



## **Willie FP van Heerden**

**BChD, MChD (Oral Path), PhD, FC  
Path(SA) Oral Path, DSc (Odont),  
MASSAf**

### **Current appointment:**

Professor and Head of the Department of Oral Pathology and Oral Biology

### **Institution/ University where currently appointed:**

School of Dentistry, University of Pretoria, South Africa

### **Areas of special interests:**

Diagnostic histopathology, high-resolution DNA flow cytometry of solid tumours, potentially malignant lesions and oral cancer.

Willie qualified as a dentist at the University of Pretoria in 1981 and obtained a Master of Dentistry in the specialisation field of Oral Pathology from the same institution in 1988. He completed his PhD in 1987 followed by a DSc in 2003. He worked as an Oral Pathologist at the Medical University of Southern Africa from 1989 before returning to his Alma Mater in 1996 as Head of Department. He was elected to the Academy of Science of South Africa in 2005 and was elected as one of the University of Pretoria's 100 leading minds over the past century in 2008. He has served on the Council of the International Association of Oral Pathologists and served as President of this Association in 2010 - 2012. He has received the University of Pretoria's Education Innovation Award on two occasions and received the University's Exceptional Academic Achiever Award for the last 10

years. Willie is actively involved in diagnostic histopathology through the University and a part-time private practice. He has contributed more than 120 publications to the scientific literature and has a special interest in solid tumour ploidy analysis. Apart from his academic work, Willie enjoys astronomy, fly-fishing, photography, open water swimming and scuba-diving

### **Recent/ significant publications**

- Raubenheimer EJ, **van Heerden WFP**, CEE Noffke. Infrequent clinicopathological findings in 108 ameloblastomas. *J Oral Pathol Med* 1995; 24: 227-232.
- Hemmer J, Thein T, **van Heerden WFP**. The value of DNA flow cytometry in predicting the development of lymph node metastasis and survival in patients with locally recurrent oral squamous cell carcinoma. *Cancer* 1997; 79: 2309-2313.
- **van Heerden WFP**, Swart TJP, Robson B, Smith T-L, Engelbrecht S, van Heerden MB, van Rensburg EJ, Huebner K. *FHIT* RNA and protein expression in oral squamous cell carcinomas. *Anticancer Res*, 2001 21: 2425-2428.
- van Zyl AW, van Heerden MB, Langenegger E, **van Heerden WFP**. Correlation between dysplasia and ploidy status in oral leukoplakia. *Head and Neck Pathol* 2012, 6: 322-327.
- Bunn BK, Carvalho M, Louw M, Vargas PA, **van Heerden WFP**. Microscopic diversity in oral Kaposi sarcoma. *Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol* 2013, 115: 241-248.