

## STAFF PROFILE CONTENT BRIEF

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### DESIGNATION

### PROFESSOR



**Title & Name:** Prof Kugen Permaul

**Qualification & Institution:** Ph.D (UKZN)

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**Campus:** Steve Biko

**Area of Expertise:** Enzyme Technology, Biomass processing, Microbial Molecular Biology

**Short Bio:** Prof K Permaul obtained his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. His early research projects focused on bacterial molecular genetics, especially plasmid biology. He graduated with a Ph.D in 1999 and spent a year as a postdoctoral fellow before being employed as a lecturer at the Durban University of Technology in 2000. He has steadily progressed up the academic ranks and was awarded full professorship in 2011. He was appointed as Head of the Department of Biotechnology and Food Technology in 2014. His research projects involved: detection and quantification of mycotoxins in food commodities; production of potable water by ultrafiltration; characterisation and production of amylase, inulinase and chitinase enzymes; directed evolution and expression of a xylanase enzyme and genomic sequencing of a thermophilic fungus. Current research projects focus on expression of xylanase, xylosidase, chitinase and other carbohydrase genes; the use of chitin as a bioresource and biomass processing. Prof Permaul is a NRF C-rated researcher who has published in high-impact scientific journals and is involved in peer-review of research for several international journals as well as for international and local academic institutions and the NRF.

**Academic Interests:** Microbial biotechnology, Molecular Biology

**Research Links:** Scopus -

<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=15078201000>

Google Scholar:

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=HOM7jegAAAAJ>