**Citation: Lucille Blumberg**

Professor Lucille Blumberg is a highly respected specialist in the field of infectious diseases and is widely recognised for her contribution to sustainable and groundbreaking research and the maintenance of public health is internationally recognised.

She is past President of the Infectious Diseases Society of Southern Africa and now treasurer. She is an honorary life member of the Federation of Infectious Diseases Societies of Southern Africa and a member of its council and executive committee. She is a fellow of the Royal College of physicians and surgeons of Glasgow.

Prof Bloomberg was born in Johannesburg, matriculating from Parktown High School for Girls going on to study medicine at Wits, graduating in 1974. She did her internship at what is now Helen Joseph Hospital and followed this with a distinguished postgraduate academic career. Her specialist qualifications include diplomas in Child Health, in Occupational Health and in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. She later obtained a specialist Master of Medicine degree in Microbiology from Wits, becoming a sub-specialist in Infectious Diseases in South Africa in 2010.

She began her work experience at what is now Chris Hani Baragwanath before becoming Principal Medical Officer at Rietfontein, subsequently renamed the Sizwe Tropical Diseases Hospital.

She has been a Deputy Director of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases since 2002. She was responsible for establishing the Institute’s Division of Public Health, Surveillance and Response, which covers travel medicine and clinical infectious diseases, and continues to act as a consultant to the Division.

Professor Blumberg’s expertise in the management of viral outbreaks is widely sought after and is borne out by her membership of a large number of professional associations and national and international expert groups and committees.

At the national and regional level, Prof Bloomberg’s has made an invaluable contribution to various bodies. Too many to list her, these have included the 2010 Soccer World Cup Communicable Disease Cluster; the National Advisory Group for Immunisation; the Department of Trade and Industry’s Biological Weapons Working Committee; and the SADC Working Expert Group for Rift Valley Fever, the disease which is spread to sheep, cattle and goats by mosquitos.

She is currently the Elected Chairman of the South African Malaria Elimination Committee, and is a long-standing member of the National Outbreak and Response Team and of the Rabies Advisory Group to the National Department of Health.

Over the past decade, Prof Bloomberg has contributed extensively to the work of many international bodies. She has served on the Global Expert Advisory Committee for the Rabies Vaccine, or Immune Globulin Emergency Stockpile project, known as RaVaGES; and on the advisory committee of the Animal and Human Health for Environment and Development Programme of the **Wildlife Conservation Society.**

Her contribution to the World Health Organisation (WHO) alone is remarkable. She has served, and continues to serve, on a long list of WHO groups and committees – the Collaborative Centre for Mass Gatherings; the Scientific Advisory Group for the Blueprint on Research and Development Preparedness for emerging pathogens such as Ebola, Lassa, Congo and Rift Valley fevers; the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group on Yellow Fever Risk Mapping; and the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee for the DRC outbreak of Ebola. In addition, Professor Bloomberg has also been a member of the World Health Organisation’s Expert Group for Critical Case Management in Outbreaks including Pandemic Influenza since 2008.

Her most recent appointment is to the Lancet Commission on One Health for a period of three years.

Prof Blumberg has published 125 articles in peer-reviewed journals. She sits on the editorial boards of a number of prestigious microbiology and infectious diseases journals. She is currently Section Editor of Clinical Infectious Diseases for the Journal of Epidemiology and Infection of Southern Africa, and has been for over ten years.

She has sat on the editorial board of the International Journal of Travel Medicine since 2006, and appointed as its African Advisor in 2018. She is one of three editors of the International Journal of Infectious Diseases and sits on the Editorial Board of Tropical Medicine and Infectious Disease. Her most recent appointment is to the editorial board of the Southern African Journal of Infectious Diseases.

Professor Blumberg has won many prestigious awards. Last year she won the South African Medical Research Council Special Award in honour of an esteemed scientist for extraordinary contributions to health research.

In 2014, she won the World Small Animal Veterinary Association One Health Award and in 2012 the Southern African Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine Prize as well as Rotary’s Paul Harris Award.

Professor Blumberg was instrumental in rolling out a number of responses to outbreaks of diseases in South Africa and abroad. Besides rabies and malaria, these include:

* acute respiratory syndrome or SARS, a serious form of pneumonia;
* tumbu or mango fly parasitic infestation, which gets under the skin of mammals, including humans, and lives there until they’re ready to hatch into maggots;
* Lassa fever, which is a zoonotic virus transferred from animals to humans;
* LuJo, which is responsible for Lujo haemorrhagic fever (LUHF), its name being derived from Lusaka where it originated and Johannesburg where it was identified; and, most recently,
* Listeriosis – Professor Blumberg was one of a handful of experts at the side of the then Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoaledi when he announced the outbreak in 2017.

Prof Blumberg’s early intervention and excellent leadership ensured that these outbreaks were appropriately managed and controlled.

It is against this background of academic, professional and service excellence that the University of the Witwatersrand awards Professor Lucille Blumberg an Honorary Doctorate degree in the Faculty of Health Sciences.