

## **Cherise Dunn, PhD**

[cherise\\_dunn@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:cherise_dunn@hsph.harvard.edu), +1-857-492-4906 [LinkedIn](#)

Visionary leader and 6 times founder in global health equity, healthcare innovation, and strategic program development. Extensive experience in designing and executing impactful programs that address healthcare disparities in resource-limited settings. Proven ability to lead cross-functional teams, develop high-impact partnerships, and influence policy and strategy at global institutions. Experience in cancer research, medtech, generative, agentic artificial intelligence as well as additive manufacturing for healthcare solutions. Passionate about driving equitable access to quality healthcare.

### **EDUCATION**

#### **Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (GPA 3.857)**

Master of Public Health 2025  
Biostatistics & Epidemiology | Financial Transaction & Analysis | Innovation & Entrepreneur in Healthcare | Financial Management & Control | Method & Tools for Quality Improvement | Management Science for a New Era | Qualitative Methods in Public Health | Health Systems | Social, Behavioural, Structural Determinants of Health | Foundations for Public Health | Health Policy & Politics | Leadership & Communication | Skills & Methods of Health Care Negotiation | Strategic Management in Global Settings | Power & Influence for Positive Impact | Arts of Communication | AI for Impact | AI Ventures

#### **University of Cape Town**

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Medical Biochemistry 2013-2017  
Master of Science (Medicine) in Medical Biochemistry (2011-2012)

#### **University of Kwa-Zulu Natal**

Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry (Honours) 2010  
Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Microbiology 2006-2009

### **COMPETENCIES**

Global Health Equity & Strategy Development | Stakeholder Engagement & Public-Private Partnerships | Cross-functional Team Leadership Healthcare | Innovation & MedTech Solutions Program | Execution & Impact Measurement | Policy Development

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **Co-founder and Chief Operations Officer**

**Makes Health (formerly known as SOUTH AFRICA MAKES)** 2018 – Present

- Spearheaded global health equity initiatives in additive manufacturing for healthcare solutions.
- Led development of point-of-care medical devices, improving access to diagnostics and surgical solutions in RLS.
- Established high-impact partnerships with stakeholders, including Autodesk, Formlabs, Stanford University, and U.S. State Department, securing \$400K+ in funding and technology transfer support.
- Advocated for policy and regulatory alignment for local 3D printing in African healthcare, engaging multilateral organizations and government agencies.

#### **Executive Director**

**Africa Makes Foundation | 2018 – Present**

- Developed and executed STEAM-focused programs for 400+ African youth, emphasizing health innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Designed global mentorship programs in partnership with Stanford University and the Federal Institute of Amapá (Brazil).
- Led strategic initiatives to enhance digital literacy, workforce development, and local healthcare solutions.

#### **Regional Project Manager**

##### **SPAR Group & Titan Skills Developers | 2005 – 2024**

- Led national retail training projects with an annual budget of \$1.5M, improving employability for 20,000+ participants.
- Developed curricula and implemented large-scale skills development programs across South Africa.

#### **Strategic Advisor on Global Health Equity**

##### **Various Multilateral Organizations | 2021 – Present**

- Provided expert advisory to U.S. State Department and African Union on leveraging technology and innovation for health equity.
- Consulted on digital transformation, health policy, and workforce development in underserved regions.

#### **LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY**

- G20 Startup20 Delegate (2024): Represented South Africa in global policy discussions on health innovation and access in emerging markets.
- BRICS Young Innovator (2023): Showcased AI-driven generative design for medical devices to address disparities in diagnostic accessibility.
- U.S. State Department Speaker (2022): Advised on policy frameworks for 3D printing in global healthcare.
- TEDx Speaker: Delivered Africa's only TEDx talk on 3D printing for health equity.

#### **FELLOWSHIPS & RECOGNITION**

- Harvard South Africa Fellow (2024)
- BRICS Young Innovator Prize Finalist (2023)
- Fast Company SA's Most Innovative Company (2021)
- Inspiring Fifty SA Award (2019)

#### **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING**

- Public Health Leadership Lab (2025)
- International Visitor Leadership Program for Women in Business | U.S. State Department (2018)
- Solution Space Impact Venture Incubation Program | University of Cape Town (2019)
- Certificate in Technology Commercialization | University of the Western Cape (2013)

#### **VOLUNTEERING & EXTRACURRICULAR**

- Chair of Operations, Harvard Graduate Student Council
- Director of External Partnerships, Harvard Chan Public Health Innovation & Technology Club
- Harvard Student Wellbeing Council
- Student Leadership Council, MIT AI Ventures
- Mentor for Women in STEM & Emerging Entrepreneurs

- Public Speaker & Thought Leader on Health Innovation

**KEY IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Designed and manufactured Africa's first 3D printed nasopharyngeal swab for COVID-19.
- Secured \$400K+ in funding for healthcare innovation projects in Africa.
- Led technology transfer partnerships across U.S., Brazil, and Africa to scale affordable medical device manufacturing.
- Developed and executed global health equity strategies for STEAM-focused youth programs and community health worker (CHW) training initiatives.
- Collaborating with Stanford & Harvard researchers to advance additive manufacturing applications in global healthcare through sports-injury prevention devices and women's health solutions.
- Platinum awardee in MIT AI Venture Studio Demo Day
- Supported healthcare quality improvement research under the independent study supervision of Dr. Lindsay Martin