

# Elton Dorkin

*MBChB (University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa), DOH (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa), MBA (GIBS Busines School, Johannesburg, South Africa)*

Elton Dorkin rejoined Anglo American as head of health in April 2020. While Anglo American has its roots in South Africa, it operates in many countries around the world, with key operations and major projects in Australia, the UK, southern Africa (South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana), Brazil, Chile and Peru. It operates across several products, including platinum group metals, diamonds, metallurgical coal for steelmaking, iron ore, nickel, manganese and, since 2020, has been involved in the development of crop nutrients.

Elton was first exposed to the occupational health discipline as a medical student at the University of Natal in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. He was awarded the Anglo American Group Vocational Scholarship in his final two years at the university, graduating in 1997. He commenced work at Anglo Gold Health Services, at the Anglo American Corporation's Freegold Division, initially during his vacations while at medical school and then as an intern at Ernest Oppenheimer Hospital in Welkom in 1998. He returned to Durban in 1999 to complete his community service, working at the King Edward VIII and Clairwood Hospitals in the internal medicine, paediatric, and accident and emergency units. He returned to Ernest Oppenheimer Hospital as a medical officer in 2000 where he worked in internal medicine, specialist referral clinics (including HIV), and the intensive care unit.

On 1 April 2001, Elton joined Platinum Health and was based at Rustenburg Platinum Mines Hospital in Bleskop as a senior medical officer. In 2002, he accepted an internal transfer to Bafokeng Rasimone Platinum Mine, and also commenced his Diploma in Occupational Health at the University of the Witwatersrand, graduating with distinction in 2003. His work at Bafokeng Rasimone Platinum Mine involved both management and clinical duties in occupational health, primary care, and emergency care.

Elton completed the Amplats Management Development Programme in 2004 and, in the same year, was promoted to medical services coordinator of the Eastern Limb health operations of Platinum Health, based in Polokwane. This entailed management and clinical responsibilities for occupational health services at three Anglo Platinum mines, a process operation, and new projects in Limpopo.

In 2006, he was elected as president of the Mine Medical Officers' Association (MMOA), now the Mine Medical Professionals Association (MMPA). He has also served on the national Executive Committee (ExCo) of the South African Society of Occupational Medicine (SASOM) and on the editorial board of *Occupational Health Southern Africa* from 2004 to 2012.

Looking for a new challenge, and to broaden his scope of experience, Elton joined International SOS in 2007 as medical director of Global Medical Services (southern Africa), based in Johannesburg. During this time, he was responsible for medical services in multiple southern African countries for most of the major global oil, gas and mining players. These medical operations ranged in complexity from offshore oil platforms to small and large onshore medical operations, supporting either projects or continuing operations. The largest of these projects were in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar, and the work centred on providing occupational health, primary and emergency services, on an outsourced basis, to national



**Dr Elton Dorkin**

*Photograph: courtesy of Momentum Medical Scheme*

and expatriate populations working at these sites. During this time, Elton was also exposed to the global International SOS business and aeromedical platforms. He has spent time in almost every country in Africa, south of the equator.

Elton joined the Global Occnet practice as a partner in late 2009. Global Occnet provided occupational health consultancy, health information management, onsite and mobile services to a number of blue-chip global and South African clients and parastatal organisations. Global Occnet was sold to EOH Holdings and became a part of the EOH Health division in late 2010; he stayed on as medical director until the end of 2011.

In January 2012, Elton joined Illovo Sugar as group chief medical officer, based in his hometown of Durban. Illovo Sugar is Africa's leading grower and manufacturer of cane sugar. He was responsible for occupational and primary healthcare services on large estates in six southern and east African countries. The role included a broader employee benefits responsibility, such as the company-provided housing and pension strategy. During his time at Illovo Sugar, he commenced his MBA degree at the Gordon Institute of Business Science

(GIBS), and graduated in 2015. His thesis was entitled 'Do routine medical examinations improve the health and engagement of company senior executives?' He has presented aspects of this work at various industry conferences, including at annual meetings of the Board of Health Funders, the South African Medical Association (SAMA), and Africa Health.

In late 2018, Elton commenced an academic sabbatical, with teaching roles in family medicine at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and business strategy at GIBS. He had a number of occupational health and other consulting assignments; clients included Illovo Sugar, Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs, the SAMA, and the Innovative Pharmaceutical Association of South Africa (IPASA). Simultaneously, he furthered his interest in health technology

and data analytics applications in health, more generally, and occupational health, in particular. He has presented this work at a number of conferences. At GIBS, Elton hosted the annual health industry conferences from 2017 to 2020.

In January 2020, Elton rejoined Anglo American as the acting head of health and was appointed fully to the position in April 2020. Over the past year, Elton has worked collaboratively across Anglo American's global footprint to lead the company's efforts on COVID-19 testing. This includes licensing its medical facilities in South Africa to vaccinate employees as part of the company's *WeCare* lives and livelihoods holistic programmes related to COVID-19.




## Covid-19 Antigen Testing Kits now available

### Results in 1 hour

**Next Pathology, is the Molecular Pathology Laboratory of Next Biosciences.**

Scan the QR code to request more information:




---

Next Pathology offers a **less invasive Rapid Antigen Nasal Test** which includes the following:

- Registration portal allowing:
  - Automated certified pathology reports emailed to the patients and referring Doctor
  - Automated test results submitted to the NICD (National Institute of Communicable Diseases) and DoH (Department of Health)
- **FREE** swab technique training by a Healthcare Provider if needed
- **FREE** training on the online portal administration

Next Pathology offers laboratory, technical, IT, clinical and medical support where necessary.

by **NEX+ B10SCIENCES**  
*Nothing is inevitable. Anything is possible.*

The tests that Next Pathology uses are registered and approved by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority for diagnostic use.

---

Call 011 697 2931 | [sales@nextbio.co.za](mailto:sales@nextbio.co.za) | [nextbio.co.za](http://nextbio.co.za)