Joey Gouws joins the WHO, Pre-Qualification Inspectorate

Dr Joey Gouws, until December 2017 the Registrar of Medicines of the Medicines Control Council, and acting cluster manager within the National Department of Health, has been appointed as the Head of Inspections of the World Health Organisation Prequalification Programme, based in Geneva, Switzerland, with effect from 2 January 2018.

The WHO was established in 1948 as a specialised agency of the United Nations serving as the directing and coordinating authority for international health matters and public health.

Before leaving the MCC, Gouws pointed out that 2017 had been a year of change. Among other activities, the new South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) Board was appointed by the Minister of Health, the first licences being issued by the MCC for Medical Device establishments, the General Regulations on cosmetics were published in terms of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972, a framework to allow for cultivation of cannabis was published and it was agreed that an African Medicines Agency would be established.

In taking her departure from her colleagues in the pharmaceutical industry, Joey said, "The Department of Health, South Africa and specifically the MCC have given me so many opportunities and allowed me so much freedom to grow in my role as Head of the MCC Inspectorate and lately as Head of the Medicines Regulatory Authority. I cannot thank the Department enough for that, as it opened the doors for me to the WHO. I am excited about my new role and look forward to a different platform of engagement with my industry colleagues."

Joey Gouws

She thanked them for all their support during her career with the MCC, and went on to say, "It has been such a privilege to have served the industry and the public during my time with the MCC. I thank you for your unfaltering dedication to achieve compliances with changing regulations and legislation. May you continue the good work and continue to take the hands of the new Regulatory Authority, SAHPRA, to ensure that the precious people of our country have access to safe, effective and efficient medicines and medical devices always."