

## Board of Trustees

### Chairman

Professor Denis Viljoen is the founding member of FARR and became the CEO of FARR after retiring as Professor and Head of Department of Human Genetics at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Prof Viljoen now serves as FARR's Chairman of the Board of Directors, and although officially retired, he is actively involved in most of FARR's projects and programmes. He is known as the 'Father of FAS' in South Africa due to his tireless efforts in ensuring that FASD remains highlighted within various governmental departments and the liquor industry. He is passionate about ensuring that the high FASD prevalence rates are reduced in South Africa.



Previous appointments and involvements: Deputy Chairman of the South African National Task Group for Genetic Services, Chairperson of the South African Society of Human Genetics (\*SASHG), Scientific Advisory Committee Member of the Retinal Preservation Foundation.

Current appointments and involvements: Scientific Committee Member of Pseudoxanthoma Elasticum (PXE) International, Advisor to South African Department of Health on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Member of the Medical Advisory Board for NOFAS UK, Extraordinary Professor at the Department of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics – Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Stellenbosch, Honorary Professor of Department of Human Genetics – Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand.

Prof Viljoen now spends his free time playing golf, fishing and watching as much sport as he can. In addition, he is a doting grandfather to his 3 granddaughters.

To see Prof Viljoen's publication list, please click [here](#).

### CEO

Leana Olivier has a background in nursing and psychology and joined FARR in 2006. In her previous position as a senior Provincial Health Manager at the Department of Health she was the Provincial Manager of the Maternal, Child and Woman's Health Programme and was actively involved in the field of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome since the first work in this regard started in South Africa. She serves on a number of international and national boards, advisory groups and committees pertaining to substance abuse, early childhood development, research, policy and programme development.

Leana is passionate about travel. When on leave, you will find her travelling to remote corners of the world, finding out more about different cultures, food, and countries.



### Board Member – Emeritus Professor “JP” van Niekerk

Emeritus Professor 'JP' van Niekerk is the Managing Editor of the HMPG that publishes the South African Medical Journal and several specialist medical journals. He is a former Dean of the UCT Faculty of Health Sciences where he first became involved with FARR.

Other appointments include: Past President of the South African Medical Association; Health Professions Council (1990-2004); President of the Association of Medical Schools of Africa; Executive Council of the World Federation for Medical Education, and Chairman of the Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa (1993-2006).

He represented the Free State and Western Province, and in the veteran category South Africa, at squash.



### **Board Member – Adrian Botha**

Adrian Botha is currently a consultant to the Industry’s Association for Responsible Alcohol Use (ARA) and carries the title of Director of the Association. He is a founding member of ARA and has been associated with ARA since its inception. Adrian was part of the team that agreed to fund the establishment of FARR in 1996 and has been a great supporter of the Foundation’s work ever since.

Adrian loves Jazz and is an accomplished guitar player.



### **Board Member – Dr Louisa Bhengu**

Dr Louisa Bhengu is a specialist paediatrician and a clinical geneticist. At present she is employed by NHLS Central (NGO), School of Pathology, Wits, Johannesburg, Department of Human Genetics as a senior consultant in the Clinical Unit. She joined FARR in 2009 as a new board member. Louisa worked with Prof Viljoen whilst he was the Head of Department at NHLS from 2000 until 2006 when he retired. During that time she was actively involved in FASD research done in the Gauteng and Northern Cape. As part of her Masters Degree in Genetic Counselling, Louisa assessed the photogrammetric (videometric) method and clinical method for diagnosing/screening FAS/FASD in children.

Louisa is a Christian and is actively involved in preaching, teaching and motivational speaking. She is also a member of a Christian Tourist Club for church members and organiser of holiday getaways.



### **Board Member – Dr Michael Urban**

Dr Michael Urban is the Head of Clinical Genetics at Stellenbosch University and Tygerberg Academic Hospital. He runs a busy clinical service which covers the range of birth defects and genetic disorders in childhood, pregnancy and adulthood. The Tygerberg team comprises clinical geneticists and genetic counselors as well as trainees in both disciplines. It is a growing and dynamic group committed to the clinical care, counselling and support of patients and their families. His research interests relate to the delivery of genetic health services.

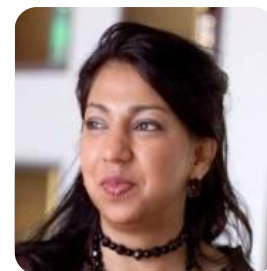
Mike is a proud member of a beautiful non-racial family, and is committed to growing a ‘broad South Africanism’ that respects and cherishes every member of our society.



### **Board Member – Ms Asyia Sheik**

Ms Asyia Sheik is currently Head of Public Policy and Strategy at Brandhouse Beverages Pty (Ltd). She is a lawyer by training and has worked in various corporate organizations and for the Canadian International Development Agency.

In September 2011 Asyia became the proud mother of a son, Aiden.



## FARR Associates

- Dr Matthew Chersich – Epidemiologist and Associate Professor at the Centre for Health Policy in the School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand
- Prof Tania Douglas - Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Cape Town. She holds degrees in electrical/electronic engineering and biomedical engineering. She is the Director of the MRC/UCT Medical Imaging Research Unit, which focuses on using imaging and image analysis tools to address local health challenges. Her work with FARR involves stereo-photogrammetry and facial shape analysis to detect features associated with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.
- Dr Tinashe Mutsvanga - Tinashe is a postdoctoral fellow in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Cape Town. He has an Electrical (Bachelor level) and Biomedical Engineering (Master's and Doctoral level) background. The focus of his postgraduate work has been in the development of facial shape analysis techniques for assisting in Fetal Alcohol Syndrome diagnosis. This has involved a significant amount of fieldwork with FARR over the past five years. Currently Tinashe is focused on further developing, a computer assisted diagnostic platform for FAS based on the facial features of affected individuals. In his spare time Tinashe likes to compose electronic music and is an avid reader.

## FARR Staff

- Ms Angeliqwe Rossouw: Financial Director
- Ms Lian Drotsky – Area Manager Northern Cape and Occupational Therapist, specializing in children with special needs
- Ms Yumna Martin - Project Manager, Social Worker and Substance Abuse Counsellor
- Mr Lebo Khusu – Data Capturer
- Ms Safia Abrahams – Admin Officer
- Ms Zola Japhta – General Assistant
- Ms Annelize Esau – De Aar Community Worker
- Ms Lena Rooi – De Aar Community Worker
- Ms Ages Pitja – De Aar Cook & Child Minder
- Ms Marica Du Toit – Prins Alfred’s Hamlet Project Coordinator and Professional Nurse specialising in Primary Health Care
- Ms Wilma Willemse – Prins Alfred’s Hamlet Community Worker
- Ms Fumane Mpiti – Prins Alfred’s Hamlet Community Worker