

Biography: Prof. Bavesh Kana

Prof. Bavesh Kana directs the DSI/NRF Centre of Excellence for Biomedical TB Research. He studies tuberculosis (TB) with a focus on developing new TB drugs with a shorter treatment duration and fewer side effects. He is a consultant for the Bill and Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute in Cambridge, USA. He represented South Africa on the BRICS TB Research Network. He received the CEO Titans magazine award, which is given to influential men who embody the spirit of excellence. He has made meaningful contributions to shift the African landscape for outstanding medical contribution in South Africa, the Southern African Development Community region and the rest of the continent.

Prof. Kana has also translated his research into products that enable quality assurance and verification of TB diagnostic devices. This has led to spin out a biotech company and, currently, these products are being used in over 50 countries around the world. In 2020, he pivoted this technology to support national diagnosis of Covid-19, through supporting laboratories in the public sector. He created a new series of products that enabled mass testing in South Africa, which has now been rolled out to 34 countries. For these and related activities, his team was awarded the South African NSTF-South32 Innovation Award: Corporate Organisation for 2020/2021.