

## Maureen Joffe, PhD

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Date of birth: 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1956  
Nationality: South African



## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2015 – present Director and Contact PI, South African Breast and HIV Outcomes study (SABCHO), National Cancer Institute, US\$1,750,000, renewed for a further 5 Years  
2013 - 2018 Project Coordinator. Breast cancer risk factors in African women in transition. World Cancer Research Fund /SABC, €200,000  
2000 - Present Director, Batho Pele Breast Clinic Research and Non-communicable Diseases Research Divisions, Wits Health Consortium  
2011- Present Senior Lecturer, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa  
1991 - 1999 South African Divisional Head/Executive Officer for 2 USA ophthalmic device supply companies  
1986 -1990 Lecturer, Department Medical Biochemistry, University Witwatersrand  
1983 -1984 Lecturer, Department of Biochemistry, University of Witwatersrand

## EDUCATION

2006 MDP in Management Development, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa  
1983 PhD in Medical Biochemistry, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa  
1977 BSc (Hons) in Biochemistry, University of the Witwatersrand  
1976 BSC in Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of the Witwatersrand

## PREVIOUS AND CURRENT GRANT FUNDING

### Previous

2013- 2018 Breast cancer risk factors in African women in transition (World Cancer Research Fund) (co-I) UK £200,000  
2014-2016 Down-staging and improving survival of breast cancer in South Africa. CANSA South Africa (Co-I), SAR 900,000  
2015-2017 Palliative and End of Life Needs among South African epithelial cancer patients, NCI Cancer Centers Support Grant (Co-I), US \$149,200 ID 3P30CA013696-42S4 (Ruff, PI)  
2015-2018 IIR13264158 Susan Komen for the Cure African Breast Cancer Research Network - Disparities in Outcomes (ABC-DO) (co-I) \$100,000

### Current

2020-2025 1R01CA250012-01 Novel predictors of survival among breast cancer patients with/without HIV in South Africa (role- contact PI) \$1,750,000  
2020-2023 MRC-RFA-SHIP 01-2019 Understanding the pharmacogenetic and pharmacokinetic basis of tamoxifen (TAM) treatment-failure for breast cancer in black African women (role co-I) R1,000,000  
2015-2020 outcomes NIH/NCI, 1R01CA192627-01 HIV's effect on breast cancer treatment and in South Africa. (Contact PI), US\$1,746,774  
2015-2020 Wits/MRC Common Epithelial Cancer Research Centre (co-I) R17,000,000 – renewed for a further 3 years- 2020-2023 at R6,000,000  
2016-2020 1UO1CA184374.01A1. Genetics of prostate cancer in African men (co-I) \$125,000

- 2018-2020 Cancer research and global health: pump-priming call. Molecular Genetics of Lobular Breast Cancer and effect of HIV infection among African women enrolled on the SABCHO study, MRC UK (Co-I) £200,000 (grant MR/S014268/1)
- 2018-2020 HIV/ART and tamoxifen metabolism in black breast cancer patients in South Africa NCI (co-I) US \$235,131
- 2018-2019 Association of HIV and HIV control with age and cancer stage at breast cancer diagnosis NIH/NCI(Contact PI), (3P30CA013696-44S4 sub-award No. 3(GG010416-CS) (Contact PI) \$15,012
- 2018-2019 Impact of age, HIV, pharmacogenetic and pre-existing cardiovascular risk factors on the prevalence of cardiac chemotherapy toxicity in African female breast cancer patients. NCI 3P30CA013696-44S4 subaward No. 1(GG010416-CS) (co-PI) \$22,993

**PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT**

- 2020 Member of writing team, South African Lung Cancer Control Guidelines
- 2012 - Present Member, Academic Oversight Committee of the Wits Health Consortium Board
- 2017 - Present Member, African Organization for Research and Training on Cancer
- 2006 - 2010 Member, academic team collaborating with South African Department of Health to develop the South African National Clinical Trials Register
- 2002 - 2008 Member, industry task team working with the Medicines Control Council of South Africa to review clinical trials

**RECOGNITIONS**

- 2011 D43 National Cancer Institute traineeship and research collaborative assistance grant, Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, USA (jointly awarded to Joffe and Dr Herbert Cubasch)

**CAREER BREAKS**

Following my PhD in neuromuscular diseases, which led to 4 peer-reviewed publications, I lectured in the Department of Medical Biochemistry, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). I then left academia to pursue a business career in the ophthalmic supplies industry for 14 years, running my own subsidiary company of the international company, STAAR Surgical successfully until 2000 when I joined the Wits Health Consortium (Pty) Ltd (WHC) as head of its Clinical Research Division. During this time I established and ran two dedicated clinical trial centres that primarily did cancer research conducted in collaboration with SA co-PI Prof Paul Ruff. WHC is a wholly owned clinical research company of the University of the Witwatersrand and is the legal and contracting entity for research projects conducted by approximately 120 research unit divisions operating within the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University. I also established the Wits Human Research Ethics Committee secretariat database to track ethics submissions and was part of the development team for the National Department of Health Clinical Trials database for registering new studies in SA.

**RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Following D43 epidemiology research training with our Columbia University (USA) collaborators in 2011, Drs Ruff, Cubasch and I an Oncology Epidemiology Research Unit at Wits. The initial study characterized breast cancer among black female patients from the Greater Soweto region of Johannesburg, South Africa. We also examined barriers to early-stage breast cancer presentation in the public health system, surgical and chemotherapy treatment characteristics, determinants of recurrence and survival outcomes. We have expanded this work to five academic hospital sites in Johannesburg and KwaZulu Natal. I direct our multidisciplinary research team for a research portfolio that scans health systems strengthening research, large clinical cohort studies assessing determinants of treatment and mortality among breast, prostate and lung cancer patients treated at Wits-associated tertiary hospitals and molecular biomarker research investigating diagnostic biomarkers and determinants of treatment responses. Currently we collaborate internationally with the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Kings College London (UK), Columbia University, Dana Farber Institute, Harvard University and Johns

Hopkins University (USA) and with Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation- Secure the Future on a multi-country Lung Cancer Control programme. I am part of the development team for a Comprehensive Cancer Research Centre being established at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH) where chemotherapy and radiation therapy treatment services are to be initiated. Currently cancer patients diagnosed and surgically treated at CHBAH receive chemotherapy and radiation therapy at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH)

### **SUPERVISION AND MENTORING**

- 2019- 2021 co-supervisor for postdoctoral student Dr Witness Mapanga, who is leading publications development for our lung and breast cancer programmes implementation science programmes
- 2017- 2020 co-supervisor for PhD student Dr Oluwatosin Ayeni investigating multi-morbidity among breast cancer patients in SSA and associations with treatment decisions. PhD was awarded in March 2021 with 3 publications
- 2017-2020 co-supervisor for 3 MMed students working on various aspects of barriers to optimum breast cancer management in SA
- 2018- member of the postgraduate student academic entrepreneurship mentoring team for the Great Leap Forward division of the WHC. I provide mentorship on research division development and leadership of multidisciplinary teams
- 2017- As Divisional Head of our Cancer Epidemiology Research Group, I lead our senior research team and provide ongoing mentorship to postgraduate students in grant and publication writing, self-and organisational development and sustainability, project management, regulatory submissions and quality assurance management of large datasets from cohort studies

### **RELEVANT RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

- 1) Čačala SR, Farrow H, Makhanya S, Couch DG, Joffe M, Stopforth L. The value of navigators in breast cancer management in a South African Hospital. *World J Surg* 45(5):1316-1322, 2021. Doi: 10.1007/s00268-020-05931-2. Epub 2021 Jan 18. PubMed PMID: 33462702
- 2) Ayeni OA, Norris SA, Joffe M, Cubasch H, Galukande M, Zietsman A, Parham G, Adisa C, Anele A, Schüz J, Anderson BO, Foerster M, Dos Santos Silva I, McCormack VA. Preexisting morbidity profile of women newly diagnosed with breast cancer in sub-Saharan Africa: African Breast Cancer-Disparities in Outcomes study. *Int J Cancer*. 148(9):2158-2170, 2021. Doi: 10.1002/ijc.33387. Epub 2020 Nov 25. PubMed PMID: 33180326.
- 3) Romieu I, Biessy C, Joffe M, Cubasch H, Norris S, Vorster HH, Taljaard-Krugell C, Gunter MJ, Rinaldi S. Reproductive factors and risk of breast cancer in black South African women. *Cancer Causes Control*. 32(4): 415-422, 2021. Doi: 10.1007/s10552-021-01390-9. Epub 2021 Jan 20. PubMed PMID: 33471235.
- 4) Van den Berg EJ, Duarte R, Dickens C, Joffe M, Mohanlal R. Ki67 Immunohistochemistry Quantification in Breast Carcinoma: A Comparison of Visual Estimation, Counting, and ImmunoRatio. *Appl Immunohistochem Mol Morphol*. 29(2): 105-111, 2021. Doi: 10.1097/PAI.0000000000000864. PubMed PMID: 32590453.
- 5) Toma A, O'Neil D, Joffe M, Ayeni O, Nel C, van den Berg E, Nayler S, Cubasch H, Phakathi B, Biccimazza I, Čačala S, Ruff P, Norris S, Nietz S. Quality of Histopathology Reporting in Breast Cancer: Results From Four South African Breast Units. *JCO Global Oncol* 7: 72-80, 2021. Doi 10.1200/GO.20.00402. PubMed PMID: 33434068.
- 6) Nietz S, O'Neil DS, Ayeni O, Chen WC, Joffe M, Jacobson JS, Neugut AI, Ruff P, Mapanga W, Buccimazza I, Singh U, Čačala S, Stopforth L, Phakathi B, Chirwa T, Cubasch H. A comparison of complete pathologic response rates following neoadjuvant chemotherapy among South African breast cancer patients with and without concurrent HIV infection. *Breast Cancer Res Treat*. 184(3): 861-872, 2020. Doi: 10.1007/s10549-020-05889-8. PubMed PMID: 32875480.
- 7) Nietz S, Ruff P, Chen WC, O'Neil DS, Norris SA. Quality indicators for the diagnosis and surgical management of breast cancer in South Africa. *Breast*. 54: 187-196, 2020. Doi: 10.1016/j.breast.2020.09.012. PubMed PMID: 33120084.

- 8) Ratshikana-Moloko M, Ayeni O, Tsitsi JM, Wong ML, Jacobson JS, Neugut AI, Sobekwa M, Joffe M, *et al.* Spiritual Care, Pain Reduction, and Preferred Place of Death Among Advanced Cancer Patients in Soweto, South Africa. (2020) *J Pain Symptom Manage* 60(1):37-47. doi: 10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2020.01.019. Epub 2020 Feb 8.
- 9) Radbruch L, De Lima L, Knaul F, Wenk R, Ali Z, Bhanthnagar S, Blanchard C *et al.* Redefining Palliative Care-A New Consensus-Based Definition. *J Pain Symptom Manage*. 60(4): 754-764, 2020. Doi: 10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2020.04.027. PubMed PMID: 32387576.
- 10) McCormack V, McKenzie F, Foerster M, Zietsman A, Galukande M, Adisa C, Anele A, Parham G, Pinder LF, Cubasch H, Joffe M *et al.* Breast cancer survival and survival gap apportionment in sub-Saharan Africa (ABC –DO): a prospective cohort study. *Lancet Glob Health*. 8(9): e1203-e1212. 2020. Doi: 10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30261-8. PubMed PMID: 32827482.
- 11) O’Neil DS, Chen WC, Ayeni O, Nietz S, Buccimazza I, Singh U, Čačala S, Stopforth L, Joffe M, Crew KD, Jacobson JS, Neugut AI, Ruff P, Cubasch H. Breast Cancer Care Quality in South Africa’s Public Health System: An Evaluation Using American Society of Clinical Oncology/ National Quality. *Journal of Global Oncology*. (2019). 5: 1-16
- 12) Ayeni O, Norris SA, Joffe M, Cubasch H, Nietz S, Buccimazza I, Singh U, Čačala S, Stopforth L, Chen WC, McCormack VA, O Neil DS, Jacobson JS, Neugut AI, Ruff P, Micklesfield LK. The multimorbidity profile of South African women newly diagnosed with breast cancer. *Int J Cancer* (2019). 10.1002/ijc.32727.
- 13) O’Neil DS, Nietz S, Buccimazza I, Singh U, Čačala S, Stopforth LW, Joffe M, Jacobson JS, Neugut AI, Crew KD, Ruff P, Cubasch H. Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy Use for Nonmetastatic Breast Cancer at Five Public South African Hospitals and Impact on Time to Initial Cancer Therapy. (2019). 2019 Jul;24(7):933-944
- 14) Joffe M, Ayeni O, Norris SA, McCormack VA, Ruff P, Neugut AI, Jacobson JS, Cubasch H. Barriers to early presentation of breast cancer among women in Soweto, South Africa. 2018. *Plos One* 13(2): e0192071.
- 15) McKenzie F, Zietsman A, Galukande M, Anele A, Adisa C, Parham G, Pinder L, Cubasch H, Joffe M, Kidaaga F, Lukande R, Offiah AU, Egejuru RO, Shibemba A, Schuz J, Anderson BO, dos Santos Silva I, McCormack V. Drivers of advanced stage at breast cancer diagnosis in the multicountry African breast cancer - disparities in outcomes (ABC-DO) study. (2017). *IJC* 142(8): 1568-1579.