

44^{of} 100

Dorah
Motsatsi



Here to be Purposeful

Turning scientific ambition into global impact: How one woman is using education, clinical research and mentorship to help shape the future of healthcare.

For Dorah Motsatsi, science has always represented possibility. Growing up she understood that opportunities are not always easily accessible, but she discovered that determination, education and curiosity could open doors that once seemed beyond reach.

That belief would take her to the laboratories of the University of Pretoria and, ultimately, into global

clinical research. Her career is defined not only by academic excellence, but by a desire to ensure that scientific progress improves people’s lives.

Dorah began with a Bachelor of Science in Medical Sciences before completing an Honours degree in Anatomical Pathology. Driven by curiosity, she completed a second Honours degree in Pharmacology, strengthening the expertise that would distinguish her career.

Her education was never confined to theory. While pursuing her first Honours degree, she worked as a laboratory technician at the National Health Laboratory Service laboratory at the university. Balancing studies with responsibilities gave her insight into the discipline and precision required in healthcare diagnostics and scientific research.

She later embarked on a master’s degree in pharmacy, specialising in Pharmaceutical Science. During her postgraduate studies, Dorah served as a junior lecturer at the University of Pretoria, helping educate emerging scientists. She also worked as a clinical research coordinator at Botho ke Bontle Health Services, contributing to research aimed at improving community healthcare outcomes.

Today, Dorah is an Associate Site Activation Manager at IQVIA, formerly known as Quintiles and IMS Health, a global clinical research organisation. She joined the company as a Site Activation Specialist, facilitating the activation of clinical trial sites and supporting the development of treatments. After two years, she became an Informed Consent Form Lead, demonstrating the leadership and attention to detail essential to ethical clinical research.

The impact is profound. By helping manage clinical operations across international markets, Dorah contributes to the processes through which new therapies and medicines are researched, tested and brought closer to patients.

Yet her influence extends beyond laboratories and clinical trials. Through the StudyTrust Bursary Fund, she mentors people aspiring to careers in science, healthcare and research, offering guidance and encouragement that can transform ambition into opportunity.

Dorah’s story proves that success is not determined by where a journey begins, but by the purpose with which it continues. Through lifelong learning, healthcare leadership and a commitment to lifting others, she is helping build a future in which more South Africans can see themselves in science and healthcare too.