



Dr Hafsa Essop

South Africa

Ms. Hafsa Essop is a diagnostic radiographer and academic with a career marked by significant contributions to both clinical practice and education in radiography. Ms Hafsa Essop qualified as a diagnostic radiographer in 2008, thereafter working in tertiary, private and rural hospitals. Ms. Essop then embarked on an academic career at the University of Pretoria in 2017, where she now serves as a lecturer in the Department of Radiography. Her academic journey is distinguished by her continuous pursuit of advanced education, obtaining her honours degree in 2014, and her masters in 2019. She is currently a finalist Phd candidate. Ms Essop's research focus area includes mHealth, health informatics, fetal and maternal health, teleradiology and gamification in radiography education.

Her master's research addressed the multifaceted challenges faced by end users of teleradiology systems, providing valuable recommendations for improving service delivery.

For her Ph.D., Ms. Essop has collaborated with the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and IT, and the Faculty of Health Science to conduct a transdisciplinary research project. She developed a pioneering mobile application for fetal dose monitoring among pregnant radiographers. This app was recognized by the International Commission of Radiological Protection (ICRP), earning Ms. Essop the ICRP Cousins Award for best scientist and professional in the category of next-generation young scientists, presented in Tokyo, Japan, in 2023. She has also received a merit award for her research contributions from the Faculty of Health Sciences in the same year. Mrs Essop is also a South African representative mentee for the ICRP task group 123 who are working towards classifying harmful radiation induced effects on human health for radiological protection purposes.

Ms. Essop is deeply passionate about fetal and maternal health, which is reflected in her community engagement efforts. She runs the Bags of Hope Project, an outreach program that involves creating and distributing care packs to abandoned babies and mothers in need with training hospitals in the Tshwane district, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration among health professionals and students.

In radiography education, Ms. Essop has developed several innovative teaching tools, including a radiography board game called "Throw the Bones," an automatic film processing animation, mock court case simulations on radiation protection, and a reality TV-inspired hospital orientation called "The Amazing Radiography Race."

Ms. Essop has authored several publications in clinical and educational research and contributed to an ISSRT eBook chapter titled "Reflections of the COVID-19 Pandemic." Additionally, she serves as a reviewer for scientific journals and master's research projects, further contributing to the advancement of her field.