

**Professor Helen Rees GCOB, OBE, MB BChir, MA (CANTAB), MRCGP, DCH, DRCOG mASSAf**

**Professor Helen Rees is the Chair of the Board of the the newly established South African Health Products Regulatory Authority.**

She is the Executive Director of the University of Witwatersrand's Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (Wits RHI) where she is also a Personal Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Co-Director of Wits University's Flagship Centre for Vaccinology (ALIVE). She is an Honorary Professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and a member of their Visiting Committee. Professor Rees obtained her Medical Degree and a Masters in Social and Political Sciences from Murray Edwards College, Cambridge University, where she is now an Honorary Fellow and is an alumnus of Harvard Business School's Senior Executive Programme.



Professor Rees has been involved in medicines regulation for many years. She was appointed to the Medicines Control Council in 1995 and chaired the Council from 1997 until 2001. During that time, she also chaired the MCC's Clinical Trial Committee and the Pharmacovigilance committee. From 2013 to 2015 she chaired the SAHPRA Transitional Task Team responsible for finalizing the new SAHPRA legislation and in 2015 was again appointed as Chair of the MCC. She has served on numerous international committees relating to medicines regulation and clinical research.

Professor Rees is known for her global expertise in HIV prevention, reproductive health and vaccines. She has over 200 publications, has delivered over 200 plenary and keynote addresses, has chaired over 100 national and international scientific and policy committees, and served or chaired more than 100 conferences.

Professor Rees is widely respected for her ability to synthesize recommendations from multifaceted inputs and to link research to policy. She has served on many national and global structures. She is the Co-Chair of the Health Data Advisory Coordination Committee, a member the National Advisory Group on immunisation, a member of the One Health Committee of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the South African National Institute of Communicable Diseases. She was a member of the Board of the of the South African National AIDS Council and Co-chaired the SANAC Policy and Programme Committee. She is a Board member of the Wits Health Consortium.

Professor Rees serves on many international scientific committees and Boards. She is Chair of WHO's African Regional Immunisation Technical Advisory Group (RITAG). She chairs the WHO's International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee on Polio, is a member of WHO's IHR Yellow Fever Emergency Committee, is Co-Chair of the WHO SAGE Working Group on Ebola Vaccines and was rapporteur for the IHR Review Committee following the Ebola outbreak. She chairs the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's HPV Vaccine Advisory Committee and chairs the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation (CEPI). She is a member of the Gavi Board and of Gavi's Programme Policy Committee. She is a member of the WHO Working Group on the Global Vaccine Action Plan, a member of WHO's Technical Advisory Committee on RSV Vaccines and Chair of the expert consultation for HIV vaccines. She serves on the US National Institute of Health's Scientific Advisory Committee for the HIV Prevention Trial Network and

the Population Council's Microbicide Advisory Committee. In 2017 she was asked by the WHO and South Sudanese government to chair South Sudan's Third National Health Summit. In 2018 she was invited by Gavi and the Nigerian Health Ministry to chair a meeting on a new national immunization strategy.

Professor Rees has received many national and international awards for her contribution to global health. She was made an Officer of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II, and was awarded one of South Africa's highest awards, the Order of the Baobab, for her contribution to the South African health sector. She received Lifetime and Gold achievement awards for her distinguished contribution to science, global health and women's health by the South African Academy of Science, the South African Medical Association, the South African Department of Science and Technology, BHP Billiton and the Oppenheimer Foundation. She was awarded the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine's International Health Clark Lecturer award as an outstanding global health practitioner. She received a lifetime achievement award from the African NGO Amanitare, for her contribution to African women and children's health and rights.