Brief Biography – Prof. Cheryl Walter

Prof Walter, currently on sabbatical, has been the Head of the Department of Human Movement Science at Nelson Mandela University from 2015 to June 2022. She joined the University as a lecturer in 2002. Prior to this, she was a physical education teacher at Woolhope High School in Malabar, Gqeberha, and later a lecturer at the University of Fort Hare.

She obtained her qualifications, both in human movement science and in education, from five South African Universities: BA (Phys Ed) UHDE from the University of Durban-Westville now known as the University of Kwazulu Natal, Hons in Physical Education at the then University of Port Elizabeth, B.Ed at Rhodes University, Masters degree at Fort Hare University and the PhD degree at Nelson Mandela University.

In 2019, she was awarded the UNESCO Co-Chair on Physical Activity and Health in Educational Settings. The award spans a period of four years and is part of the [UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme](https://en.unesco.org/unitwin-unesco-chairs-programme). Prof Uwe Pühse from the University of Basel is the main chairholder. The purpose of the Chair is to promote an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation on physical activity and health in educational settings, especially in Africa. The collaborative project between Basel University and Nelson Mandela University, the KaziBantu project, a multifaceted school-based intervention programme, is the cornerstone of this award. In 2019, Prof Walter was appointed as a member of the External Reference Group for the WHO/UNESCO initiative on developing Global Standards for Health Promoting Schools.

Prof Walter is passionate about working in marginalized communities. Her learning and teaching and research have a strong community focus. Her research focuses health promotion through physical activity, especially among schoolchildren, and more generally among women and girls from marginalized communities. She received a number of research grants and funding in her individual capacity, including the NRF Thuthuka grant, the NMMU Research Themes grant, the NMMU Teaching Innovation Fund Grant, and was awarded the Erasmus Mundus Programme Action 2 Scholarship award in 2014. More recently, she has been the South African principal investigator of three large collaborative studies with the University of Basel in Swtizerland: the DASH study, awarded R1 149 800.00 by the NRF (and Basel University was awarded 230 000 Swiss francs by the Swiss National Science Foundation); the KaziBantu Project: healthy schools for healthy communities, funded by the Novartis with a budget 589 400 Swiss francs (approx. R11 million), the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) SiR Grant in 2019 for a component of the KaziBantu research project ; the *KaziAfya* project, funded by the Botnar Foundation (the South African budget is in excess of R6 million).

Prof Walter is on the editorial board of South African Journal for Research in Sport, Physical Education and Recreation, where she has been a regular reviewer over the years. She currently has 50 publications in refereed journals, contributed to the publication of one book and has presented at a number of national and international conferences, including invited keynote presentations. She has supervised a number of Masters dissertations over the years and has three current PhD students working in the KaziBantu and KaziAfya projects. She received the Faculty of Health Sciences Emerging Researcher of the Year Award in 2012, and the 2016 Nelson Mandela University Engagement Project Award for the DASH project, on behalf of the Mandela University and Basel University project team.

Prof Walter has been an active member of a number of national associations and scholarly groups, including being one of the core group members working on the Healthy Active Kids South Africa Report Card since 2010, the academic writing group working on the Policy Brief on Physical Activity for Health during COVID and beyond for Africa: Children and adolescents, the UNICEF Physical Education Working Group and the South African University Physical Education Association, a collaborative group revitalizing the teaching of Physical Education in schools. Memberships of international associations include, the African Physical Activity Network (AFPAN), International Association of Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women (IAPESGW), the International Working Group (IWG) on Women in Sport, and the International Association of Physical Education in Higher Education (AIESEP), where she has recently been on the sub-committee reviewing recipients for the Developing Country Research Award.