

Celeste Geertsema – biography

Dr Celeste Geertsema is a New Zealand sports physician (born in South Africa) currently working with the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy on Doha, Qatar on delivering medical care at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. Her main responsibility is the training of medical workforce at this event, and she will also be the Venue Medical Manager at Al Janoub Stadium. She has a Fellowship with the Australasian College of Sports and Exercise Medicine. Her special interests are in event cover, football medicine and snow and adventure sports. She was the first female Team Physician at a FIFA World Cup (in South Africa 2010), and subsequently the first female Venue Medical Officer (VMO) at the FIFA World Cup (in Russia 2018). She was the FIFA General Medical Officer (responsible for overseeing all medical care of players) at three age group FIFA Women's World cups, as well as the FIFA senior Women's World Cup in France in 2019. She was also a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Games Group in PyeongChang 2018, responsible for the health and welfare of all athletes at the Olympic Games.