

2022-2024 WFNMB President Elect Candidate: Dr. Lizette Louw

Born and raised in Pretoria, South Africa, I obtained my medical degree at the University of Pretoria. After completing the required internship and Community service program, I started my residency training in Internal Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand. A few years later I came to realize that Nuclear Medicine was really the field that I was interested in. Through a chance encounter I had the opportunity to embark on a journey in Nuclear Medicine, a field I quickly fell deeply in love with and I've never looked back. In fact, I strongly believe that my Internal Medicine background has proven a valuable asset in learning and practicing Nuclear Medicine!



Within 2 years of practice as a Nuclear Physician I had the opportunity to step into directorship roles. Since then I have had the privilege to continuously serve in various leadership, executive and consultancy positions at my university and in my country. In 2014, I was elected President of the South African Association of Nuclear Physicians (ANP) and in 2016 I was elected President of the South African Society of Nuclear Medicine (SASNM) in 2016 – this was the first time in history that the same person served simultaneously as President for both professional bodies. In 2018 the constitution of the ANP was amended by unanimous vote to allow me to continue in the capacity of President for a third consecutive term.

I presented at my first international conference in 2015. Since then I have presented at and attended numerous local and international conferences and workshops and visited various academic centers for exposure to alternative viewpoints. Coming from a multicultural society such as South Africa, I enjoy traveling, learning about various cultures and their history, and connecting with individuals from different cultures throughout the world. My passion lies in raising awareness of the value of Nuclear Medicine by educating governing bodies, other specialists and general practitioners, as well as furthering education of our own Nuclear Medicine community.

During my term as SASNM president in 2016-2018, I focused on connecting with other international leaders and established lasting relationships with prominent leaders in the field of Molecular Imaging and Nuclear Medicine. I also became involved in the SNMMI / WFNMB Nuclear Medicine Global Initiative (NMGI) group, where I still remain actively involved. Over my career I have managed to establish a valuable network with various national and international experts.

In my home country, I am involved with the South African Medical Association where I sit on the Committee for Specialists to provide input to regional and national levels of government. Furthermore, I serve as consultant and advisor to the various medical funders for our private health care system, as well as the various Pharmaceutical and Radiopharmaceutical companies to provide guidance, input and education on Nuclear Medicine services.

At present, I am a senior specialist at the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS), which is the largest academic Nuclear Medicine unit in South Africa and which provides training to both residents from South Africa and other African countries. I currently supervise various Masters' degrees, provide personalized mentoring and tutoring to residents, oversee the WITS Nuclear Medicine academic program and am actively involved in overall Nuclear Medicine training and examination in the whole of South Africa. Through this academic platform, I am able to reach out to other specialists and give regular educational talks on various topics in Nuclear Medicine, with the aim of increasing awareness and knowledge about Nuclear Medicine.

My current main interests are Medical Isotope production, adequate global supply of essential isotopes, establishing and growing Nuclear Medicine in Africa and other emerging areas, Theranostics, PET/CT, patient education as well as education of our medical colleagues to grow and enhance the use of Nuclear Medicine services. As a female leader and single mother of two boys, I am very well aware of gender-based bias and the unique and specific challenges that working women face in their work environment and daily life across the globe. I enjoy speaking out for and promoting the rights of women, equal opportunities and support in the workplace.

Should you honour me with your support as President-Elect of the WFNMB, I pledge to work closely with the rest of the WFNMB executive team, Health and Nuclear Medicine Authorities from across the globe, all national Nuclear Medicine Societies and Associations and the Nuclear Medicine Industry as a whole to:

1. Secure Medical Isotope supply and Nuclear Medicine services to all countries
2. Support, expand and promote educational tools accessible to the Nuclear Medicine Communities, Patients and Referring Physicians from around the world
3. Ensure support to the Nuclear Medicine Association/Societies from emerging countries to establish and grow Nuclear Medicine services
4. Promote the field of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Nuclear Medicine across the globe, particularly in the underserved countries
5. Help Women in Nuclear Medicine reach their full potential and attain leadership positions in their countries and at the international leadership

I thank you in advance for your support!