



**Linda-Gail Bekker**  
***South Africa***

**IAS Immediate Past President**

Linda-Gail Bekker, MBChB, DTMH, DCH, FCP(SA), PhD, is Professor of medicine and deputy director of the Desmond Tutu HIV Centre at the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, University of Cape Town. She is also chief operating officer of the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation, a not for profit organization that works to improve the wellbeing of people from some of the poorest communities in South Africa. She is a physician scientist with a keen interest in HIV, tuberculosis and related diseases. Her doctoral work focused on the host response to tuberculosis both with and in the absence of HIV co-infection. Subsequently her research interests have expanded to include programmatic and action research around antiretroviral roll out and TB integration, prevention of HIV in women, youth and men who have sex with men.

She has contributed to >350 publications emanating from the HIV Centre on topics relevant to the South African HIV and TB epidemics. In her role in the Foundation, she is passionate about community development and engagement and actively explores new and innovative ways to tackle the challenge that is HIV. She was President of the International AIDS Society from 2016 to 2018 and serves on a number of other national and international committees and boards.