



ENVIRON
a beautiful skin for a lifetime



Biography: Dr Des Fernandes

Environ Founder and Scientific Director

Dr Des Fernandes studied medicine and graduated with an MB.B.Ch at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. He obtained his surgical education and training (specialising in Cardiology), F.R.C.S. (Edin) from the College of Surgeons in Edinburgh in 1973.

After training in various hospitals in the UK, he returned to Cape Town, South Africa to work as a Cardio-Thoracic Surgeon and joined Professor Christiaan Barnard in the world famous heart transplant unit of Groote Schuur Hospital where he became part of the world's first heart transplant team. Dr Fernandes was also responsible for the illustrations of the "Piggy-Back" or "Double" heart transplant.

In 1975 he returned to his passion for Plastic Surgery, and eventually became the consultant in charge of the Cleft Lip and Palate Division at the Red Cross Children's Hospital for 21 years. As a result of his expertise, he was made the fellow of the Plastic Surgery Unit at Show University in Tokyo.

In 1979, Dr Fernandes commenced a private practice in the field of Reconstructive and Plastic Surgery, the speciality in which he continues to practice today and for which he is internationally renowned.

Dr Fernandes' research in skin and skin cancer was motivated by the agonising loss of two young melanoma patients in the 1980s. Through intensive research, Dr Fernandes discovered the essential role that vitamin A plays in skin health. He became determined to create a skincare range that would maintain healthy skin, especially as the incidence of sun-related skin disorders was growing worldwide.

Dr Fernandes pioneered the use of vitamin A in high enough doses to help counteract the harmful effects of the environment, pollution and stress, to create radiant, visibly improved skin in the 1980s. The introduction of vitamin A to skincare was ground-breaking and marked the beginning of Environ's journey on the 12 December 1989. What followed has become a legacy of scientific innovation that is today, celebrated and respected globally.

Pioneering World Firsts in Professional Skincare

- In 1991, Environ introduced the world to the first vitamin A skincare system – the Environ Vitamin STEP-UP-SYSTEM™.
- In 1992, Environ introduced the world's first chemical and physical sunscreen with antioxidants, RAD SPF15.
- 1994, Dr Fernandes' innovation continued with the creation of the world's first safe and effective Environ Cool Peel® Technology.
- In 1996, Dr Fernandes pioneered Skin Needling or Collagen Induction Therapy.



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- In 1997, Ionzyme®, the brand's advanced Vitamin STEP-UP SYSTEM™ Range was launched. This was the world's first 'made-to-order' vitamin A skincare products.
- In 1998, Dr Fernandes expanded Environ's skincare expertise into the technology field with the launch of the Electro-Sonic Ionzyme® DF Machine, the world's first dual technology, low frequency sonophoresis and iontophoresis facial machine.

Dr Des Fernandes' International Recognition

- 2011 - Dr Fernandes won The Marquis Who's Who Award in the World (The Marquis Who's Who Publications Board).
- 2016 - Dr Fernandes received the international INNOCOS Innovation Leader of the Year in the product category award (Innocos Europe)
- 2019 – Dr Fernandes was awarded the DASIL (Dermatological Aesthetic Surgery International League) International Lifetime Achievement Award.
- 2020 - Dr Fernandes was awarded the prestigious Professor title from the University of Cape Town.
- 2021 - Dr Des Fernandes won the Lifetime Achievement Award from the South African Skin Cancer Association for his contribution to the techniques and technologies associated with skin rejuvenation as well as photoprotection.

Environ's Global Recognition

As Environ's maverick scientist and skincare visionary, Dr Fernandes continues to research and develop progressive new products that allow Environ to redefine the boundaries of global Professional Skincare. Over the years, Environ's standout performance has been internationally recognised with well over 100 awards. In 2018, Environ Skin Care was awarded "Top Medical Skin Care" by the prestigious Aesthetic Everything® Awards (USA) for the first time. Today, Environ has received this prestigious award for six consecutive years, and in 2022, the remarkable "Lifetime Achievement Award in Skincare" was added to the list.

Dr Des Fernandes has written a number of thought-leadership chapters for textbooks in plastic surgery, pharmaceuticals and dermatology, and co-authored textbooks for skin needling, facial surgery and skin care. He is a member of the Association of Plastic Reconstructive Aesthetic Surgery of Southern Africa, the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, International Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery, DASIL (Dermatological Aesthetic Surgery International League), and an honorary member of the Onizuka Society.