

## CONDENSED PROFILE OF DR LAYLA CASSIM

### BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS:

Date of birth: 7 December 1983

Home language: English

Nationality: South African

Residence: Centurion, Gauteng province, South Africa

Telephone number: 0749995847

Email address: [Lcassimers@gmail.com](mailto:Lcassimers@gmail.com)

Employment equity candidate: Yes

Occupation: Self-employed; owner and managing member of Layla Cassim ERS Consultants CC ([www.laylacassim.co.za](http://www.laylacassim.co.za)). My business specialises in providing support to postgraduate students and researchers.

Professional associations: Registered as a pharmacist with the South African Pharmacy Council. Member of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa. I am also a reviewer for the South African Pharmaceutical Journal.

Previous employment history: Senior Lecturer, Department of Pharmacology, University of Cape Town Medical School (June 2010-March 2011); post-doctoral researcher at Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich, Germany (April-July 2009); community service pharmacist at Department of Correctional Services (January-December 2008); locum pharmacist (January 2009-present).

### ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:

Qualifications: PhD (Pharmacology) (2008) (Rhodes University)  
MBA (with distinction) (2011) (UNISA)  
B.Pharm. (with distinction) (2005) (Rhodes)

**EMPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS AS OWNER OF LAYLA CASSIM ERS CONSULTANTS CC:**

- (i) My business was registered in 2008 and has been trading since May 2011. It is VAT registered and has a certificate of good standing from SARS.
- (ii) I have been facilitating various research-related workshops at a number of South African universities and research bodies, such as Stellenbosch University, University of Limpopo, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, University of Johannesburg, University of Pretoria, University of Zululand, CSIR, NECSA and the Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform.
- (iii) I have also conducted a number of public workshops for postgraduate students and researchers.
- (iv) In November 2011, I launched the first edition of the Postgraduate Toolkit on CD, which aims to assist postgraduate students across disciplines and at different levels of study to complete their research projects. The second edition of the Toolkit was launched in August 2015. To date, approximately 3000 copies of the Toolkit have been sold and the product has received very positive feedback, both within South Africa and the wider SADC region. The Toolkit has been launched at UNISA, Monash University, University of Johannesburg and Durban University of Technology, and has been exhibited at the National Research Foundation's SA PhD Project conferences.
- (v) In 2014, I was selected by the Association of Commonwealth Universities to be the lead author on the grant application writing module that was part of its STARS programme, which provided support to researchers across various African universities.
- (vi) To date, I have provided academic writing assistance and edited almost 200 theses, research proposals and papers across many different disciplines.
- (vii) My business has hosted the National Postgraduate Development Imbizo from 2012-2015, which has brought together various stakeholders in the higher education sector to discuss challenges facing researchers in South Africa.
- (viii) I have participated as a researcher and report writer in several workplace-based research projects conducted by The Renaissance Network at various government departments, municipalities and private-sector organisations. These projects include workplace skills audits, culture and climate audits and a study investigating barriers that women face in certain male-dominated jobs. I also facilitated a series of nine Mentorship workshops at the City of Johannesburg in 2011.

- (ix) In association with The Renaissance Network, which is a human resources and labour law consultancy, I have hosted various disability imbizos and women's leadership development conferences.
- (x) In 2016, my business launched an annual research capacitation award, in honour of my grandmothers, that seeks to develop Black South African female researchers over the age of 50.

**CONTACTABLE REFEREES:**

- (i) Ms Corina du Toit, Stellenbosch University, [corina@sun.ac.za](mailto:corina@sun.ac.za)
- (ii) Mr Yegalan Chetty, Yegalan Chetty Financial Consultants, [yconfin@vodamail.co.za](mailto:yconfin@vodamail.co.za)
- (iii) Ms Jadine Januarie, NMMU, [jadine.januarie2@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:jadine.januarie2@nmmu.ac.za)
- (iv) Ms Kudsiya Cassim, The Renaissance Network, [renaissance@telkomsa.net](mailto:renaissance@telkomsa.net)