

Associate Prof Dirk J. Blom
MBChB (UCT), MMed (UCT), FCP (SA), PhD (UCT)
Head of Division of Lipidology, Department of Medicine, University of Cape Town
Email: dirk.blom@uct.ac.za

Dirk Blom started his undergraduate medical degree in Germany and completed it in South Africa. Subsequently, he specialised in Internal Medicine at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town.

Associate Professor Dirk Blom is the Head of Division of Lipidology at the University of Cape Town and heads the Lipid Clinic at Groote Schuur Hospital. The lipid clinic serves as a referral centre for patients with severe, unusual or difficult-to-manage dyslipidaemia and participates in numerous clinical trials exploring novel lipid-modifying or anti-atherosclerotic therapies

Professor Blom's personal research interests include genetic disorders of lipoprotein metabolism with a particular emphasis on dysbetalipoproteinaemia and familial hypercholesterolaemia which is particularly common in South Africa. His unit has participated or is participating in trials with microsomal transfer protein (MTP)-inhibitors, antisense oligonucleotides, PCSK9 inhibitors and antibodies to ANGPTL3 for the management of familial hypercholesterolaemia. Other interests include familial chylomicronaemia, lipodystrophy, PPARgamma mutations, dyslipidaemia in ART and lipid guidelines.

Professor Blom is a member of multiple international societies and currently serves on the executive committee of the Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society of Southern Africa. He is a member of the executive committee of the College of Physicians of the Colleges of Medicine in Southern Africa (CMSA). He previously also served as secretary of the College of Physicians. He has published in multiple peer-reviewed journals including The Lancet, the New England Journal of Medicine, Circulation, Journal of Clinical Lipidology, Current Opinion in Lipidology and the Journal of Lipid Research. He has also contributed to the development of the South African Dyslipidaemia, World Heart Federation cholesterol guidelines and SEMDSA Diabetes treatment guidelines.