

**Dr Gaofetoge Lenetha**

**Position: Senior Lecturer and Academic Advisor at the Division of Student Learning and Development, Faculty of Health Sciences**

**Qualification: PhD in Environmental Health**

Dr Gaofetoge Lenetha is not just a Senior Lecturer and Academic Advisor in the Division of Student Learning and Development (DSLDD) within the Office of the Dean at the Faculty of Health Sciences; she is a transformative force in academia. With a PhD in Environmental Health and over five years of distinguished experience as a Lecturer and Researcher, Dr Lenetha has demonstrated exceptional academic leadership that is pivotal to shaping the educational framework at her institution. Her unwavering commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive academic environment has profoundly influenced both students and Faculty, making her a vital contributor to their success. The evidence of Dr Lenetha's passion for research and mentorship is undeniable, as shown by the countless hours she dedicates to supervising her students through their Master's programs. So far, more than three Master's students have completed their qualification under her supervision, with one graduating with Cum-Laude. By 2022, she had not only completed a Post-Doctoral fellowship but also published scholarly articles, presented at national and international conferences, and secured critical NRF funding. Her ongoing contributions were further recognised with prestigious awards such as the SASSCAL Research Award and an Emerging Researcher grant. In 2023, Dr Lenetha took a bold step by joining the Division of Student Learning and Development, seeking to expand her teaching and research horizons while actively contributing to the "Academic Support and Development" initiative. Her role as an academic advisor is crucial; she aids students in devising personalised academic strategies, showcasing the importance of tailored support that empowers each one to recognise and harness their individual strengths and weaknesses. This personalised approach not only catalyses cognitive advancement but also boosts students' self-esteem. Currently, she is delving into the broader research area of "Metacognitive Strategies for the Success of Undergraduate Health Sciences Students." Her exceptional self-awareness, conflict resolution abilities, and leadership qualities earned her the role of acting Head of Department in 2024. Now, in 2025, she is actively participating in the Emerging Scholar Accelerator Programme (ESAP), aimed at enhancing research outputs through collaborative writing and partnerships. Dr Lenetha's unique blend of academic rigour and innovative thinking in the Health Sciences field makes her valuable to both her medical students and the Faculty of Health Sciences' academic success. Her influence is not merely academic—it's transformative, paving the way for a brighter future for all involved.