



# STRong Heart

Strengthening Trials and Research  
for Rheumatic Heart Disease



## Prof Mark Engel

South African Medical Research Council  
South Africa Co-I

Evidence-Based Healthcare and Training Specialist

Qualifications: BSc(MED)Hons, MPH, PhD

### About

Prof Mark Engel is Unit Director, SAMRC Cochrane Centre and Principal Research Officer, Cape Heart Institute, University of Cape Town (UCT). Initially a medical laboratory scientist, he later pursued a career in epidemiology after completing his MPH and PhD degrees, from UCT, and fellowships to Harvard and Ottawa Universities. His doctoral study was on a large longitudinal study on the epidemiology of RHD in Cape Town children. Prof Engel is affiliated as a Principal Research Officer at UCT, where he is a Lead Investigator in the Cape Heart Institute. His research portfolio incorporates networking with African colleagues to apply a wide range of investigative approaches, from molecular to population-based research to all aspects of Rheumatic Heart Disease. In 2016, he established the AFROStrep Study, in efforts to improve the understanding of the role of group A streptococcus in RHD development and inform putative vaccines under development. His work, supported over the years by the SA National Research Foundation, the SAMRC, the American Heart Association and NIH in the USA, has been presented both nationally and internationally. He has an excellent academic record, teaching health research methods and having successfully supervised to completion, a number of students undertaking MPH, MSc and PhD degrees. He is a member of the African Union/Pan-African Societies of Cardiology Education Taskforce, the Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARC) Diagnostic Network, and the Burden of Disease Working Group of the Strep A Vaccine Global Consortium (SAVAC).