



Heidi Abrahamse, PhD
Journal Senior Editor to WALT 2014 -

Current academic position: Director of the Laser Research Centre, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

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Prof. Heidi Abrahamse BSc (RAU), BSc Honours (Biochemistry and Psychology; US, UNISA), MSc (Medical Biochemistry; US), PhD (Molecular biology/Biochemistry; Wits University), Executive Leadership (Gibs, UP) is currently the Director of the Laser Research Centre in the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Johannesburg. Her research interests include, photobiology and photochemistry with specific reference to photodynamic cancer therapy, stem cell differentiation and wound healing. She has supervised 28 Hons; 37 masters; 11 doctorates and 7 post-doctorate fellows. Prof Abrahamse has acted as external examiner for master dissertations and doctorate theses from national and international universities. She has successfully applied for several external grant applications including, NRF, MRC, ALC, NLC, DST and CANSA. She has hosted 2 international conferences, World Association for Laser Therapy in 2008 and Photodynamic therapy conference in 2012 supported by the DST SA/Germany year of science and was the president of WALT for 2010 to 2012. Her publication record is impressive with more than 75 peer reviewed accredited journal publications, 38 accredited conference proceedings and 10 chapters. She is currently a C2 NRF rated scientist with a Google scholar H-index of 18; Scopus H-index of 16 and a ResearchGate score of 30 and serves on the editorial boards of 8 peer-reviewed internationally accredited journals while acting as reviewer for 34 journals. She has acted as external and panel reviewer for external funding bodies and grants of the Medical Research Council; National Research Foundation Focus Area; DST Innovation Fund; CSIR NLC Rental Pool; National Research Foundation Thuthuka; Competitive; Unrated; SarCHI; Bilateral; RISP as well as the University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee Research Foundation and the British Israeli Israeli Research And Academic Partnership (Birax) Regenerative Medicine Initiative. She serves on a number of research-related university committees (incl. Faculty Board and Management Committees, Faculty and Senate Higher Degrees Committees, University Research Committee) for both universities and science councils (UJ/CSIR Steering Committee) and currently serves on the University of Johannesburg Council as elected Senate representative.

She has received numerous awards including: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, Scholarship for Advanced Molecular Cloning and Expression of Eukaryotic Genes, New York; Faculty of Health Sciences award for Highest Research Output by Researcher for the Year 2009; Nominated for the Department of Science and Technology Distinguished Woman Scientist in Life Sciences 2010; 2011; University of Johannesburg Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Award for Outstanding Researcher of the Year, 2010; National Laser Centre Grant holder of the year award 2011; most output produced and masters graduated 2013