



BIOPROSPECTING MEDIA ROUND TABLE

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Public Understanding of Biotechnology Programme

DR VUYISILE PHEHANE

Vuyisile completed his Doctorate in the department of Chemical Pathology at the University of Cape Town, studying the expression and drug targeting of a malaria parasite purine salvage enzyme. His working career started at SA Bioproducts in Durban, South Africa, where he was Scientist in the New Business Development Section, responsible for, amongst others, bio-process development of amino acid production technologies. Thereafter, he moved to the CSIR Biosciences in Johannesburg, as Process Scientist in the Biocatalysis Group of the Biotechnology Division, and was co-inventor of patent for the extraction of aloesin from *Aloe ferox*. Whilst at the CSIR, Vuyisile developed an interest in innovation management, and commercialisation, and decided to join the Innovation Fund as Programme Manager, responsible for the process of the evaluation, funding and monitoring of new innovations. He later joined the Commercialisation Department of the Innovation Fund as Commercialisation Manager. Vuyisile currently works for BioPAD, as Portfolio Manager of the Industrial Biotechnology and Bioprocessing Portfolio, responsible for the funding and monitoring of biotechnology projects and platforms, as well as the commercialisation of developed bio-technologies. He currently serves on the boards of four biotechnology start-up companies. Vuyisile is passionate about driving new technology innovations and commercialisation opportunities into viable product-driven businesses.



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