

## **Candidate Statement: Janice Limson**

### **Division 2, International Society of Electrochemistry**

Electrochemistry plays a unique role in addressing some of the global challenges facing society, including clean water; bioremediation of polluted environs, healthcare (especially in diagnostics) and access to energy. Many of these challenges are recognized as a priority concern in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Addressing these multiple and interrelated challenges in the face of scarce resources will require greater collaboration between role-players and newer approaches in scientific research in order to produce effective solutions within a responsive timeframe.

The **International Society of Electrochemistry (ISE)** has a diverse network of members, generating research that impacts across industry, healthcare and the environment. Researchers in ISE's Division 2 are well-positioned within electrochemistry to lead the way in developing concerted, collaborative and cross-disciplinary efforts of the kind that are ultimately needed to bring about real and lasting solutions across all spheres of bioelectrochemistry.

My research laboratory in South Africa (focusing on electrochemical/optical biosensors and microbial electrochemistry technologies) works at the intersection between science and society. We apply our fundamental and technological research to explore how scientists engage with wider stakeholders (industry, society and policymakers/funders) to guide the development of new products and processes. This inclusive approach to scientific research – known within the EU as “Responsible Research and Innovation” – is an engaged research approach that is increasingly recognised by grant funding agencies as a vital part of the research and innovation process. Furthermore, embedding this approach into the training of students and postdoctoral research fellows better prepares them for the transdisciplinary nature of advancing research into technologies with the potential for wider impact.

If elected, I would advance the following: 1) drawing on the wider network of expertise in Division 2, enhance training opportunities for students and emerging researchers in core areas of bioelectrochemistry (online and in-person courses as well as mentorship initiatives); 2) support transdisciplinary learning and research at all levels (through topical and annual meetings, and symposia that include broader stakeholders within related areas); and 3) expand opportunities for collaborations and greater networking between Division 2 members.

**Janice Limson, Rhodes University**

**South Africa**