

# WITSIE AT THE CUTTING EDGE: Researcher Profile

**Dr Witness Mudzi**

**Senior Lecturer  
Department of Physiotherapy**

## **Who are you and what is your academic/scientific background?**

I graduated with a BSc Honours degree in Physiotherapy from the University of Zimbabwe in 1996. I received my MSc in Physiotherapy in 2001 and PhD in 2010, both from the University of the Witwatersrand. I lectured at the University of Zimbabwe before I joined the University of the Witwatersrand in 2004. I am currently the Postgraduate and Research Coordinator of the Department of Physiotherapy. I received the School of Therapeutic Sciences Outstanding Mentor Award in 2009 and the Faculty of Health Sciences recognition for Dedication and Achievement in Research Award in 2012.



## **What is the nature of the research which you are currently undertaking?**

My area of research is adult neurology physiotherapy, with the main focus being on stroke, head and spinal cord injuries. I am particularly interested in the quality of life and participation issues of individuals who have suffered these traumas.

## **What do you think is the most significant contribution you have made to research/science?**

My main contribution to my field of research has been the investigation into the impact of caregiver education on the functional abilities of stroke survivors and their careers, especially in low resource settings in South Africa.

## **Did you have a particular mentor or supervisor who inspired you in research?**

There are too many people that have inspired me in my research career, but Professor Aimee Stewart has been a great influence and my greatest inspiration.

## **Tell us about what you do when you're not busy at work and carrying out cutting-edge research?**

When I am not at work I spend time with my wife Patricia Mudzi and our two boys, Russell Nyasha Mudzi and Ralph Shingi Mudzi.

**Read one of Witness's papers:** Mudzi W, Stewart A, and Musenge E. Effect of carer education on functional abilities of patients with stroke. International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation 2012; 19 (7):380-385.