

SIMBOLIC MEANING



The design element of the North-West University Desmond Tutu School of Medicine reflects the values and spirit of our School.

- **Purple** stands for excellence, nobility, ambition, creativity, wisdom, dignity, and pride.
- **Turquoise** represents clarity, innovation, and new ideas. It also brings a sense of calm, healing, and peace.
- **Silver** signifies reconciliation and building the nation.

Around the design is a quote by Archbishop Desmond Tutu:

“My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.”

This quote guides our community and reminds us of what medicine is truly about - compassion, empathy, and connection. It teaches future doctors that caring for others is at the core of being human.

Inside the design is a bold ring with shweshwe patterns, celebrating our local Batswana culture and African heritage. It demonstrates our deep respect for the communities we serve and our commitment to honouring African identity in both learning and practice.

At the centre is the cross, a universal symbol of medicine and healing. It represents purity, honesty, and perfection - qualities essential to care. The cross is embraced by human hands, which reflect the compassion, responsibility, and support needed in medicine. These hands remind us that healing involves not just science, but kindness and human connection.

This design is more than just a graphic - it is a daily reminder that our knowledge, skills, and humanity are tied to those we serve. At the Desmond Tutu School of Medicine, we aim to uphold these values as we train future medical professionals with excellence and compassion.

This design element was revealed at the North-West University - North West Department of Health signing of the Memorandum of Agreement ceremony on 24 June 2025 at the NWU Auditorium.

DESMOND TUTU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE