

## **Biosketch Dr Hanél Sadie-Van Gijzen**

I have lived in the Northern suburbs of Cape Town all my life, and I completed my undergraduate and postgraduate studies at Stellenbosch University Main Campus, where I graduated with a PhD in Biochemistry in 2006. I moved to Stellenbosch University Tygerberg Campus where I worked in the Department of Medicine, first as a post-doctoral researcher and subsequently as a senior researcher on an MRC Career Development Award. Since April 2018 I have been working in the Division of Medical Physiology as a senior researcher/principal investigator. My research focuses on adipose (fat tissue) stem cells (ASCs) as a cellular model of obesity, which can be used in an *in vivo* / *ex vivo* study design. By using these tools, we can study the impact of systemic influences such as diet, hormones, drugs and natural products (especially weight-loss products) on the function of ASCs, to determine how these influences may re-programme the function of fat tissue over time.

I am married to Francois, a financial planner who grew up in Cape Town and who believes that the border of Cape Town is the Liesbeek river. We have two children. My interests include reading, mountain hiking, beach holidays and spending time with my family.