

## Biography of Dr. Naqita Alexander

Dr Naqita Alexander is a young, innovative and internationally trained medical doctor. She is well known for her contributions to medical relief around the world and more recently to joining the fight for increased access to medications for children with rare genetic and inflammatory diseases.

Naqita was born on the Cape Flats where she attended Athlone North Primary School. She was raised with a strong sense of community and still has ties to the community of Kewtown. Her parents who are first generation university graduates taught Naqita the value of hard work at a young age when she regularly engaged in their study routines and bared witness to the sacrifices they had made to become graduates of law and commerce, respectively.

She attended high school at Hottentots Holland in Somerset West where she graduated with distinction. With still maintaining an active relationship with her high school, Naqita regularly returns to engage in motivational speaking and leadership development with students.

As Naqita entered university, she worked closely with non-profit organizations including Operation Smile. After participating in a number of medical missions with the Smile Foundation, Naqita continued to maintain a network with health care workers around Africa and became the student Ambassador for the organization.

After receiving her medical degree, Naqita was fortunate enough to experience health care in a first world setting. Her experience in the National Health service and other countries around the world including the likes of ObamaCare, has shaped the innovation she strives for in all goal-driven tasks.

After leaving the United Kingdom and starting work in Atlanta. Naqita dedicated her research and learning centered around Narcotics abuse and HIV protocol implementation. Through close partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, she was successfully able to contribute a developing world perspective to real world challenges discussed in Grand Round Advisory boards.

Her formal teachings and achievements include a vast number of accolades including participation in the Global Young Leaders Summit. Her post-graduate learning includes a certificate from Columbia University in Sustainable Development. Her most recent endeavours include her Masters in Public Health with a focus on Health Policy from the University of Edinburgh.

Upon her return home, she entered corporate South Africa where Naqita spent time in advisory and management consulting. Her focal projects included increasing access to healthcare to rural South Africa and ensuring that service delivery was adequately advocated for.

Her current thesis focuses on a policy brief intended to propose expanded preventative and early detection and screening initiatives for children in South Africa. The initiative introduces actionable steps to innovate current health care infrastructure to adequately address childhood conditions up until the age of 18. In theory, this policy would work hand in hand with the Department of Social Development as well as the Departments of Education and Health to create proactive platforms for an array of aspects including, but not limited to the detection of child violence, abuse as well as learning and physical disabilities.

Naqita is currently consulting on a project aimed at making specialist medical care available to millions of South Africans located in rural areas. The project is set to utilize digital telemedicine platforms to connects South African nurse practitioners with health care specialists around the

world. And in doing so, shortening the referral waiting times most South Africans deem a current reality. In partnership with multi-national organizations, Naqita is at the forefront of building networks with healthcare and education professionals to actively bridge the demand faced by the South African health care system.

Dr Alexander has a strong ethos of community and leadership development. Her open-minded approach to innovative strategy development and overall passion for her country is what has been the main driving force in her path. It can be said again that her beliefs are firmly entrenched in driving the “unprecedented opportunity in this generation and in the province of the Western Cape, to end violence against children” and providing an uninterrupted environment for holistic child development.