

# Spo Kgalamono

*BCur, MBChB (Medicine), Post-graduate Diploma in Occupational Health (cum laude), MMed (Community Health), Diploma in Public Health (DPH), Fellow of the College of Public Health Medicine in Occupational Medicine*

On 1 January 2021, Spo Kgalamono was appointed as the executive director of the National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH), a division of the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS); and the chair of Occupational Health in the School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand. Dr Kgalamono had been acting executive director of the NIOH from March 2019 to 30 September 2020.

As a renowned specialist in occupational medicine, Dr Spo Kgalamono has contributed to improving the health of workers for more than 20 years, and these appointments are well deserved. She joined the NIOH in 2000 and was appointed head of the Occupational Medicine Department in 2002. She has facilitated the Wits Post-graduate Diploma in Occupational Health for doctors for more than 17 years and has trained registrars in occupational medicine since 2010. She has also co-authored several peer-reviewed manuscripts and delivered numerous conference presentations, nationally and internationally. Her current main area of interest is workplace mental health.

Over the years, Dr Kgalamono has received many awards and accolades, including the Best Investigator Award at the International Mesothelioma Conference in Japan in 2010; the Golden Key Award for Excellent Achievement in 2010; and best local supervisor for Wits Public Health registrar training in 2004. In 2011, she was recognised as one of the three most influential women in public health in South Africa by the Public Health Association of South Africa and, in 2020, she was part of the NIOH's COVID-19 Occupational Health Outbreak Response Team, which provided us all with COVID-19 guidelines and procedures, online training and education, and surveillance and research updates.

Dr Kgalamono is a member of The South African Society for Occupational Medicine (SASOM) Executive Committee, the *Occupational Health Southern Africa* Editorial Board, the Occupational Health Workstream COVID Committee, the International Working Group on Occupational Diseases, the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases Review Authority, and the WHO Workplace Mental Health Guideline Development Committee. She is also a Technical Expert Committee member for the Department of Employment and Labour.

In her ever-humble manner, Spo has expressed her appreciation



**Dr Spo Kgalamono**

*Photograph: courtesy of Dr Kgalamono*

of the confidence that the NHLS executive team has placed in her by choosing her to fill these two prestigious and important occupational health roles, and the support that she has received from the NIOH staff, the NHLS Board, professional Societies, academics at the University of Cape Town, KwaZulu-Natal University and the University of the Witwatersrand, and officials in the Department of Health.