



Dr Michelle Groome – Biosketch

Dr Michelle Groome is a medical doctor, infectious disease epidemiologist and a passionate advocate for vaccines as an effective way of reducing the impact of infectious diseases.

She has more than 18 years' experience in the field of infectious diseases and vaccinology, including conduct of clinical vaccine trials, respiratory and diarrhoeal disease surveillance programmes and observational studies assessing vaccine impact, effectiveness, immunogenicity and safety in South Africa.

She is currently a Principal Researcher in Epidemiology at Wits-VIDA. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she was the Head of the Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases and played a key role in South Africa's response to the pandemic at a national level.

Dr Groome obtained her MBBCh from the University of the Witwatersrand and has a Diploma in Child Health. She obtained a Master of Science in Medicine (in the field Epidemiology and Biostatistics) and a PhD in Public Health from the University of the Witwatersrand. She holds a joint appointment as Senior Researcher, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, where she lectures and supervises post-graduate students. She has a keen interest in research ethics and serves as an expert protocol reviewer for the Human Research Ethics Committee (Medical) at Wits.

She has over 100 publications in local and international peer-reviewed journals and regularly presents at local and international conferences. She has received several awards including the Emerging Global Leader Award from the Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health (2016), and the South African Medical Research Council Scientific Merit Award (2017). She currently has a South African National Research Foundation C1 rating.