



## Professional Introduction: Dr. Carien Weyers

Dr. Carien Weyers is a distinguished academic, researcher, and expert in the field of Environmental Health, Occupational Health, and Safety (OHS). Currently serving as a Senior Lecturer and the former Interim Programme Head for Environmental Health at the Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT), she brings decades of expertise dedicated to improving workplace safety, public health standards, and academic excellence.

Dr. Weyers' career is deeply intertwined with the Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT), where she has built an extraordinary legacy as a Senior Lecturer, researcher, and former Interim Programme Head for Environmental Health.

## Academic Foundation & Advanced Qualifications

Her academic pedigree is both extensive and rigorous, built entirely through CUT:

- National Diploma (1994–1996) and B.Tech (1997) in Environmental Health.
- M.Tech (1998–2002) and D.Tech (2003–2006) in Environmental Health, specializing in Occupational Health and Safety.
- Post-graduate Certificate in Education (2007), which she achieved cum laude with a specialization in learner facilitation and assessment.
- Industry certifications including SAMTRAC (2013), which she also completed Summa Cum Laude.

## Research Leadership & Scientific Contributions

Dr. Weyers is a prolific researcher whose work has significantly shaped safety standards in South Africa and abroad. Her core research areas span occupational noise-induced hearing loss, ergonomic assessments, agricultural worker safety, and the biological and health effects of Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs)—ranging from welding environments to high-voltage MRI units.

Her academic output is vast:

- She has authored and co-authored numerous peer-reviewed publications in esteemed journals such as *Occupational Health Southern Africa*, *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*, and *Health and Technology*.

- She has presented her research at prestigious international and national platforms, including the American Industrial Hygiene Conference (AIHCE) and conferences across Canada, Egypt, and South Africa.

#### Awards & Academic Recognition

Dr. Weyers' exceptional career has been consistently marked by notable awards and honors highlighting her academic brilliance and research excellence:

- Best First-Year Environmental Health Student (1994)
- Best B.Tech Student Presentation in the Faculty (1997)
- SRO Study Bursary (1998 & 1999)
- Commonwealth Science Council Travel Grant (£1000, 2003)
- Best Staff Presentation Award at the CUT Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences Prestige Research Day (2007)
- Best Doctorate Presentation Award at the CUT Faculty Prestige Research Day (2008)
- NRF Research Grants (2004–2009)
- Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Advanced Teaching (CUT Graduation Ceremony, September 2010)

#### Mentorship & Postgraduate Supervision

A true champion of student development, Dr. Weyers has served as the primary supervisor for an impressive 77 B.Tech research projects since 2002. She has also successfully guided numerous postgraduate candidates to completion, acting as supervisor, promoter, and internal/external examiner for Master's and Doctoral degrees across institutions like CUT, the University of the Free State (UFS), the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), and Durban University of Technology (DUT).

#### Industry Collaboration & Community Impact

Dr. Weyers bridges the gap between theoretical science and practical industry application. Her community service and professional consulting portfolio include:

- Previously serving as Chairperson of CUT's Central Occupational Health and Safety Committee and a member of the CUT Emergency and Disaster Management Team.
- Acting as a panel reviewer for the National Research Foundation (NRF) and contributing expertise to the SA Association of Health Educationalists (SAAHE).

Through her unwavering commitment to safety, education, and research, Dr. Weyers continues to protect workers and shape the next generation of environmental health professionals.