**Dr Sithandiwe Mazibuko-Mbeje**

**Citizenship:** South African

**Qualifications:** BSc, BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD (Biochemistry), University of Zululand

**Positions:** Post-doctoral fellow,Institute for Diabetes and Obesity, Helmholtz-Zentrum München, Germany

Senior Scientist,Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform (BRIP), South African Medical Research Council.

Extraordinary Lecturer,Medical Physiology, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University.

**Experience:** Dr Mazibuko-Mbeje joined South African Medical Research Council as a research technologist 2007 (contract worker), she then did undergraduate and postgraduate studies (part time) with University of Zululand, Empangeni, South Africa, and graduated with Merit Master’s degree (2010). She then pursued her PhD with the same University but doing the research project with South African Medical Research Council (2011- 2013) and during this time she was offered permanent position as a scientist. She received NRF (Thuthuka PhD track 2012-2014) funding to do her PhD project where she studied the effects of polyphenolic compounds on fatty acid-induced insulin resistance models, under the supervision of Prof Christo Muller. Dr Mazibuko-Mbeje received NRF funding Thuthuka post PhD track (2014) and in 2015 she further received Helmholtz postdoctoral fellowship award to pursue her Post doc with the project of her own choice Institute for Diabetes and Obesity, Helmholtz-Zentrum München, Germany in the laboratory of Dr Martin Jastroch.

Her research involves using cell lines and animal models to investigate the effects of natural compounds as they may offer new treatments for insulin resistance and diabetes. Recently, her research has expanded to include understanding of mitochondrial energy transduction, pharmacological intervention and restoration of dysfunctional properties.

Dr Mazibuko-Mbeje has been active in translating knowledge through training postgraduate students in tissue culture techniques. She has two first authorship and 4 co-author publications. Furthermore she has received travel grant (2013) from University of Zululand and has given two oral presentations at international conferences and various local conferences.

**RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS** Metabolic disease, prevention and treatment, mechanism of action, mitochondrial biology, nutraceuticals, pharmacological interventions,