

## **Debbie van der Merwe**

**Johannesburg Hospital, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa**

Debbie van der Merwe has been the Clinical and Academic Head of the Department of Medical Physics at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital/WITS complex in South Africa since September 1999. She obtained her Ph.D. in the field of Radiation Oncology Medical Physics in 1994 from the University of the Witwatersrand. Her primary clinical interest is to support and develop radiation oncology services. She has co-authored more than 30 publications, presented over 75 papers and remains passionately involved in the professional development, recognition and empowerment of the Medical Physics profession, particularly on the African continent. She was granted 3 years' unpaid leave to be appointed as a Technical Officer in Radiotherapy Medical Physics in the Division of Human Health at the International Atomic Energy Agency in February 2011. She returned to South Africa in 2014 to continue coordinating the active teaching and training program for full-time post-graduate medical physics students and interns in Johannesburg. She is a member of the South African Medical Physics Society, represents the medical physics profession at the HPCSA and serves as a moderator to many academic programmes nationally and internationally.