



Raj Ramesar

Raj Ramesar is Professor and Head of the Division of Human Genetics at the University of Cape Town and its Affiliated Hospitals in South Africa. This facility has wide-ranging clinical responsibilities from the quaternary and tertiary care levels, to extensive rural outreach programmes, in addition to diagnostic and research capabilities.

As the Director of the MRC Human Genetics Research Unit, the emphasis of his research has been on disease susceptibility in South African populations, progressing from the commonly recognised inherited diseases, to those that are more complex yet more common and relevant to a large burden of disease. As Director of the national Colorectal Cancer Research Consortium, his focus has been on the genetics of familial colorectal cancers, and the most effective translation of laboratory findings to the field for optimum benefit of patients and their kin. In this regard, Raj recently received the (Vice Chancellor's) Alan Pifer Award for 'outstanding research in cancer genetics which shows relevance to the advancement of South Africa's disadvantaged populations.' Raj led a successful bid to host the International Congress of Human Genetics in Cape Town in 2021 – promising to showcase remarkable advances in the area of genomic medicine and personalised health in Africa by that year.