

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH – Professor A. Dhai

Professor Dhai is the Director of The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics at the University of the Witwatersrand Medical School. She started off her career as a medical doctor when she obtained an MBChB through the University of Natal. She thereafter specialised as an Obstetrician, Gynaecologist through the Colleges of Medicine, South Africa. She subsequently obtained an LLM through the Law School of the University, and a Diploma in International Research Ethics at the University of Cape Town. She was appointed Head of Bioethics, Medical Law and Research Ethics at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine in 2004, and in January 2006 took on the position of Head of Bioethics at the University of the Witwatersrand Medical School. Her special interest is research ethics. She served as chairman of the Research Ethics Committee of the University of KwaZulu-Natal for 2 years, and as a member of the Interim National Ministerial Research Ethics Committee between 2002 – 2005, and in 2006 was appointed Deputy Chair of the National Health Research Ethics Council. Currently, she serves on the MRC Ethics Committee, established and chairs the Hospice Palliative Care of South Africa Research Ethics Committee and is co-chair of the Wits Human Research Ethics Committee (Medical). She also serves on the Medical and Dental Board of the Health Professions Council of South Africa, is on the Council of the Colleges of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of South Africa, and is a member of the Human Rights, Ethics and Professional Development Committee of the Health Professions Council. Her publications in the main, are on issues of bioethics and medical law.