# Helen Susannah Webb PhD

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#### SUPERPOWER:

I was born with a visual impairment which has led me, by necessity, to become a creative problem solver, develop grit and an impeccable work ethic and possess an unshakable drive to overcome challenges. Very few people are lucky enough to acquire these traits as early in life as I did.

### **CORE SKILLS:**

- Experimental Design Communication
- Project Management
- Linux Environments and Virtual Machines
- Inclusion and Diversity
- Statistical Programming
- Data Analysis (R, Python)
- Relational Databases
- (SQL)
- Version Control (GitHub)
- Machine Learning (scikit-learn)
- Software Design and Architecture (Python, JAVA)
- Data Visualization (R. Tableau)
- Educational Technology (Moodle)
- **PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**
- TEDx Pretoria 2016 Speaker
- First Female Visually Impaired athlete to complete Ironman South Africa (2017)
- 2017 Ironman World Champion Female Physically Challenged Division

#### **CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Program Director Transformation Workshop Series: Disability (University of South Africa, 2017)
- Established and led In-house Training in Process and System Validation (Strategnos, 2016)
- Subject Editor (including language and content editing and artwork briefing) for Life Science (Macmillan Education South Africa as a contractor through Knowledge Craft Scientific Communication, 2016)

### **Experience**

- 2017 Feb 2018 Senior Lecturer, University of South Africa, Pretoria South Africa
- 2015 2017 Scientific Communication Specialist, Knowledge Craft Scientific Communications
- 2015 2016 Validation Specialist, Strategnos, Johannesburg South Africa
- 2015 Post-doctoral Research, Fellowship Faculty of Science, University of the Witwatersrand
- 2015 **PhD** Biochemistry and Cell Biology, University of the Witwatersrand
- 2010 Research Assistant Protein Structure-Function Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand
- 2010 MSc Biochemistry and Cell Biology, University of the Witwatersrand
- 2006 **BSc (Hons)** Genetics and Developmental Biology, University of the Witwatersrand

## Undergraduate Education

- 2003-2005 BSc Genetics, Microbiology, University of the Witwatersrand
- 2010-2013 BA (With Distinction) Linguistics, Psychology, University of South Africa

## **Inclusion and Diversity Projects**

- Love, This Skin www.facebook.com/lovethisskin (2017-2018)
- Disabled Sport (various organizations) <a href="https://www.facebook.com/HelenWVIAthlete">www.facebook.com/HelenWVIAthlete</a> (2016-2018)
- Princess Pi www.facebook.com/PrinccessPiZA (2014-2018)
- P-STEM Foundation (2016)
- Targeting Talent (2013-2015)
- Go to University to Shine (2012-2013)

## **Open Data and Technology Meetings**

- London School of Economics 1st Social Science Hackathon, 2018, LSE, London, UK
- Al in & Big Data in Education and Research, Language and Big Data Alliance, 2018, London, UK (Registered)
- Autism Ideation and Hackathon 2018 Microsoft Reactor London UK (Registered)
- Data hack: digging public procurement in the UK 2018 Space4 London UK (Registered)
- Leaderex, 2017, Sandton Convention Center, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Open Data Hackathon Organized by Geekulcha, 2015, Innovation Hub, Pretoria South Africa

## **Lifelong Learning**

- HarvardX Certificate in Data Analysis for the Life Sciences (R and Statistics, Introduction to Linear Models and Matrix Algebra, Statistical Inference and Modelling and for High Throughput Experiments, High Dimensional Data Analysis), 2018
- Coursera Wharton Business School Introduction to Marketing 2017
- Coursera Johns Hopkins University Introduction to Genomic Technologies 2017
- MedicalZA Good Manufacturing Practice and Good Distribution Practice Training Certificate 2015
- EMBO Practical Course: Modern Biophysical Methods for Protein-Ligand Interactions. Oulu, Finland, 2013
- South African National Bioinformatics Institute, DREME. Johannesburg, South Africa, 2011
- South African National Bioinformatics Institute, Principles of Protein X-ray Crystallography. Pretoria South Africa, 2008
- EMBL Proteomic Data Analysis. Cape Town, South Africa, 2008
- South African National Bioinformatics Institute, ENSEMBL. Johannesburg, South Africa 2007

### Media, Articles and Conferences

- Self Magazine Instagram Post about my Ironman World Championship 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2018 (2.6K+ likes) https://www.instagram.com/p/Bg9TV23HiwZ/?hl=en&taken-by=selfmagazine
- Wall Street Journal quoted in article Her Triathlon Goal: Guiding Others to the Finish Line 20th of January 2018
- "I Could Never Do That" Podcast Helen Susannah Webb and Caroline Gaynor 4th of December 2017
- "Ironwomen" Podcast Live with Ironman Athlete Helen Webb and her Guide Helen Webb 14th of October 2017
- Modern Athlete December 2017 cover story: Helen Webb: Kona Conquered 14th of December 2017
- Webb, H.S., Rotherham, L. Aron, S., Macacanick, P. and Fanucchi, S. (2017) The FOXP2 forhead domain binds numerous unique DNA sequences with varied rates and affinities. *Journal of Biochemistry* 162: 45-54
- P-STEM International Day of the Girl Child Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2016
- TEDx Pretoria Speaker Inclusivity, Innovation and Making your Own Space, Pretoria, South Africa, 2016
- Advancing the human Rights of Persons with Albinism on the African Continent, Center for Human Rights, Pretoria South Africa, 2016
- South African Young Academy of Science 2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium on Science and Society: Fact, Fiction and Media: re-imagining science engagement and its impact, Cape Town, South Africa, 2015
- Molecular Biosciences Research Thrust Symposium, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2013
- EMBO: Modern Biophysical Methods for Protein-Ligand Interactions. Oulu, Finland, 2013
- South African Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Congress, Drakensberg, South Africa, 2012