

C U R R I C U L U M V I T A E

WILLIAM MURRAY COOMBS

Occupational Medicine Specialist

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Dr William Murray Coombs

Career Summary

Murray completed his medical degree in 1983 and followed a career in emergency and aviation medicine (also during his compulsory military training), in 1985, he started to specialise in Occupational Medicine. He then embarked on a private practice career in Occupational Medicine. He was nominated onto the executive of the SA Society of Occupational Medicine (SASOM) in 1990. His practise was predominantly in the chemical industry and with local laboratories he led a SASOM team in developing the first SA text on biological monitoring, this led to his appointment as consulting pathologist in Occupational Health. In 1994 he was appointed to the first Compensation Board for Occupational Diseases in SA. His interest, research and publications in biological monitoring, chemicals and pesticides provided for increased activity internationally, due to this he was invited to join the scientific committees of the International Commission on Occupational Health – Pesticides and Agriculture. He was nominated to the International Chemical Industry Occupational Health Board (Medichem) in 1996. During 1997, he was made Vice Chairman of SASOM and in 1998 became chairman of the SA Chamber of Business health work group. During 1998 he accepted a project to investigate Occupational Health and HIV/AIDS risks for Unilever operating in 13 African countries at more than 30 locations. During 2000 he became a board member of the International Commission of Occupational Health. In the same year the Global Health Fund and WEF invited him to join the GHI task force – development of private sector responses to HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB. In Sept 2001 Murray accepted an offer from Dow to expand his role to Health Director Middle East/Africa and India. His ongoing consultancy within Unilever supported best practice in HIV/AIDS and the company received global awards in 2002, 2006 and 2008, for their HIV/AIDS response, the methodology was taken up as a best practice by the World Economic Forum (WEF) During 2007 the American Chamber of business invited Murray to become the chairman of the AMCHAM Health forum. During 2008 Murray was invited to the Whitehouse to share his experience in Health in the African and Middle East regions.

I have always wanted to respond to the burden of disease in humans, in the beginning medical and emergency care to individuals, later to worker health and more recently to workers and communities at large affected by prevent-

able diseases. Scaling up successful systems to reach, treat (and intervene) many more people is a challenge that I hope to continue with, in particular with current projects in Occupational (Manganese/chemicals), environmental (asbestos), consumer (food-safety and nutrition), and public health (HIV/Malaria/TB)

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Health

- Registered Specialist in Occupational Medicine (HPCSA)
- Occupational Medicine Cum Laude – University of Stellenbosch
- Primary Emergency Care (DPEC) – College of Medicine South Africa
- Aviation Medicine – Institute of Aviation Medicine (Civil Aviation)
- Medical degree – University of Pretoria

Post graduate certifications

- Project management – UBL
- Marketing professional practise – Wits
- Labour relations – Unisa
- Good clinical practise – University Pretoria
- Management Development Programme – Mast
- Organizational behaviour – Liverpool
- Finances for non-financial management - Liverpool
- Spirometry – University of Cincinnati: Dept Environmental Health
- X-ray classification of Pneumoconiosis – ICOH (International Commission of Occupational Health) and ILO (International Labour Organization)
- Pulmonary function and ILO chest x-ray – National Centre of Occupational Health (NIOSH USA)
- Occupational and environmental toxicology and epidemiology – Environ (Europe) - REACH

Occupational Health practice

Africa

South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt.

Middle East

United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, includes Turkey and Israel

India/Pacific

Phillipines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Australia, Nieu Zealand