



## **Helen Malherbe**

Helen is the current Chair of Genetic Alliance South Africa (GA-SA), a non-profit, membership organisation uniting patient support groups, healthcare professionals and other stakeholders relevant to the care and prevention of congenital disorders (CDs). The mission of GA-SA is to improve the lives of those affected by CDs through advocacy, support, education and research.

Helen worked in science communication for over 20 years including five years in international agricultural development after completing her Masters in Plant Genetic Resources conservation and use at the University of Birmingham and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK. She is currently completing her PhD study at the School of Clinical Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal, investigating the need for services for the care and prevention of CDs in South Africa due for submission in late 2016. Helen also provides support for families affected by Trisomy 18 (Edwards Syndrome) following the loss of her daughter to this disorder in 2004.