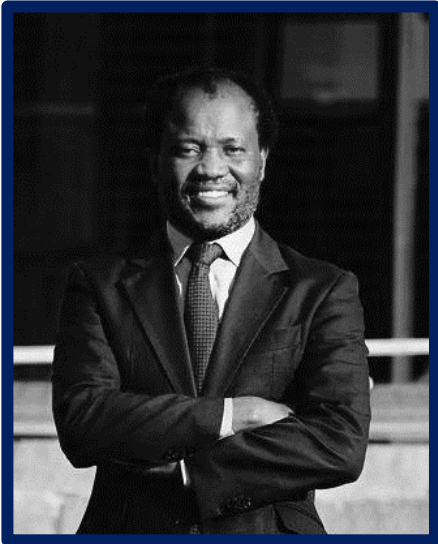
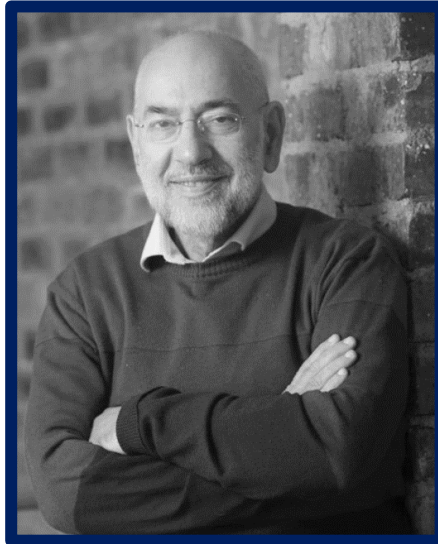


UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG



Professor Zebulon Vilakazi

**Vice Chancellor
University of the
Witwatersrand**



**Professor Emeritus Barry
Dwolatzky**

**Johannesburg Centre for
Software Engineering**



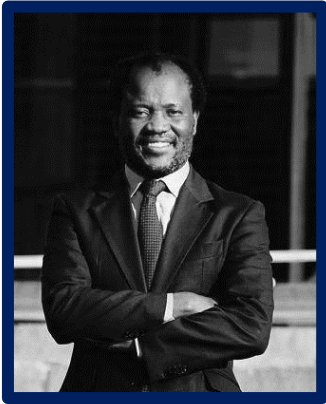
Professor Nithaya Chetty

**Dean
Faculty of Science
University of the
Witwatersrand**

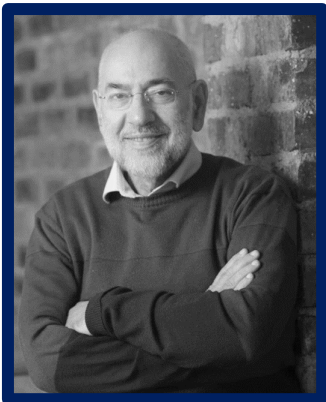


Dr Roy P. Forbes

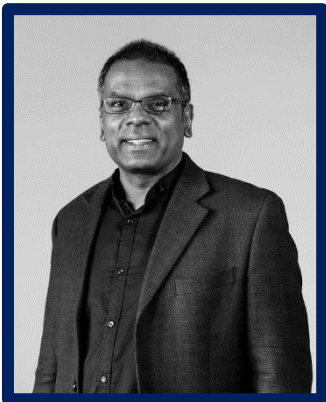
**Senior Researcher
School of Chemistry
University of the
Witwatersrand**



Professor Vilakazi is the current Vice-Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Postgraduate Studies at Wits. On June 25th, 2020 the Council of the University of the Witwatersrand today announced Professor Vilakazi's appointment as the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Wits University from 1 January 2021. Under his leadership as Vice-Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Wits' research output increased twofold, with the University increasingly producing more research with higher impact. Professor Vilakazi is widely published (325 papers) and highly cited with an h-index of 70. No stranger to technology and the digital world, Professor Vilakazi chairs South Africa's National Quantum Computing Working Committee which seeks to develop a Framework for Quantum Computing and Quantum Technology driven research and innovation in South Africa. He is also instrumental in ensuring that Wits and other African universities have access to quantum computing networks. Professor Vilakazi is globally recognised for his expert knowledge in physics and nuclear research. He was instrumental in establishing South Africa's first experimental high-energy physics research group at CERN focusing on the development of the High-level Trigger for the CERN-ALICE experiment at the Large Hadron Collider at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). He also served as a visiting scientist at the Atomic Energy Commission and Alternative Energy in Saclay, France.



Barry Dwolatzky is an Emeritus Professor in the School of Electrical & Information Engineering at Wits University. Professor Dwolatzky is a popular keynote speaker and offers advice as an independent software engineering consultant. He is also founder and Director of the University's Joburg Centre for Software Engineering (JCSE). His primary focus over the past 28 years has been the growth and development of the South African software engineering sector and so in 2013 Barry spearheaded an initiative at Wits to establish a major digital innovation hub in the Braamfontein area of inner-city Johannesburg. Called the "Tshimologong Precinct" the project has attracted significant support from government and a range of major local and international companies. In recognition of his contribution to the South African IT industry Barry Dwolatzky was named the "South African IT Personality of the Year" in 2013 and received an award for "Distinguished Service to IT" from the Institute of IT Professionals of South Africa (IITPSA) in 2016. Also, in 2016 Wits University presented him with the "Vice Chancellor's Award for Academic Citizenship".



Professor Nithaya Chetty is the Dean of the Faculty of Science at Wits University. The two-time recipient of the American Fulbright Fellowship, Professor Chetty is also a current Vice-President of the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), a past president of the South African Institute of Physics, and former Deputy Director of the National Institute of Theoretical Physics. Professor Chetty served on the Executive of the National Research Foundation (NRF) for six years as Group Executive: Astronomy, and subsequently as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the NRF overseeing the Astronomy portfolio during the build phase of the MeerKAT radio telescope. A leading academic and researcher, Professor Chetty brings with him a range of skills in the higher education sector and a profound understanding of the national research system. Professor Chetty's research interests focus on the quantum mechanical studies of two dimensional graphene-related materials using large production codes at the Centre for High Performance Computing. Professor Chetty has also been actively involved in physics education, researching pedagogical approaches to the teaching of physics, which he says is vitally important for developing a new cohort of scientists for the future.



Dr Roy Forbes is a Senior Researcher in the School of Chemistry in the Faculty of Science at Wits University. Dr Forbes has both industry and academic experience having previously been employed as a Scientist at Sasol Research and Technology. Dr Forbes is known for his expertise in powder X-ray diffraction and related synchrotron techniques and as such has trained numerous post graduate students and carried out various types of synchrotron experiments assisting many students with augmenting their own research abilities and activities. Dr Forbes is a current recipient of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Thuthuka research grant to research solid state ionic conductors and their use in novel battery devices. Dr Forbes has previously collaborated on research concerning the development of novel heterogeneous catalysts for fuels and chemicals production, energy materials design and synthesis and has a particular interest in the use of machine learning to aid in materials synthesis and characterization. Additionally, Dr Forbes is also interested in the use of machine learning as a learning tool.