

## **Project Summary**

### **John Hansen Research Grant 2025**

#### **Mapping Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Services in South Africa**

Dr. Brigid McMillan, MBChB

Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa

Services for the diagnosis and management of patients with blood diseases are severely inadequate in South Africa. This results in missed and late diagnoses, with high complication rates, poorer outcomes and limited treatment options. Stem cell transplants are the only chance of cure or long-term remission for many patients.

The aim of this project is to detail services currently available for performing stem cell transplants in patients with blood diseases in South Africa according to levels of care, availability of treatment strategies, laboratory services, imaging, staff, blood products and training.

The methods employed for this mixed methods study will involve a researcher embedded into treatment centres conducting interviews with healthcare providers and administrative staff. This data will be correlated with information from state and local reports. A needs analysis will be performed to identify gaps and barriers to the provision of care, and Geographic Information Systems will map and overlay data sets. The findings will be presented to experts and policymakers in a focus group to reach a consensus on priorities and solutions.

These results will provide the necessary information for policy development and the optimisation of healthcare systems.