

Professor Ames Dhai – PHD, MBChB, FCOG, LLM, PGDip Int ResEthics

Ames Dhai is the Director of the Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics which she established in 2007. The Centre, which runs Honors, Masters and PHD programs in Bioethics and Health Law, has local and international recognition as a leading Centre in these disciplines. In 2013 it was awarded the World Medical Association Co-operating Centre and the South African Unit of the UNESCO International Network in Bioethics status, and in 2017 it attained affiliation on the International Academy of



Medical Ethics and Public Health. Ames serves on several policy making bodies in the country including being a Past President of the South African Medical Association and two terms as Deputy Chair of the National Health Research Ethics Council. She also serves regularly as a consultant / expert advisor for the World Health Organisation, and is on the WHO's African Advisory Committee for Health Research. She served on the World Medical Association's (WMA) Working Groups on international policy development and has been pivotal in bringing the African voice to The Declaration of Taipei on Health Databases and Biobanks (2016) and the current Declaration of Helsinki (2013). She has also participated in activities of the Institutes of Medicine (USA), the National Academies of Sciences (USA) and the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAF). Other appointments include member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee for Medical Litigation, the objectives being that of addressing the medical litigation crisis in the country and law reform in this context, the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Unrelated Organ Transplants, the National Commission for the Lancet Commission on Global Health, the ASSAF Panel on Genetics and Genomics ELSI and the DST/MRC Genomic and Precision Medicine Think Tank. She is Editor-in-chief of the South African Journal of Bioethics and Law and an Associate Editor of the South African Medical Journal.

Ames is an ethicist of international standing who has an outstanding record in academic citizenship and can be credited with entrenching bioethics as an integral aspect of health sciences at the Wits Faculty of Health Sciences and further afield in SA. She supervises a number of students in the Bioethics and Health Law postgraduate programs, serves as external and internal examiner and has published widely in the field. She started off her career as a medical doctor, went on to specialize in Obstetrics and Gynecology, then studied law and ethics and obtained a Masters in Medical Law and Ethics and a PhD in Bioethics and Health Law.