Education consultative document. This led to the National Special Needs Education policy published in Education White Paper 6 in 2001, from which the SIAS policy emanates.

Aadielah Maker Diedericks has a Masters in Community Health from the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. She is a public health advocate with experience in developing and producing edutainment and multi-media interventions, training, social mobilisation and campaign management. She has worked in the civil society sector for over 25 years in the areas of sexual and reproductive health; HIV and AIDS; gender and alcohol. She managed the award-winning Soul Buddyzz programme and Soul City Phuza Wise campaign. She is currently coordinating the Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA) – a platform for civil society organisations across eight countries lobbying for health promoting evidence-based alcohol policies.

Sumaiyah Docrat is a Health Economist at the Alan J Flisher Centre for Public Mental Health, UCT. She has a Master of Public Health in Health Economics and is currently finalizing her PhD entitled “Economic Costs, Impacts and Financing Strategies for Mental Health in South Africa”. Over the past six years, Sumaiyah has been involved in a number of cross-country research programmes towards making the case for increased and improved investments in mental health systems in low- and middle-income countries. Her research interests include mental health financing; economic evaluations of the impact of inadequate and improved access to mental health care.

Tanya Doherty is a Chief Specialist Scientist in the Health Systems Research Unit, SAMRC, and has a PhD in Public Health. She is also an Honorary Professor in the Schools of Public Health at UWC and the University of the Witwatersrand where she teaches and supervises masters and doctoral students. Her research focus is child health and nutrition especially primary care and community-based interventions.

Catherine Draper is a Senior Researcher at the MRC/Wits Developmental Pathways for Health Research Unit and holds a PhD in Public Health from UCT. Her research interests include the development and evaluation of community-based health promotion interventions, with a particular focus on physical activity and preschool and school-based interventions to promote healthy lifestyle behaviours. She is also a member of the International Society of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity, and the International Society for Physical Activity and Health.

Sibabalwe Gcilitshana is a Parliamentary Officer and Researcher at Equal Education. Sibabalwe has previously worked at the Parliamentary Monitoring Group, volunteered at the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre and interned with Weights and Measures, a traveling art project about international criminal justice by artist Bradley McCallum. Sibabalwe holds a degree in Economics and International Relations and an Honour’s degree in Transitional Justice from UCT. She is interested in social justice activism, post-conflict justice and using policy and budget advocacy to effect change.
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Katharine Hall is a Senior Researcher at the Children’s Institute, University of Cape Town. She has a PhD in Development Theory and Policy from the University of the Witwatersrand and a Masters in Sociology from UCT. Her work is mainly in the area of child poverty, inequality, migration and related social policy. She coordinates the institute’s Children Count project which monitors the situation of children in South Africa. She is a member of the standing committee of the International Society for Child Indicators and serves on UCT’s cross-faculty Poverty and Inequality Initiative.

Zita Hansungule is the Project Co-ordinator for the Centre for Child’s Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit. The Centre for Child Law is an impact litigation law clinic based at the University of Pretoria. Zita obtained her Masters in Child Law in 2016 and is currently reading for her Doctorate in Child Law. In 2016, she had the opportunity to be a researcher in the Constitutional Court under the mentorship of Justice Bess Nkabinde. Recently, Zita has been responsible for co-ordinating the children’s rights sector’s engagements with international and regional human rights treaty bodies.

Michael Hendricks is a Specialist Paediatrician who holds a joint position with the Department of Health in the Western Cape and UCT. He is an Associate Professor within the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at UCT. He is a convenor of the Postgraduate Diploma in Community and General Paediatrics and is engaged in undergraduate training of medical students in paediatrics. He is the District Paediatrician in the western part of the Cape Town Metropolitan area (Metro West). His research interests are child health, general paediatrics and public health nutrition.

Mark Heywood is a writer and social justice activist. He is a former Director of the AIDS Law Project (1997 – 2010) and co-founder of the Treatment Action Campaign (1998) and SECTION27 (2010). He is currently the Editor of Maverick Citizen, a section of the Daily Maverick. He is also pursuing research into the influence of socio-economic rights on economic and fiscal policy and in late 2019 was a Research Visitor at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at Oxford University.

Rebecca Hodes is a Medical Historian, with a Master of Science degree in the History of Medicine, Science and Technology, and a DPhil in the History of Medicine and African Studies from Oxford University. She is the Director of the AIDS and Society Research Unit at UCT. Hodes is the co-principal Investigator of the Mzantsi Wakho research study, about the health of adolescents in post-apartheid South Africa, and a co-investigator of the HEY BABY study, about the health and social needs of adolescent parents. Hodes is the principal author of South Africa’s National Adolescent and Youth Health Policy (2017).

Karen Hofman is the Director of SAMRC/Centre for Health Economics and Decision Science – PRICELESS SA, based at the Wits School of Public Health. She graduated from Wits and is a qualified Paediatrician. She was on faculty at Johns Hopkins and subsequently Director of Policy and Planning at the Fogarty International Center, U.S., National Institutes of Health (NIH). The mission of PRICELESS is to perform analyses that show policymakers where to expect a good return on investment for health. Significant PRICELESS research that will affect life expectancy in South Africa are regulations on the salt content of processed food in 2016 and legislation on a sugary beverage tax in 2018. An author of more than 100 journal manuscripts and chapters, Karen has been a member of several ministerial task teams and national health committees and regularly engages with the media. She also is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAF). In 2016, she received the public Health Association of South Africa Annual Award.

Simone Honikman is the Founding Director of the 17-year old Perinatal Mental Health Project (www.pmhp.za.org) based at the Centre for Public Mental Health, UCT. She is a medical doctor with a Masters in Maternal and Child Health. She received the international Ashoka Fellowship for Social Entrepreneurship, designs and conducts training for a wide range of health care and social service providers and consults for health policy and programme processes within South Africa and other low- and middle-income countries. Her research interests include systems strengthening for integrating mental health care into routine services for mothers.

Xanthe Hunt is a Researcher at the Institute for Life Course Health Research at Stellenbosch University and a Consultant to WHO’s Department of Mental Health and Substance Use. Xanthe has a PhD in Psychology and has worked for the past five years in the fields of disability studies, maternal and child health and implementation science in public health. Her research interests include violence against women with disabilities, the role of caregiving in child development, and eco-systemic and life course approaches to mental health. Her current projects have a focus on children with developmental disorders, as well as measurement in child development.

Lucy Jamieson is a Senior Researcher at the Children’s Institute, University of Cape Town. She leads and contributes to a variety of Children’s Institute’s research projects and works to ensure that the research findings contribute to the development of laws, policies and practices that affect children. She is currently 164 South African Child Gauge 2018 working on an international project to develop indicators for children’s participation in child protection systems and leading an action-research pilot to improve intersectoral coordination in the South African child protection system through multidisciplinary case management.
Shuaib Kauchali is currently working with the National Department of Health as Newborn, Child Health and Nutrition Specialist Advisor. He is a Paediatrician and Epidemiologist with special interest in implementation science to improve quality of care and outcomes of the maternal and child population. He works closely with the programme managers at national and provincial levels to translate “what we know works” into “how these interventions yield results and impact.”

Florian Kroll conducts research on the structural and discursive drivers of urban food insecurity and malnutrition, working with the University of the Western Cape (UWC) School of Public Health, the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), and the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence on Food Security (CoE-FS). He has collaborated with officials, academia and civil society in Johannesburg and Cape Town and is a convenor of communities of practice on food governance in the Western Cape and Gauteng, developing platforms for multi-stakeholder dialogue on food politics. He is currently working towards his PhD on the metropolitan biopolitics of food in South Africa.

Max Kroon is a Pediatrician in the Neonatal Service at Mowbray Maternity Hospital, and a Senior Lecturer in the Division of Neonatal Medicine at UCT for the past 20 years. He has a longstanding interest in Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, infant feeding in the context of HIV, milk banking and breastfeeding advocacy.

Lori Lake is an editor of the 2019 Child Gauge, and Communications and Education Specialist at the Children’s Institute, University of Cape Town. She plays a central role in the production of the annual South African Child Gauge and specialises in making complex ideas accessible to a wider audience of policymakers, practitioners and children. Lori is Chair of the advocacy committee in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, and a convenor of the CI’s child rights courses for health and allied professionals. She is an anthropologist by training and is currently completing her Masters in Higher Education.

Christina Laurenzi is a Researcher at the Institute for Life Course Health Research, and a doctoral candidate in the Department of Psychology, at Stellenbosch University. She has worked on research projects focused on community health worker programmes, adolescent mental health, early childhood development, and programme implementation, collaborating with local and international universities, non-governmental organisations and international agencies. She holds degrees from the University of Oxford (Master of Science in African Studies) and Princeton University (Bachelor of Arts in Politics, Global Health and Health Policy).

Tim Lloyd is an Attorney in the Pollution and Climate Change Programme at the Centre for Environmental Rights (CER). He holds an LLB from the University of Witwatersrand and an LLM in Global Environment and Climate Change Law from the University of Edinburgh. Prior to joining the CER, Tim served as a Law Clerk and Researcher to Justice Bess Nkabinde at the Constitutional Court of South Africa. Through the implementation and enforcement of South Africa’s air pollution and climate change laws, his aim is to protect and fulfil various constitutional rights.

Leslie London is Chair of Public Health Medicine in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine at UCT and heads the Division of Public Health Medicine. He is an active researcher in Occupational and Environmental Health and leads the Health and Human Rights Programme in the school. He has served on national and international committees dealing with ethics and human rights and is active in the People’s Health Movement South Africa. He believes health professionals should be advocates for human rights and social justice.

Kopano Matlwa Mabaso is the Executive Director of the Grow Great Campaign – a campaign that seeks to galvanize South Africa to zero-stunting by 2030. Kopano is a medical doctor by training, with a special interest in public health. She is a Rhodes Scholar and an alumnus of the University of Oxford where she gained both her Masters in Global Health Science and DPhil (PhD) in Population Health. Kopano has received a number of accolades for her work as a social entrepreneur, including the first ever Aspen Idea Award, Aspen New Voices Fellowship and Tutu Fellowship. Kopano is also an award-winning novelist and her three novels have been published in a number of languages across the world.

Catherine Mathews is Director at the Health Systems Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council. She is also an Honorary Associate Professor and Co-Director in the Adolescent Health Research Unit, Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, University of Cape Town. Her research interests include promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights among adolescents and other populations such as people diagnosed with STI/HIV.

Shanaaz Mathews is the Director at the Children’s Institute, UCT, and has a PhD in Public Health. Prior to this appointment she was a Specialist Scientist for the Gender and Health Research Unit of the Medical Research Council for 11 years. Her research interests include violence against women and children, as well as pathways to violent masculinities using both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Her current research projects have a focus on programme evaluation and strengthening child protection systems.

Roné McFarlane is the Co-Head of Research at Equal Education (EE), where she conducts research and policy analysis and advocates for equality in education. She holds a Master of Science degree in Comparative and International Education from Oxford University, which she obtained as a Chevening Scholar. Before joining EE, Roné worked as a Research Advisor to Cambridge University’s Faculty of Education and interned at the BBC in London. Her research interests include education policy and reform; school governance and school violence.

Neil McKerrow is the Provincial Specialist and Head: of Paediatrics and Child Health in the KwaZulu-Natal Department of
Health and Honorary Specialist in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at both the University of KwaZulu-Natal and UCT. He chairs the ministerial advisory committee on morbidity and mortality in children under-5 years (CoMMC) and is co-chair of a WHO technical advisory committee on Child Health Accountability and Tracking (CHAT). His interests are social paediatrics, child health and strengthening health systems for children.

Michelle Meiring is the CEO of Paedspal, an NGO providing paediatric palliative care services to children in Cape Town. She is also the Chairperson of PatchSA – a national paediatric palliative care network and the convener of the Postgraduate Diploma in Palliative Medicine (paediatric stream) at UCT. Michelle is a passionate child health advocate and has been involved in advocacy work her whole career starting with issues around Paediatric HIV and adoptions and now focusing on paediatric palliative care. She enjoys teaching and speaks regularly at local and international conferences.

Zweli Lawrence Mkhize was appointed as the Minister of Health on 29 May 2019 and has a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) degree from the University of Natal. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs from 27 February 2018 to 25 May 2019. In 1991 he began serving the ANC as a member of its National Health Secretariat – the structure that was tasked with the responsibility of developing the country’s health policy. At the start of the democratic dispensation, he was appointed as the MEC for Health in KwaZulu-Natal – a position he held for a decade. He was the longest serving provincial health MEC in the country.

Tshepo Motsepe is the First Lady of South Africa, married to President Cyril Ramaphosa. She qualified as a medical doctor from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and has a Masters in Maternal Child Health and Aging from the Harvard School of Public Health. She has worked as a doctor in hospitals and clinics in South Africa and Zimbabwe, as well as with the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute – a leading African research institute focusing on sexual, reproductive health and HIV research. She has served as chairperson of the Gauteng Health Department’s Accreditation Committee and currently serves as patron of the South African Civil Society for Women’s, Adolescents’ and Children’s Health (SACSoWACH). She also chairs the African Self Help Trust, focusing on Early Childhood Development and Education.

Nadine Nanan holds masters degrees in Molecular Biology and Medical Demography. Her doctoral thesis investigated alternative approaches for measuring childhood mortality in resource-limited settings using South Africa as a case study. She is a Specialist Scientist and has worked with SAMRC as a Demographer in the Burden of Disease Research Unit since 1996. Her research interests include the measurement of and differentials in childhood mortality, burden of disease assessment and inequalities in health.

Vuyisile H Ncube is a Candidate Attorney at the Centre for Human Rights. She completed her studies at UCT and holds an LLB and will graduate in December 2019 with an LLM (with distinction). She completed her dissertation with the NRF SARChI Research Chair: Mineral Law in Africa and her topic considers whether the African Mining Vision contains any lessons for South Africa’s Social and Labour Plan System. Her research interests include ways to promote environmental and social justice using South Africa’s mineral law and policy.

Aurelie Nelson studied medicine at Oxford University, after completing a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology at McGill University. After qualifying as a doctor in 2008, she came to South Africa in 2010 where she worked in hospitals in KwaZulu Natal and the Western Cape, while completing further training in Obstetrics and HIV. She joined Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in 2014 as Maternal and Child Health Manager in Khayelitsha, where MSF runs a long-standing HIV and drug-resistant TB project. In Khayelitsha, she helped develop and pilot several maternal and child health related initiatives, including Early Infant Diagnosis, PrEP, Youth Clubs and Postnatal Clubs. Aurelie is currently MSF’s Deputy Medical Coordinator providing support to MSF’s four projects which focus on increasing access to health care for people living with HIV and TB, survivors of sexual violence and migrants and refugees.

Shane Norris is a Research Professor and Director at the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence of Human Development and SAMRC - Wits Developmental Pathways for Health Research Unit at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and has a PhD in Physiology. He is an elected Fellow of the Academy of Science of South Africa, and President of the Africa Chapter of the International Society of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease. Shane’s research expertise is in life course nutrition and epidemiology.

Natasha North is the Research Programme Director for the Child Nurse Practice Development Initiative in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at UCT. Natasha qualified as a nurse in the United Kingdom, before a deepening interest in health policy led her to work in national policy development in the United Kingdom, before moving with her family to Cape Town in 2014. Natasha’s main areas of interest is specialist nursing workforce development, and she is currently working towards a PhD looking at the development of a process for stakeholder engaged children’s nursing workforce planning for high-need, lower-resourced Primary Health Care systems.

Paula Proudlock is a Senior Legal Researcher at the Children’s Institute, University of Cape Town, with an LLM in Constitutional and Administrative Law. She specialises in research, advocacy and education on human rights with a speciality in children’s socio-economic rights. Paula has led several civil society law and budget reform campaigns in relation to improving social assistance and protection services for children and is currently leading a project aimed at addressing the crisis in the foster care system that requires amendments to two national laws.
Thandi Puoane is a Professor Emeritus at the School of Public Health, UWC. She has a nursing background and teaching experience at UWC and the University of California Berkeley. Areas of specialization are nutrition, child health and monitoring and evaluation of programmes. Research areas include nutrition, obesity and risk factors for chronic non-communicable diseases. She has experience in working with Community Health Workers in the development and implementing community-based intervention programs for prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. She has written several book chapters and has published widely in local and international peer-reviewed journals. She has a C2 rated scientist by the National Research Foundation.

Vundli Ramokolo is an Epidemiologist employed as a Specialist Scientist at the SAMRC Health Systems Research Unit. She holds a Master of Public Health (Epidemiology) degree from UCT and a doctorate from the University of Bergen, Norway. Her research interests include the interactions between malnutrition and communicable and non-communicable disease over the life course and inequalities and health. She is an investigator in projects assessing health outcomes of HIV-exposed and -unexposed children and a birth cohort measuring the link between the Child Support Grant and dietary diversity and child growth.

Louis Reynolds is a retired Paediatrician. As a health and human rights activist, he champions the Comprehensive Primary Health Care approach embodied in the Declaration of Alma Ata. He is a member of the People’s Health Movement, serving as chair in 2014. From 1987 to 1994 he served on the national executive committee of the National Progressive Primary Health Care Network. His hobby is photography.

Natasha Rhoda is the Head of Department of Neonatology, UCT. She registered for her PhD at UCT in March 2019. She joined the NIHR Global Health Research Group on Preterm Birth Prevention and Management (PRIME) at the University of Sheffield in January 2019 as the neonatal specialist for South African research. She is the PI for the Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) and Delayed Cord Clamping (DCC) studies conducted at hospitals on the neonatal platform. Her interests are neonatal policy and planning and bridging the gap between hospital care and community care of neonates.

Laetitia Rispel holds a Department of Science and Innovation/ National Research Foundation Research Chair on the health workforce and is a Professor of Public Health at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Her research interests are human resources for health, quality of care, performance of the health care system; and the intersection of these with the social determinants of health. She is the current president of the World Federation of Public Health Associations.

Hanna-Andrea Rother is a Professor and Head of the Environmental Health Division, School of Public Health and Family Medicine at UCT. Research interests include environmental health risk factors, especially related to children, climate change and chemicals. Her current projects include a large household survey in Cape Town’s townships characterizing pest infestation, pest control measures and impacts on children’s health; developing and evaluating risk communication materials for low-literate populations; and a systematic review of children’s mental health and extreme weather events.

Gillian Saloojee is a paediatric physiotherapist and founder of Malamulele Onward, a non-profit organization working with children with cerebral palsy and their families in resource-constrained settings (www.cpchildren.org).

Haroon Saloojee is a Personal Professor and Head of the Division of Community Paediatrics at UWC, Johannesburg, and a clinical unit head at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital in Soweto. His areas of interest include health systems organisation and programme management, child nutrition and neonatal care.

Winnie Sambu is an Independent Researcher and PhD student at UCT. She was previously with the Children’s Institute as a Research Officer. Winnie has two masters degrees in Economics (UWC) and Development Management (Ruhr-Universität Bochum). She has over seven years’ experience in research on socio-economic issues affecting households. She has worked with household survey data from Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia. She is one of the authors of the South African Early Childhood Review, a statistical publication that provides a snapshot of the situation of very young children and their caregivers.

David Sanders, an emeritus professor and founding director of the School of Public Health at the University of the Western Cape, was an editor of the 2019 Child Gauge. He was a paediatrician and public health specialist with over 35 years’ experience of health policy and programme development, research and teaching in Zimbabwe and South Africa, having advised governments and United Nations (UN) agencies and published extensively on primary health care (PHC), child health and nutrition. He was an Honorary Professor in Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Cape Town (UCT) and received an Honorary Doctorate from UCT for his contribution to the global PHC policy. He received the Nutrition Society of South Africa award in 2002, and the Public Health Innovation and Lifetime Achievement Award of the Public Health Association of South Africa in 2014. He served on the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition, and the Knowledge Network on Globalisation of the World Health Organisation Commission on Social Determinants of Health. He was co-chair of the Global Steering Council of People’s Health Movement, and a founding board member of Tekano, Health Equity South Africa and is sorely missed.

Hopolong Selebalo is an activist and currently employed as the Co-Head of Research at Equal Education. Prior to this role, Hopolong was the Senior Researcher and Project Manager for the Socio-Economic Rights Monitoring programme at the Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute. Her research interests include education financing and education policy.

Maylene Shung-King is an Associate Professor in the Health Policy and Systems Division of the School of Public Health and Family Medicine at the University of Cape Town and has a DPhil (Oxon) in Social Policy. She previously worked as Deputy- and Acting Director of the Children’s Institute at the University of...
Cape Town for 10 years. Her passion for child health remains and she currently is involved in a multi-country research network focusing on determinants of NCDs in adolescents, in Africa and the Caribbean. She convenes a post-graduate Diploma in Health Leadership, thus contributing to health systems strengthening through leadership capacity development.

Sarah Skeen is the Co-Director of the Institute for Life Course Health Research, Department of Global Health, Stellenbosch University. Her research interests relate to child and adolescent health and development in contexts of adversity, with a particular focus on community-based interventions for adolescent mental health, well-being of children affected by HIV/AIDS and early childhood development. She is currently a consultant to WHO and UNICEF in adolescent mental health.

Wiedaad Slemming (MPH, PhD) is a Senior Lecturer in the Division of Community Paediatrics at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her range of professional and research interests and expertise include child health, early childhood development (ECD), early childhood intervention (ECI), childhood disability and health systems strengthening. She has extensive clinical and programmatic experience in these areas, as well as in the planning, development, implementation and review of related programmes and policies, both in South Africa and internationally. She currently serves on various technical working groups and steering committees for child health, ECD, ECI and disability.

Rina Swart is from the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition at UWC and also serves as the Nutrition Programme Leader within the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security. She is a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist with a PhD in Public Health. Her area of specialization is in Public Health Nutrition with a focus on the prevention of all forms of malnutrition through nutrition policies and programmes as well as the evaluation of such policies and programmes.

Mariame Sylla is the Chief of Health, HIV/AIDS and Nutrition at UNICEF South Africa Country Office. She has previously served in various capacities at UNICEF offices including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, the Regional Office for West and Central Africa in Senegal and the organization’s New York Headquarters. Before joining UNICEF in 2002, she worked in Guinea as a Medical Doctor and Technical Advisor at the Conakry City Health Directorate, and served as a Global Health Fellow for WHO’s Global Programme on Evidence for Health Policy in Geneva, Switzerland. A national of Guinea, she holds a medical degree from the University of Conakry and a Masters in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

Mark Tomlinson is the co-Director of the Institute for Life Course Health Research in the Department of Global Health at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. His scholarly work has involved a diverse range of topics that have in common an interest in factors that contribute to compromised maternal health, to understanding child and adolescent development in contexts of high adversity, and how to develop effective intervention programmes. He was elected as a member of the Academy of Science in South Africa in 2017. He has published 250 papers in peer-reviewed journals, edited two books and published numerous chapters.

Elona Toska is a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Social Science Research and Associate Lecturer at the Department of Sociology, UCT. She has a PhD in Social Intervention from the University of Oxford. Her work and research over the last 14 years has focused on HIV prevention among vulnerable populations, the health and well-being of adolescents living with HIV, and adolescent mothers and their children. Elona’s research aims to unpack pathways to resilience and adversity for adolescents in resource-limited settings, particularly with regards to their sexual and reproductive health.

Lungiswa Tsolekile is a Lecturer at the School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape, and has a PhD in Public Health. She has a nutrition background. Her research includes primary prevention and control chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in disadvantaged communities, as well as obesity in adults and children. Furthermore, she has an interest in the use of the community health worker model to prevent and manage NCDs through motivational interviewing. She has published in local and international peer-reviewed journals.

Aviva Tugendhaft is a senior researcher and strategic advisor at the South African Medical Research Council/Wits Centre for Health Economics and Decision Science, PRICELESS SA, a research-to-policy unit at the Wits School of Public Health. Prior to joining PRICELESS, she worked in the NGO and public health sector space where she was involved in programme and policy development. She also worked in the private sector where she developed workplace wellness programmes. Aviva has a Masters in Health Sociology and is pursuing a PhD focused on applying tools to engage the public in priority setting for health in SA.

Gabriel Urgoiti is a medical doctor working in the field of child health, child participation and health communication. He was a founding member of two of South Africa’s first community radio stations, Radio Zibonele and Bush Radio, and was involved in the birth and growth of the community radio sector in Southern Africa. He was a founding member and first Director of the NPPHCN Media Training Centre. He has extensive experience in working with children, using child-centred methodologies and media as a vehicle for children to tell their stories. Gabriel is the founder and station manager of RX Radio at Red Cross Children’s Hospital.

Ashley van Niekerk is the Deputy Director of the South African Medical Research Council - University of South Africa’s Violence, Injury and Peace Research Unit. He has a PhD in Social Medicine from the Karolinska Institute. His research portfolio is embedded within critical socio-psychological and public health understandings of the multi-layered nature of injury, its causation and prevention. He has long-standing interests in unintentional injury and child safety, especially burns, with recent work also including road traffic and drowning injury prevention.
Catherine L. Ward is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. She is interested in violence prevention from the perspective of children’s development, and particularly in public health approaches to this. Much of her current work is focused on preventing child maltreatment. In line with this, she is one of the developers of the Parenting for Lifelong Health suite of programmes that aim to support parents to raise non-violent children in non-violent homes.

Fiona Ward is a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Specialist in UNICEF’s Headquarters in New York, with a special focus on the impact of water scarcity and climate change, and how these impact children’s access to water and sanitation, and the practice of key hygiene behaviours. Her background is in Hydrogeology and she has a keen interest in water conservation and ensuring equitable access to water. Prior to her move to New York, she worked for four years on UNICEF’s Emergency Response Programme in Jordan, and has also worked in Bangladesh, Haiti, Kenya, Sudan, Ghana and Nigeria.

Tony Westwood is a Paediatrician. In the 10 years up to his recent retirement he led paediatric services at New Somerset Hospital in Cape Town. He chaired the Western Cape Department of Health’s provincial committee on paediatrics and child health for 15 years. He is currently leading a project to develop child health post-graduate education at UCT.

Sanjay Wijesekera is the Representative of UNICEF in South Africa since August 2018. Sanjay joined UNICEF in October 2011 as the Global Chief of UNICEF’s Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programmes and has previously worked in Nigeria, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Rwanda and South Africa on various water and sanitation programmes. Mr Wijesekera, a national of Sri Lanka, is a Chartered Civil Engineer and holds a Masters in Water and Environmental Management from the University of Loughborough, UK.

Chantell Witten is a Senior Lecturer and a PhD candidate in the Centre of Excellence for Nutrition at the North West University. Chantell has worked in the field of nutrition for the last 20 years and her focus of interest and research is in the field of infant and young child feeding. Chantell serves as the Nutrition Lead for the South African Civil Society for Women’s, Adolescents’ and Children’s Health (SACSoWACH). Before joining North West University, Chantell served as the Nutrition Specialist for UNICEF South Africa.

Wanga Zembe-Mkabile is a Specialist Scientist at SAMRC. She has a DPhil in Social Policy from the University of Oxford. Her main interests are research and teaching in social policy, specifically as this relates to poverty, inequality, health and well-being.