



**Dr. MARK BLECHER**, *Chief Director Health and Social Development, National Treasury, South Africa*

His academic qualifications include a four year specialist degree in Community/Public Health at University of Cape Town and a PhD in an area of health economics. He has over 50 publications in the field of public health and health economics in a range of books and journals including the South African Medical Journal, SA Health Review, Vaccine, OECD book and others. He supervises a team of ten in the National Treasury and has previously worked in Policy and Planning and Health Economics in the public sector. His work encompasses many areas including National Health Insurance research and development, putting in place health conditional grants like the HIV/AIDS grant, heading Health and Social Protection Function Committees which make recommendations on sectoral budget allocations. His section of the Treasury also works on social grant modelling and budgeting, ECD and other aspects of Health and Social Development. He has also worked on aspects of social security development. Dr. Blecher was co-chair of UNAIDS Economic Reference Group and works regularly with various global organizations such as WHO, GAVI, Global Fund, GFF and others. He is currently co-authoring several international cross-country studies on UHC.