



17 SEPTEMBER 2026



Faculty of Health Sciences

Research Day Programme

From Silos to Synergy: Transdisciplinary
Science for Health Impact

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Time	Title	Venue
07:00 - 08:00	Registration, Tea & Exhibitor Installations	Marquee
08:00 - 08:10	Opening Welcome and Introduction of the PVT Plenary Speaker: Dr Prudence Ditlopo	Classroom 1-4 (MED 519, 517, 516 & 514)
08:10 - 08:40	7 th Phillip V. Tobias Plenary Lecture: Prof Flavia Senkubuge	
08h40 - 08h45	Address by Assistant Dean: Research & Introductions of DVC and Keynote Speaker: Prof Aletta Millen	
08:45 - 08:50	Address by Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Prof Lynn Morris	
08:50 - 09:20	Keynote Address: Prof Patrick Arbuthnot	
09:20 - 09:50	TEA BREAK & EXHIBITION	Marquee
09:50 - 11:00	Breakaway Concurrent Oral Presentations 1 (5 parallel session):	
	1. Clinical Excellence, Translational Therapeutics & Implementation	Classroom 1 (MED519)
	2. Global Health and Health Systems	Classroom 3 (MED516)
	3. Brain Health Across the Lifespan – From Molecules to Society	Lecture Theatre 1
	4. Digital Health, Innovation & Ethical Use of AI in Health Systems	Classroom 2 (MED517)
	5. Precision Medicine, Omics & Computational Health	Classroom 4 (MED514)
11:10 - 12:10	POSTER PRESENTATIONS & EXHIBITION	
12:10 - 13:30	CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS	
	1. Who Benefits? Equity, Access & the Future of Health Innovation	Classroom 2 (MED517)
	2. Making Health Systems Work: Delivery, Policy & System Impact	Classroom 1 (MED519)
	3. From Lab to Lives: Turning Discovery into Better Care	Classroom 3 (MED516)
13:40 - 14:40	LUNCH	
13:40 - 14:40	Working Lunch Concurrent Workshops (bring your lunch):	
	1. The Educational Black Box – Turning Teaching Dilemmas into Research Opportunities (CHSE)	Classroom 2 (MED517)
	2. Beyond the CV: Academic Career Journeys in Health Sciences	Classroom 1 (MED519)
	3. To Postgrad or Not to Postgrad	Classroom 3 (MED516)
	Alternatively view Posters / Exhibition or Networking	
14:45 - 16:05	Breakaway Concurrent Oral Presentations 2 (5 Tracks)	Same as session 1 above
16:05 - 16:20	TEA BREAK & EXHIBITION	
16:20 - 17:40	Breakaway Concurrent Oral Presentations 3 (5 Tracks)	Same as session 1 above
17:40 - 19:30	Prize-giving & Cocktail hour	

MESSAGE FROM THE 2026 FRD CHAIR



It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Day 2026.

This year, we gather under the theme **"From Silos to Synergy: Transdisciplinary Science for Health Impact"**. This is more than a theme; it is a call to action. It challenges us to reconsider how we generate knowledge, who we generate it with, who benefits from it, and how we translate it into meaningful improvements in people's lives.

The most pressing health challenges of our time do not fit neatly within disciplinary boundaries. They are complex, interconnected, and shaped by biological, social, technological, environmental, and policy realities. Addressing these challenges requires more than excellence within our individual fields. It calls for collaboration across them. As researchers, educators, clinicians, students, and partners, we have a shared responsibility to create knowledge that is not only rigorous, but also relevant, responsive, and impactful.

This year's programme reflects our commitment to that vision. By rethinking our traditional thematic tracks, we have created opportunities for new conversations, unexpected connections, and fresh perspectives. In doing so, we acknowledge a simple but powerful truth: **our health systems do not experience the world in silos, and neither should our science.**

Research Day is, above all, a celebration of the remarkable work taking place across our Faculty. It is also an invitation to be curious, to engage across boundaries, and to build partnerships that endure beyond this event. The discoveries, ideas, and collaborations that begin here have the potential to shape healthier communities.

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors and partners whose generous support has made this event possible. Their investment in research, innovation, and the development of future scholars enables us to create a platform where ideas can be shared, collaborations can be forged, and excellence can be celebrated.

I encourage you to engage fully in the day's activities, to share your insights generously, and to be open to conversations that challenge and inspire you. As the saying goes, when we move from silos to synergy, we do more than advance science; we create new possibilities for achieving lasting impact in the communities we serve.

Dr Prudence Ditlopo

Chair: 2026 FHS Research Day Organising Committee
Centre for Health Policy, School of Public Health

To view abstracts, please visit the link below or scan QR code:
<https://www.wits.ac.za/health/research-day/abstracts/>



MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT DEAN OF RESEARCH



Welcome to the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Day

Research is at the heart of what we do at the Wits Faculty of Health Sciences. Yet the complex health challenges we face rarely fit neatly into one discipline, one laboratory or one way of thinking.

Our theme this year, Breaking Down Silos, is about what becomes possible when we bring different perspectives, expertise, and experiences together. Our greatest impact comes when we celebrate and embrace the diversity within our Faculty, drawing on different strengths, disciplines and ways of thinking to create new connections and opportunities for collaboration.

Breaking down silos also means being open to ideas beyond our usual areas of expertise. It means connecting basic and clinical

science, bringing researchers and clinicians into the same conversations, and creating opportunities for people at different stages of their careers to learn from one another. Some of the most exciting research happens when these boundaries are crossed.

Research Day is a celebration of the research happening across our Faculty, and of the people behind it. It is a chance to showcase our work, celebrate our achievements, meet colleagues from different fields and make new connections. It is particularly important that we create space for our early-career researchers and clinician scientists, who will shape the next chapter of research at Wits.

We are already doing important, cutting-edge research across the Faculty. The challenge, and the opportunity, is to connect it, grow it and translate it into greater impact. By working together and building on each other's strengths, we can take our research further and make an even greater contribution to health in South Africa, across our continent and globally.

Enjoy the day. Be curious. Ask questions. Share ideas. Make connections. You never know where the next collaboration might begin.

Research for health. Wits for good.

Prof. Aletta Millen

Assistant Dean: Research

Director: Integrated Molecular Physiology Research Initiative (WITS-IMPRI)

Faculty of Health Sciences

FACULTY RESEARCH DAY ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dr Prudence Ditlopo (Chairperson)	Dr Lungile Khambule (Track Lead)
Dr Heena Dullab (Deputy Chair)	Dr Akaashni Bhika (Track Co-Lead)
Prof. Sylvester Omoruyi (Deputy Chair)	Ms Pelisa Nongena (Track Lead & REDCap Assistant)
Prof. Aletta Millen	Dr Shavana Govender (Name Tag & Certificate Design)
Dr Depika Dwarka	Dr Stephanie Leigh (Content Creator Assistant)
Ms Charity Dire (Finance Committee Lead)	Ms Leanne Harwood (Communications Manager)
Dr Shune Oliver (Logistics Committee Lead & Track Lead)	Dr Michelle Janse van Rensburg
Valentine Bilankulu (Logistics Committee Co-Lead)	Dr Janine White
Ms Karabo Sekopi Mosiane (Marketing Committee Lead)	Dr Mandisa Simamane
Mrs Amanda Jankowitz (Marketing Committee Co-Lead)	Mr Moraba Meela
Dr Mary Mufford (Scientific Committee Lead)	Mr Given Ngoveni
Prof. Nigel Crowther (Scientific Committee Co-Lead)	Ms Laura Khumalo
Ms Mapule Nhlapho (REDCap Consultant)	Mr Magcina Nyoni
Dr Olukemi Babalola (REDCap Assistant)	Ms Maseja Maloka
Dr Musa Marimani (Track Lead)	Dr Fikile Klaas
Dr Firdaus Nabeemeeah (Track Co-Lead)	Dr Saidah Tootla
Dr Yigael Powrie (Track Co-Lead)	Dr Naeema Reis
Prof. Ugasvaree Subramaney (Track Lead)	Ms Oreal Appanna
Dr Yasmin Osman Latib (Track Co-Lead)	Dr Emmanuel Obasa
Dr Arinao Ndadza (Track Lead)	Dr Kgomotso Lebelo
Dr Clement Nyuyki (Track Co-Lead)	Prof. Juliana Kagura

We would like to acknowledge the 2024 Research Day Chair, Prof Nokuthula Nkosi, for all the support provided in the planning phase. We would also like to thank Mr Samuel Chikasha and Mr Mashudu Madavhu for their contributions during the initial phases of the FRD planning process. We are grateful to all our sponsors and exhibitors, the abstract reviewers, moderators, session chairs, and adjudicators. Thanks also go to the students that participated in some of the planning phase activities: Ms Rukeya Harris, Ms Tasneem Farhad, Ms Nabeelah Bemath, Mr Thato Ramushu, Ms Kemaiya Govender, Ms Priyal Naidoo, Mr Franco Vosloo, Ms Almaas Dolley, Ms Osamamwen Osifo, Ms Rosina Kekana.

FRD OBJECTIVES AND PRIZE INFORMATION

FACULTY RESEARCH DAY OBJECTIVES:

- To provide a high-quality platform for students, early career researchers, and established scholars to present innovative and impactful research spanning the full spectrum of health sciences.
- To foster meaningful engagement across disciplines, schools, and career stages, enabling dialogue and collaboration that moves beyond disciplinary silos toward integrated, transdisciplinary approaches.
- To highlight research that addresses priority health challenges in South Africa and the African continent, with a strong emphasis on translation, implementation, equity, and societal relevance.
- To reinforce a vibrant, inclusive research culture that values excellence, collaboration, and innovation across all schools and disciplines within the Faculty of Health Sciences.

BEST STAFF PRESENTATION PRIZES:

- A prize of R15 000 will be awarded to the best staff Oral presenter in each of the thematic tracks*
- A prize of R7 500 will be awarded to the best staff Poster presenter in each of the theme sessions*

*Prizes are in the form of a Faculty Research Committee Travel Grant

BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION PRIZES:

- A prize of R5 000 will be awarded to the best student Oral presenter in each of the theme sessions
- A prize of R2 500 will be awarded to the best student Poster presenter in each of the theme sessions

The BHSc Amazing Race:

- Turn Research Day into an adventure! Throughout the day, BHSc students are invited to explore the research on display, visit presentations and poster sessions, scan QR codes, and complete challenges as part of the BHSc Amazing Race. Earn points as you go, climb the leaderboard, and compete against your fellow students for some exciting prizes. Pairs of headphones are up for grabs for our top competitors! A fun way to discover the breadth of research happening across the Faculty while engaging with the researchers behind it.
- Follow the link or scan the QR code below to participate:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/SGUJzwJBME>



Title: Building an Innovation Architecture for Health Research and Innovation



Prof. Flavia Senkubuge

Dean: Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pretoria, South Africa

She is the first woman Dean in the Faculty's history. She is a medical doctor by profession, Specialist in Public Health Medicine with a PhD in Public Health and holds an MBA from the Edinburgh Business School, UK. She is the 20th President of the Colleges of Medicine South Africa (CMSA) and the first black woman to hold the position. The CMSA is the apex body of medicine in South Africa.

She is the former Deputy Dean for Stakeholder Relations at the University of Pretoria and she served as the Interim Deputy Vice

Chancellor for Student Life at the University of Pretoria until September 2024. She is the former chair of the WHO/Afro region African Advisory Council on Research and Development (AACHRD), president of Women in Global Health (WGH) South Africa and Vice-President of the East Central and Southern African (ECSA) College of Public Health Medicine. She was the Vice-President of the African Federation of Public Health Association (AFPHA), an organisation concerned with advocating and promoting public health in Africa. She is also the current African Ambassador of the International Medical Educators Leaders Forum (IMELF). The IMELF is an invite only forum, headquartered at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Canada where collaboration with colleagues globally on curriculum, teaching, examination and practice of specialist medicine around the world occurs. She is a Fellow of the Kofi Annan Global Health Leadership program and was recognised as one of the 50 Powerful Women in South Africa by the Mail & Guardian's Power of Women in 2021. In 2022, she was recognised by Harvard Public Health as one of the 25 standout voices in African Public Health.

Title: Turning Pandemic-Era Research into a Sustainable Academic Enterprise



Prof. Patrick Arbuthnot

Emeritus Professor and former Director: Wits/SAMRC Antiviral Gene Therapy Research Unit (AGTRU)

After completing medical studies and a PhD, he worked on gene therapy as a post-doctoral fellow in the INSERM research unit of Professor Christian Bréchet at Necker Hospital in Paris, France. Patrick established the AGTRU on returning to South Africa. The unit has published widely on application of gene therapy to counter infection with serious infections such as caused by hepatitis B virus. At the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, when inadequacies of vaccine access in low- and middle-income countries were exposed, the team engaged with several partners, including the WHO and Medicines Patent Pool, to establish a South African mRNA vaccine technology platform.

Work has entailed development of novel, bio-renewable lipid nanoparticle (LNP) mRNA formulations, as well as design and production of mRNAs encoding immunogenic antigens to counter various pathogens. Research in the unit is also developing use of recombinant adenoviral vectors and subunit vaccines that are expressed using the highly efficient C1 yeast platform technology. Development of novel LNPs has been undertaken with the Wits synthetic organic chemistry group led by Professor Charles de Koning. The technology harnesses use of bio-renewable feedstocks derived from cashew nutshell liquid (CNSL) to synthesise ionisable lipids, which are key components of the LNPs that are needed to deliver mRNA and DNA to cells.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION 1: WHO BENEFITS? EQUITY, ACCESS AND THE FUTURE OF HEALTH INNOVATION

Session Moderator: Prof Helen Rees



Prof. Helen Rees

GCOB, OBE, Officier de l'Ordre national du Mérite

**D.Sc.(hc), LLD (hc), MRCGP, MA and MB BChir (CANTAB),
DRCOG, DCH, FAAS, ASSAF**

Prof. Helen Rees is a globally acclaimed health practitioner committed to improving public health in Africa through clinical research, policy and regulatory science at both national and international levels. As Executive Director of Wits RHI, a leading Wits research institute, Professor Rees oversees research focused on vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and surveillance for communicable diseases, STI's, maternal and child health, and pandemic threats.

She is Co-Director of Wits ALIVE, Personal Professor in the Wits Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and an Honorary Professor in Clinical Research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She holds honorary doctorates from the University of London and Rhodes University.

Professor Rees is a member of the South African National Advisory Group on Immunization (NAGI) and co-chairs the South African Department of Health's Incident Management Teams on Mpox and on Vaccine-preventable diseases, overseeing the national response to these threats. Internationally, she has served on over 100 committees and advisory groups for the World Health Organization and Africa CDC. She chairs the WHO AFRO Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group, WHO AFRO Emergency Preparedness and Response Technical Advisory Group, and the International Vaccine Institute and MedAccess Boards. Her many honours include appointment as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, South Africa's National Order of the Baobab, the French National Order of Merit, the WHO Dr Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health, and the Platinum Batho Pele Award. She is a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences.

PANELLISTS



Dr. Judy Dlamini

Chancellor: University of the Witwatersrand

Executive Chairman: Mbekani Group

Founder & Chairperson: Female Academic Leaders Fellowship (FALF)

A medical doctor with a Doctorate in Business leadership, a teacher, entrepreneur, author, and philanthropist. She converted her doctoral thesis to a bestseller titled *Equal but Different* amongst other titles that she's published. She's Mbekani Group Founder and CEO, a group that has operations and investments in different sectors of the economy. She is one of the founding non-executive directors and shareholders of SA SME Fund. Founder of Sifiso Publishers,

cofounder of Sifiso Learning Group, Future Nation Schools, Sifiso Edtech and Nation Next College. She is also a member of the Global Institute for Women's Leadership and IWFSa.

Former Chairperson of Aspen Pharmacare Limited (Aspen), Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre, and GBVF Response Fund 1. Other previous board appointments include Anglo American plc, Discovery Holdings, and Woolworths Holdings. Wits University Chancellor, founder and Chairperson of FALF, recipient of 2026 African Women of Impact Award, 2021 Charlotte Manny Maxeke Chairman's- Women of Firsts Award, 2019 EY World Entrepreneur-Southern Africa, Lifetime Achiever Award, 2018 UNISA Leadership In Practice Award, and 2016 African Economy Builder Lifetime Achiever Award. Honorary Doctorate recipient from NMU and UKZN. She's a mother, grandmother, wife and sister.



Dr. Maurice Goodman

Chief Medical Officer: Discovery Health

After obtaining his medical degree, Dr Goodman worked for several years in emergency medicine and trauma surgery. He participated in the South African rescue missions to Phuket and Haiti.

Having completed his MBA, Dr Goodman headed up the Southern Africa healthcare practice of a leading international consulting organisation before moving into the healthcare funding industry. Dr Goodman joined Discovery Health shortly after its inception and is currently the Chief Medical Officer of Discovery Health.

Dr Goodman is a Trustee of the Discovery Foundation which invests in the training of South African medical specialists in identified areas of need. He Chairs the Foundation's Medical Student Loan Guarantee Fund. He is also a Trustee of the Discovery Fund which is dedicated to improving individuals' quality of life through the funding of primary health care services in indigent communities.

Dr Goodman is a past Acting President and a current Member of Convocation Exco of the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). He serves on the Wits Foundation Board of Governors. He is a Member of the SA Medical Association (SAMA) Health Policy, Law and Ethics Committee and a Branch Counsellor on the SAMA South Gauteng Branch. Dr Goodman serves on the Executive Committees of the Wits Business School Association and the Medical Advisors Group and is a Trustee of The Children's Cardiac Foundation of Africa. He is also a guest lecturer on the Wits Business School's MBA in Healthcare Leadership.



Prof. Reubina Wadee
Head of Department: Anatomical Pathology

Prof. Reubina Wadee attended medical school at the University of the Witwatersrand. In her fourth year (2002), she undertook an elective in the department of Anatomical Pathology. In 2003, during her fifth year of studies, she undertook an elective in clinical medicine at Yale University, in the United States of America. She obtained an MBBCh degree in 2004. She carried out her internship at Helen Joseph Hospital followed by community service at Dr. Yusuf Dadoo hospital. She elected to specialise in Anatomical Pathology and obtained her qualification from the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa in 2011. She then obtained her Master of

Medicine in the field of Anatomical Pathology in 2013. She has subsequently obtained a PhD in Anatomical Pathology from the University of the Witwatersrand in 2019. She lectures at the University of the Witwatersrand to undergraduate and postgraduate students and is course coordinator for the pathology course offered to MSc and Diploma Physiotherapy students. She has a keen interest in gynaecological and molecular pathology and is undertaking further research in these fields. She supervises several MMed and PhD students. She is the current Head of the Department of Anatomical Pathology, School of Pathology, University of the Witwatersrand and the National Health Laboratory Service. She has a keen interest in gynaecological and molecular pathology and has published several papers in these fields and has international collaborations. She is a reviewer for 27 journals. She is also on the University's Human Research Ethics committee; and has been Co-Chair of the School's Transformation committee. She assists on the Doctoral proposals research committee; and has served on the University Forum. Further, she serves on the International Society of Gynecological Pathology's LiVE committee, the British Association of Gynaecology Pathology, and is an international Pathology mentor for the International Gynecological Cancer Society.



Mr. Russell Rensburg
Executive Director: Rural Health Advocacy Project

Russell Rensburg is a health activist working towards equitable health access to quality health care for rural and underserved communities and currently serves as an Executive Director for the Rural Health Advocacy Project and the TB Accountability Consortium. He has over 15 years' experience working on strengthening health systems, with 8 of those spent managing technical assistance in Eastern and Southern Africa.

He has a strong interest in strengthening the responsiveness of public finances towards equitable health access. He has served as a

commissioner on the South Africa Lancet Commission for Quality Health Systems and the ministerial task team that developed the National Human Resources for Health Strategy. He currently serves as a community representative on the SA Nursing Council, co-chairs the SANAC CSF TB Technical Task Team and is a member of the ministerial advisory committee health benefits package.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION 2: MAKING HEALTH SYSTEMS WORK: DELIVERY, POLICY & SYSTEM IMPACT

Session Moderator: Prof. Laetitia Rispel



Prof. Laetitia Rispel

SARCHi Chair on the Health Workforce: School of Public Health

Laetitia Rispel is Professor of Public Health at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, where she holds a Research Chair on the Health Workforce as part of the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARCHi). Her research interests are in human resources for health and the performance of the health care system.

Professor Rispel was president of the World Federation of Public Health Associations from 2018 to 2020, the first woman from Africa

and the third in the history of the organisation to achieve this honour. Professor Rispel is an inaugural member of the International Academy of Quality and Safety under the auspices of the International Society for Quality in Health Care. In 2024, she was appointed as an Honorary Visiting Research Fellow in Health Systems at Oxford University. Between 2024 and 2025, she was a member of the World Health Organization's Expert Advisory Group to review the Code on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel.

PANELLISTS



Prof. Stephen Tollman MA, MPH, MMED, PhD

Founding Director: SAMRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit

Steve is founding director of the SAMRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit, responsible for its world-class health and sociodemographic platform (Agincourt HDSS), and programmes spanning the life course. He is research professor in the School of Public Health and a faculty member of the Harvard Center for Population & Development.

Steve studied medicine at Wits, PPE in Oxford, and public health at Harvard. Returning to South Africa in 1990, he moved to Bushbuckridge, confronting the challenges of poverty and inequality coupled with complex health transitions. Over decades, he has built a globally leading research institution, bringing the best science to bear where needs are greatest. The versatile research platform – covering a 'whole population' cohort of ~125, 000 people in over 30 rural villages – supports diverse observational and interventional studies including policy evaluations investigating critical transitions.

Steve was a founder and Board Chair of INDEPTH (2002-06), an exceptional research network; as principal scientist he provided strategic direction and led multicentre efforts in cause-of-death, ageing, and migration and health. He was instrumental in gaining government investment to establish SAPRIN, a network of research platforms addressing health inequalities.

Steve gained the 2018 NSTF South32 award for “an outstanding contribution to Science, Engineering and Technology and Innovation in management and related activities”. In July 2026, with Kathy Kahn, he received the NSTF South 32 award in the theme category “Healthy Ageing”.

He serves on international thinktanks: UCL-Lancet Commission on Migration and Health (2016-18), Academy of Medical Sciences-UK Addressing the global challenge of multimorbidity (2016-18), National Academy of Sciences-USA Continuing Epidemiological Transition in sub-Saharan Africa (2010-13) and Research and Data Needs to Meet the Challenge of Aging in Africa (2004-6). He is sought-after as chair of review panels including SA, UK and Ugandan MRC, Wellcome, Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases, National Institute for Health Research-UK, and African Research Excellence Fund.

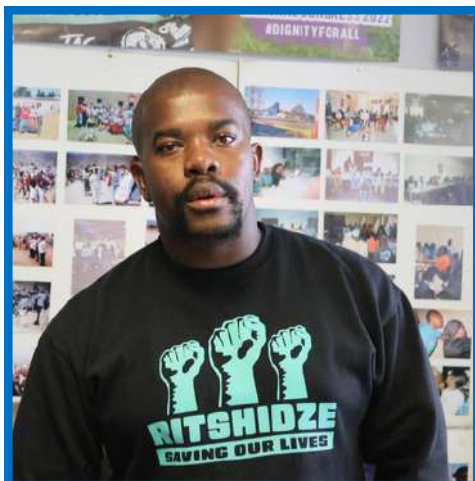


Dr. Darshini Govindasamy
Director: PRICELESS SA

Dr Darshini Govindasamy is a health economist and Director of the SAMRC/Wits Centre for Health Economics and Decision Science (PRICELESS-SA), where she leads work to strengthen health system decision-making through rigorous, locally grounded economic evidence and sustained engagement with policymakers. Her work sits at the intersection of health financing, priority-setting, and system-level reform, with a particular focus on health technology assessment (HTA) and benefit package design for South Africa's National Health Insurance.

With over 17 years of experience in public health, Dr Govindasamy holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Cape Town and a PhD in Health Economics from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Her research spans economic evaluations alongside trials in mental health, gender-based violence, and HIV prevention for vulnerable populations, alongside her broader health financing portfolio, spanning both facility-level and national systems-level questions.

She is an Honorary Researcher (Health Economics) at the SAMRC Health Systems Research Unit, a Board Member of the International Health Economics Association representing early-career researchers from the Global South, and an Academic Editor for PLOS Global Health. She has authored over 40 peer-reviewed publications and served as Principal Investigator on five international grants. Dr Govindasamy is committed to building the next generation of health economists in South Africa and beyond through teaching and postgraduate supervision.



Mr. Morongwa Ntini

Human Rights Activist and Research Coordinator: Treatment Action Campaign (TAC)

Morongwa Ntini is a human rights activist and Research Coordinator at the Treatment Action Campaign. He is passionate about using research evidence to strengthen advocacy for improved healthcare services and works closely with communities to enhance the quality of care in public health facilities. Morongwa holds a BA Honours in Demography and Population Studies from the University of the Witwatersrand.



Dr. Thulani Masilela

Outcomes Facilitator for Health: Department of Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (DPME)

Dr. Thulani Masilela is an Outcome Facilitator in the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) in the Presidency. He is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the health sector's progress towards achieving the goals of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 through the implementation of the five-year Medium-Term Strategic Frameworks (MTSFs). This role also entails provision of appropriate support for effective and timely corrective action to improve delivery performance. By profession, Thulani is a qualified and registered Clinical Psychologist, with vast experience in District Health Systems development. Dr Masilela obtained his PhD in Health Policy and Systems from the University of Cape Town, where his research examined how different forms of evidence are used in health policymaking in South Africa

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION 3: FROM LAB TO LIVES: TURNING DISCOVERY INTO BETTER CARE

Session Moderator: Prof. Salome Maswime



Prof. Salome Maswime

Head of School: Clinical Medicine

Salome Maswime is the Head of School of Clinical Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand and an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. She is a clinician scientist, a Global Health expert, and a pioneer in academic Global Surgery. She is the former Head of the Global Surgery Division at the University of Cape Town, and former Director of UCT's World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Integrated Clinical Care. She is the Vice-Chairperson of the Health Professions Council of South Medical and Dental Professions Board and a council member. Her qualifications include an MBChB at UKZN, FCOG(SA), MMED and PhD in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Wits University,

and a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. She has a Certificate in Higher Education Teaching from Harvard University, and a Certificate in Leading Organizations and Change from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Salome has worked in several hospitals as a Medical Doctor, and Specialist in South Africa.

Salome is a member of the College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Council in the College of Medicine South Africa. She is the Chairperson of the South African, and the SADC Safe Surgical Care Technical Experts Working Group; and a member of the United Nations Core Stillbirths Estimates Group. She is past Chair of the Health Systems Trust Board and previously served as their Interim CEO. She is the Vice-Chair of the Lifebox Board. She is a Member of the Academy of Scientist and a Y-rated Scientist with the National Research Foundation. She has received numerous awards for her contribution to science and to healthcare, including the trailblazer and young achiever award by the President of South Africa in 2017; Mail and Guardians 50 most powerful women in South Africa in 2020; the NSTF SA MRC Clinician Scientist award for pioneering Global Surgery in Africa; and the International Healthcare Practitioner award from Zenith Global Health in the UK in 2025.

PANELLISTS



Prof. Lesley Scott

Divisional Director: Research and Development, Wits Diagnostic Innovation Hub

Lesley Scott is an associate professor and head of Research and Development in the Wits Diagnostic Innovation Hub within the School of Pathology, Faculty of Health Science at Wits. Lesley is an applied scientist and holds a PhD in Molecular Medicine with >20 years experience in designing, developing and evaluating innovative solutions to address the gaps in diagnostics for priority diseases.



Prof. Nazir Ahmed Ismail

Executive Director: National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD)

Professor Nazir Ahmed Ismail is a clinical microbiologist and internationally recognised authority in tuberculosis (TB) diagnostics, drug resistance, and genomic epidemiology. He is the Executive Director of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases and former Head of the Division of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at the University of the Witwatersrand and the National Health Laboratory Service. He previously served as Team Lead for Diagnostics in the World Health Organization's Global TB Programme, where he led the development of influential

WHO policies on rapid molecular diagnostics, next-generation sequencing, and global standards for diagnostic access. He has published extensively, with more than 150 peer-reviewed publications, including first- and senior-author articles in leading international journals such as the NEJM and the Lancet group. His academic interests also include curriculum redesign, postgraduate supervision, and capacity building in laboratory medicine in high-burden settings.



Prof. Emmanuel Nweke
Associate Professor: Department of Surgery

Prof. Nweke is an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of the Witwatersrand. His research focuses on biomarker discovery and the elucidation of molecular mechanisms underlying the development and progression of hepatopancreatobiliary cancers in patients of African ancestry, using a multi-omics approach. He is also interested in applying precision medicine to improve cancer diagnosis and treatment across Africa. Among his awards and fellowships are the 2023 NRF Research Excellence Award for Emerging/Early Career Rese-

archers and the African Research Excellence Fund/Medical Research Council Fellowship (2024/2025). He is passionate about training scientists, including clinician-scientists, across the broad spectrum of clinical and surgical research, with a particular focus on bridging the gap between research and clinical application.



Mr. Matthew Clayton
Thermofisher

Matthew Clayton is the Senior Manager for Strategic Partnerships & Business Development at Thermo Fisher Scientific. In this role he is responsible for advancing strategic collaborations across Southern Africa that strengthen scientific capability, and supporting the translation of scientific innovation into practical healthcare and societal impacts.

With postgraduate training in genetics and microbial ecology, Matthew began his career in research before transitioning into the commercial life sciences sector to explore broader ways of contributing to science. The move shaped a career focused on connecting scientific discovery with the partnership, technologies, and commercial pathways required to move innovation toward meaningful implementation and scale.

In his current role, Matthew works across academia, industry and healthcare, with a particular focus on enabling research-to-clinical translation, developing academia-industry partnerships, and supporting biotechnology and innovation ecosystems across Africa. His experience spans diagnostics, bioproduction and the broader life sciences sector, working with global health funders, research institutions, healthcare stakeholders, regulatory associations, and public-sector partners.

Matthew also currently serves as Chairperson for the Market Access and NHI Committee at the Southern African Laboratory Diagnostics Association, where he contributes to industry engagement on a sustainable and equitable platform for diagnostic innovation in Southern Africa. Collectively, Matthew's perspective is grounded in both science and commercial strategy, with a focus on building the partnerships and pathways required to translate scientific progress into stronger local capability, sustainable implementation and better care for the future.

CONCURRENT WORKING LUNCH SESSIONS

WORKSHOP 1: THE EDUCATIONAL BLACK BOX - TURNING TEACHING DILEMMAS INTO OPPORTUNITIES

Session Chair: Dr. Michelle Janse van Rensburg

Session overview: Many of the most important educational research questions begin with the everyday challenges academics encounter in teaching, learning, assessment, and curriculum design. In this workshop, the Wits Centre for Health Sciences Education (CHSE) will lead an interactive session in which we share experiences of conducting educational research and showcase the wide range of possibilities that exist within the field. We will then unpack the educational challenges encountered by the workshop attendees, identifying opportunities for research and exploring the methodologies that can provide meaningful answers to our most pressing questions.



Dr. Michelle Janse van Rensburg

Occupational Therapist: School of Therapeutic Sciences

She has a master's degree in Public Health and a PhD in Family Medicine, along with a postgraduate diploma in Health Professions Education and Leadership from the Foundation for Professional Development. She is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Occupational Therapy at Wits University, having joined the Department in July 2024. Prior to this, she worked at the University of Pretoria, where she contributed to interdisciplinary projects that focused on community-oriented substance-use harm reduction, pathways of healthcare coordination, and community health worker education. Her work focuses on human functioning in context in marginalised populations, including people experiencing homelessness and people who use drugs.

SPEAKERS



Dr. Stuart Pattinson

Lecturer: Centre for Health Sciences Education (CHSE)

Dr Pattinson focusses his time on faculty development and the scholarship of teaching and learning. He is a medical doctor and holds a master's degree in Health Professions Education from Wits University. Stuart is a council member for the northern chapter of the Southern African Association of Health Educationalists and is currently an external PhD candidate at Maastricht University. His doctoral research explores preparedness for practice and the transition from student to doctor, with a particular interest in wellbeing, legitimacy and professional identity formation. Stuart was the recipient of an exceptional service excellence award from the

Faculty of Health Sciences in 2023, received the Medical Education Critics Choice award in 2024 and won the Southern African Society of Health Educationalists Best Publication Award in 2026.



Dr. Ann George (PhD)

Senior Lecturer: Centre for Health Sciences Education (CHSE)

Her scholarship spans health professions education, curriculum and faculty development, and educational research methodology. She holds an NRF C2 rating and is a Female Academic Leaders Fellowship alum (2021) and a current Africa Oxford Initiative Visiting Fellow (2025–2026). Dr George has authored over 25 peer-reviewed publications in leading journals, including *Advances in Health Sciences Education*, *Human Resources for Health*, and the *International Journal of Educational Technology in Higher Education*. Dr George's research has been supported by competitive grants from AFRETEC and the National Research Foundation's (NRF) Competitive Support for Unrated

Researchers programme, as well as earlier NRF Thuthuka awards. Her contributions to the field are further reflected in her editorial leadership: she serves as Deputy Editor of *Human Resources for Health*, Associate Editor of *Advances in Health Sciences Education*, Editor of the *Journal of Patient-Centred Research and Reviews*, and Guest Editor of *Frontiers in Medicine*. She chairs the Southern African Association for Health Educationists Health Professions Education Research Special Interest Group and serves as an educational advisor to AMEE: The International Association for Health Professions Education. Dr George's research excellence has been recognised through the 2024 FHS Award for Research Excellence and the 2023 SAAHE Best Publication Award, among other honours.



Dr. Lizelle Crous (PhD)

Lecturer: Centre for Health Science Education (CHSE)

She has a background in nursing and health sciences education. Her work focuses on educational research, curriculum and programme design, teaching and learning, assessment, and educational quality assurance. She is particularly interested in clinical scholarship and in how the everyday challenges health professionals encounter in teaching, learning and practice can become opportunities for inquiry and educational scholarship. Through faculty development, curriculum review and learning design, she supports health sciences educators to examine their practice, generate meaningful evidence and use this to strengthen teaching and learning.



Dr. Shehnaaz Kolia

Lecturer: Centre for Health Sciences Education (CHSE)

She is a dental educator with experience in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, curriculum development, assessment, and faculty development. She holds a Bachelor of Dental Science (BDS), a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences Education, and a Master's in Health Sciences Education from Wits University. Her educational leadership experience includes curriculum innovation, programme coordination, quality assurance, and the development of authentic, integrated learning and assessment practices across health professions education. Dr Kolia's research focuses on health professions education, particularly professionalism, clinical education, assessment, the hidden curriculum, clinical reasoning,

and faculty development. She is committed to generating scholarship that strengthens educational practice and supports contextually relevant health professions education in resource-constrained settings. Her current work explores how clinical reasoning can be made visible to learners and how assessment and educational environments influence professional formation

CONCURRENT WORKING LUNCH SESSIONS

WORKSHOP 2: BEYOND THE CV: ACADEMIC CAREER JOURNEYS IN HEALTH SCIENCES

Session Chair: Dr. Mary Mufford

Session overview: What does an academic career really look like beyond the polished CV? In this informal and candid session, three senior academics reflect on the decisions, unexpected turns, challenges, setbacks, and opportunities that shaped their careers. The discussion will offer postgraduate students and early career researchers an honest look at the different paths an academic career in the health sciences can take, followed by an opportunity to ask questions and engage directly with the speakers.



Dr. Mary Mufford

Lecturer: Division of Human Genetics

Her research lies at the intersection of psychiatric genetics and neuroimaging, with a particular focus on understanding the genetic architecture of anxiety-related disorders and their shared biological relationships with other psychiatric traits and brain morphology. She leads and contributes to large-scale international collaborative research through the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (PGC) and Enhancing Neuroimaging Genetics through Meta-Analysis (ENIGMA) consortium, and currently leads the PGC-Africa Anxiety and OCD Working Group, which focuses on increasing African

representation in psychiatric genomics and advancing genomic research in African populations. Mary is a recipient of the Global Initiative for Neuropsychiatric Genetics Education in Research (GINGER) Fellowship, a training initiative of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. She is actively involved in postgraduate teaching, supervision and research capacity development, with a strong interest in building collaborative genomics research and training across Africa.

PRESENTERS



Dr. Siyabonga Khoza (MBChB, FC Path (Chem), MMed, PhD)
Chemical Pathologist
Head of Department: Chemical Pathology
Director: Wits Mass Spectrometry Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM) Initiative

His research focuses on non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly chronic kidney disease, diabetes, and metabolic disorders. His work includes the discovery and validation of novel biomarkers, the application of proteomic and mass spectrometry technologies, and the use of laboratory data for disease surveillance and health systems strengthening. Dr. Khoza has contributed to research on diabetes prevalence and surveillance, as well as the

development and evaluation of laboratory-based monitoring tools to support diabetes detection, monitoring, and population health assessment.

He is a recipient of the Prof Bongani Mayosi Netcare Clinical Scholarship and the Discovery Academic Fellowship recognising his contributions to clinical research and academic excellence. He holds several national leadership and advisory roles, including membership of NHLS scientific committees



Prof. Zané Lombard
Research Professor: University of the Witwatersrand

She holds the Roche Research Chair for Precision Medicine and Genomics in Africa. A Witsie since 2004, when she joined as a PhD student, she has since built deep expertise in genomics, bioinformatics, and implementation science across a range of positions at the University.

Her research centres on building lasting genomics capacity in Africa – training scientists and clinicians and strengthening collaborative networks across the continent – with the ultimate goal of integrating genomic discoveries into everyday patient care. She leads the pan-

African study Deciphering Developmental Disorders in Africa (DDD-Africa), which investigates the genomics of rare paediatric developmental disorders, and is a lead investigator on the pilot phase of the South African Human Genome Programme. Prof Lombard is a long-standing member of the Southern African Society for Human Genetics and currently chairs the steering committee of the Human Heredity and Health in Africa (H3Africa) Consortium, a major pan-African initiative spanning multiple countries and institutions dedicated to empowering African researchers to compete globally in genomic science. She also serves internationally in an advisory capacity, as a member of the Wellcome genetics and genomics discovery advisory panel and the DECIPHER Genomics scientific advisory committee.



Dr. Siyabonga Kunene

Sports and Exercise Physiotherapist: School of Therapeutic Sciences

He is also a researcher, educator, and health advocate dedicated to advancing health, movement, and human performance through evidence based practice. He holds a PhD in Physiotherapy (sports & exercise) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration. He serves as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Physiotherapy at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), where he teaches, supervises postgraduate students, and conducts research in sports rehabilitation and exercise science. Dr Kunene's research focuses on

sports rehabilitation, injury prevention, exercise as medicine, and the health and performance of athletes, including Para athletes. His work aims to bridge the gap between research and clinical practice by translating scientific evidence into practical strategies that improve health outcomes for individuals and communities. Beyond academia, Dr Kunene is the founder of Move & Thrive Health Hub, an integrated health, movement, and performance ecosystem that combines sports physiotherapy, lifestyle coaching, sports performance, education, and research to empower individuals and communities to move better, live healthier, and thrive. He is also the host of the Move & Thrive podcast, where he shares evidence-based conversations on exercise, lifestyle medicine, rehabilitation, and holistic wellbeing with healthcare professionals, researchers, athletes, and the wider public. Driven by a passion for education, prevention, and lifelong wellbeing, Dr Kunene is committed to developing innovative, community-oriented solutions that promote sustainable health and optimal performance across diverse populations.

CONCURRENT WORKING LUNCH SESSIONS

WORKSHOP 3: TO POSTGRAD OR NOT TO POSTGRAD

Session Chair: Dr. Naeema Reis

Session overview:

What is postgraduate study really like? In this informal roundtable discussion, current PhD students share the things they wish they had known before starting their postgraduate journeys, from navigating challenges and expectations to making the most of the experience. Undergraduate students will have the opportunity to hear candid perspectives from those currently living the postgrad experience and ask their own questions during an open Q&A



Dr. Naeema Ahmad Ramadan Reis
Senior Lecturer: Department of Physiotherapy

Dr. Reis coordinates the Graduate Entry Programme Project and is an educator, researcher, and policy advocate with a focus on rehabilitation, disability inclusion, health systems strengthening, and implementation science. She holds a PhD in Physiotherapy from the University of the Witwatersrand and a Master of Global Health from the University of Barcelona as well as an MSC (Physiotherapy) Wits. Her research examines how disability and rehabilitation policies are implemented and how health systems can improve access to quality rehabilitation services, particularly in low and middle income settings.

Dr. Reis has published extensively in peer reviewed journals and has contributed to technical reports, policy briefs, and international collaborations. She serves as a consultant and advisor on rehabilitation policy initiatives and has worked with government, professional bodies, and global partners to advance equitable access to care. Her work spans research, education, community engagement, and policy development, with a strong commitment to capacity building and mentorship. Through her academic leadership and collaborative approach, she seeks to strengthen rehabilitation systems and support inclusive, evidence informed healthcare that improves outcomes.

SPEAKERS



Clerance Mahlalela
PhD Student



Tasneem Farhad
PhD Student



Patience Chinyengetere
PhD Student



Gabriella Pillhofer
PhD Student

Oral Presentation Venues

Track No.	Thematic Track	Page No.	Venue
Track 1	Clinical Excellence, Translational Therapeutics & Implementation	23 - 24	Classroom 1 (MED519)
Track 2	Global Health and Health Systems	31 - 32	Classroom 3 (MED516)
Track 3	Brain Health Across the Lifespan – From Molecules to Society	38 - 39	Lecture Theatre 1
Track 4	Digital Health, Innovation & Ethical Use of AI in Health Systems	41 - 42	Classroom 2 (MED517)
Track 5	Precision Medicine, Omics & Computational Health	45 - 46	Classroom 4 (MED514)

Poster Presentation Venues

Track No.	Thematic Track	Page No.	Poster Venue
Track 1	Clinical Excellence, Translational Therapeutics & Implementation	25 - 30	Outside Classrooms 1 - 4
Track 2	Global Health and Health Systems	32 - 37	Outside Classrooms 1 - 4 Spillover - Enclosed workspace
Track 3	Brain Health Across the Lifespan – From Molecules to Society	39 - 40	Outside Lecture Theatre 1 - 4
Track 4	Digital Health, Innovation & Ethical Use of AI in Health Systems	42 - 44	Outside Lecture Theatre 1 - 4
Track 5	Precision Medicine, Omics & Computational Health	46 - 47	Outside Lecture Theatre 1 - 4

TRACK 1 – ORAL PRESENTATIONS
CLINICAL EXCELLENCE, TRANSLATIONAL THERAPEUTICS & IMPLEMENTATION
VENUE: CLASSROOM 1 (MED519), WITS MEDICAL SCHOOL

SESSION 1 (9:50-11:10) – Chairs: Dr. Natalie Benjamin-Damons and Dr. Poornima Ramburrun

TIME	PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT ORAL No.
09:55 - 10:05	Prof. Kyla Murphy	Combined oral treatment of fluconazole plus flucytosine versus fluconazole alone for the treatment of HIV-associated cryptococcal antigenaemia: Results from the multi-centre phase-3 EFFECT randomised trial.	CETTI-O-01
10:05 - 10:15	Prof. Jenifer Vaughan	Digital microscopy in practice: Evaluation of the Sysmex DI-60 in a tertiary African laboratory.	CETTI-O-02
10:15 - 10:25	Dr. Vanessa Quan	Modifiable risks for preventing neonatal deaths. Neonates with bloodstream infections in lower-tier hospitals in South Africa: A cross-sectional study.	CETTI-O-03
10:25 - 10:35	Ms. Tzipora Krawitz	Outcomes of TNT in locally advanced rectal cancers at WDGM.	CETTI-O-04
10:35 - 10:45	Ms. Karabo Ngwenya	Effects of prenatal Fluoxetine exposure on placental development in Sprague-Dawley Rats.	CETTI-O-05
10:45 - 10:55	Mr. André Le Roux	Development and validation of a rapid liquid chromatography high-resolution mass spectrometry method for pesticide screening in serum in Soweto, South Africa.	CETTI-O-06
10:55 - 11:10	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
11:10 - 12:10	POSTER PRESENTATIONS & EXHIBITION		
12:10 - 13:20	CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS		

- 1. Who Benefits:** Equity, Access & the Future of Health Innovation
Venue: Classroom 1 (MED519), Medical School
- 2. Making Health Systems Work:** Delivery, Policy and System Impact
Venue: Classroom 2 (Med 517), Medical School
- 3. From Lab to Lives:** Turning Discovery into Better Care
Venue: Classroom 3 (Med 516), Medical School

13:40 - 14:40	LUNCH		
13:40 - 14:40	Working Lunch Concurrent Workshops (bring your lunch): - The educational black box – turning teaching dilemmas into research opportunities (CHSE) - Beyond the CV: Academic Career Journeys in Health Sciences - To Postgrad or Not to Postgrad?		

SESSION 2 (14:45-16:05) – Chairs: Prof. Ziyaad Dangor and Dr. Zwiitavhathu Magadzu

14:50 - 15:00	Ms. Philisiwe Dlamini	Development of a method for simultaneous quantification of anti-tuberculosis drugs using liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)	CETTI-O-07
15:00 - 15:10	Mr. Michael Gomes	Exploring polydopamine as a novel nanocarrier platform for BCNU delivery in glioblastoma: a head-to-head comparison with liposomal and polymeric systems	CETTI-O-08
15:10 - 15:20	Ms. Shamiso Mlambo	Comparative effectiveness of antidiabetic drug classes on glycaemic control and vascular complications in adults with type 2 diabetes: A systematic review	CETTI-O-09
15:20 - 15:30	Ms. Courtney Gush	The effect of Novel Copper Complexes on a pancreatic cancer cell line and the expression of P-glycoprotein	CETTI-O-10

15:30 - 15:40	Dr. Dorothy Nyemba-Machemedze	Impact of antenatal screening for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea on pregnancy outcomes in South African women	CETTI-O-11
15:40 - 15:50	Ms. Lucia Dumeni	Development and optimisation of pediatric nano-formulations for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis treatment	CETTI-O-12
15:50 - 16:05	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
16:05 - 16:20	TEA BREAK & EXHIBITION		
SESSION 3 (16:20-17:40) – Chairs: Prof. John Devar and Mr. Sunday Ntuli			
16:25 - 16:35	Dr. Muhammed Vally	Beyond Viral Suppression: A Narrative Review and pragmatic approach to immuno-virological discordance in HIV	CETTI-O-13
16:35 - 16:45	Ms. Sinethemba Bhebhe	Anti-drug antibody assay (ADA) testing in the CAPRISA 012B clinical trial excludes ADA as a mechanism for loss of neutralization of passively immunized CAP256V2LS	CETTI-O-14
16:45 - 16:55	Ms. Nelia Manamela	Distinct Evolutionary Pathways towards Fc Effector Function and Neutralization within an HIV-Specific Antibody Lineage	CETTI-O-15
16:55 - 17:05	Mr. Griffiths Kubeka	Beyond the clinic: Implementing tuberculosis tongue swab screening across diverse community settings	CETTI-O-16
17:05 - 17:15	Ms. Sichumiso Qqeba	Immunogenicity testing of conventional and self-amplifying HIV mRNA vaccines	CETTI-O-17
17:15 - 17:25	Dr. Kim Coutts	Simulation-based training for delivering bad news in head and neck cancer care	CETTI-O-18
17:25 - 17:40	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
PRIZE GIVING/RECEPTION			

TRACK 1 - POSTERS		
CLINICAL EXCELLENCE, TRANSLATIONAL THERAPEUTICS & IMPLEMENTATION VENUE: WITS MEDICAL SCHOOL		
PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Dr. Nicole Stephanou	Forensic psychiatric outcomes of adult male defendants charged with minor offences: single outpatient versus inpatient observations at Sterkfontein hospital	CETTI-P-01
Dr. Matshediso Mthopi-Peri	The use of cognitive interviews in validating questionnaires in a head and neck multidisciplinary study	CETTI-P-02
Dr. Esaias Koller	Enablers and barriers of effective perioperative teamwork: A narrative review	CETTI-P-03
Mr. Ebenezer Hammond	The knowledge, attitudes, and practices of surgeons regarding compliance with the prescription of antibiotics as surgical prophylaxis at a tertiary hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa	CETTI-P-04
Dr. Katherine Hodgkinson	Early mortality in Hodgkin Lymphoma: A hyperinflammatory phenotype suggestive of haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis	CETTI-P-05
Dr. Tshepo Lillet Motsepe	Emergency nurses' disaster preparedness competencies: focused mapping synthesis review	CETTI-P-06
Ms. Saabira Amod	Investigating the prevalence and morphological characteristics of the third layer (coronoid part) of the masseter muscle in a select South African cadaveric population	CETTI-P-07
Ms. Fatima Abegail Cholo	Experiences and motivations to use long-acting cabotegravir (CAB-LA) among pregnant and breastfeeding women accessing primary healthcare settings in South Africa: a qualitative study.	CETTI-P-08
Dr. Vaneshveri Naidoo	Interprofessional training for undergraduate rehabilitation therapy students at the University of the Witwatersrand enhancing cancer rehabilitation in South Africa.	CETTI-P-09
Ms. Xolisiwe Mhlathi	Assessing the effects of maceration techniques on the teeth of immature <i>Sus scrofa domestica</i> using micro-CT	CETTI-P-10
Dr. Roisin Drysdale	First-time and repeat testers for HIV: a comparative analysis of demographic and behavioural characteristics in South Africa	CETTI-P-11
Dr. Roisin Drysdale	PrEP choice in South Africa: Determinants of CAB-LA uptake in a multi-product PrEP programme	CETTI-P-12
Dr. Yusuf Akoo	Pre-Clinical Simulation: Supporting Clinical Readiness in Undergraduate Medical Education	CETTI-P-13
Ms. Kruti Naik	Development of an Ocular Dissolving Microneedle Platform for the delivery of HPV Vaccine-Loaded PLGA Nanoparticles.	CETTI-P-14
Ms. Murunwa Felicia Nemaguvhuni	Development of a 3D-Printed Polymeric Scaffold loaded with metal nanoparticles for enhanced healing and infection control in chronic wounds.	CETTI-P-15

PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Ms. Tolulope Owolabi	Comparative Analysis of Physicochemical Characteristics of PLGA Nanoparticles and IMB-P1–Conjugated PLGA Nanoparticles for Colorectal Cancer Therapy.	CETTI-P-16
Mrs. Maxine Turner	Referral pathway delays and advanced diabetic foot ulceration among patients presenting to tertiary hospitals in Gauteng, South Africa.	CETTI-P-17
Dr. Ané Orchard	Near-peer learning in practice: Enhancing clinical training and managing growing student cohorts.	CETTI-P-18
Ms. Zaynub Desai	Evaluating quality of life and apathy among individuals living with a Huntington disease phenotype in South Africa.	CETTI-P-19
Mr. Jonathan Bekker	Using bacteriophages to treat drug-resistant <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> infections.	CETTI-P-20
Mrs. Lara Van der Merwe	Whole genome sequencing and molecular surveillance of influenza in South African children.	CETTI-P-21
Dr. Shaaista Mohungoo Khan	Longitudinal evaluation of external quality assessment on the Roche Cobas 800 using the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance Program (RCPAQAP) at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH) laboratory: A nine-year audit (2016 - 2024).	CETTI-P-22
Ms. Jayde Polley	The effect of IgA1 and IgA2 allelic variation on the function and dimerization of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies.	CETTI-P-23
Mrs. Tejashree Jivan	Determining minimum inhibitory concentration of drugs against mycobacterium tuberculosis isolates with WHO-Interim Resistance Mutations.	CETTI-P-24
Dr. Amvuyele Ann Maseti	Laboratory-based evaluation of porphyria investigations: A retrospective audit at National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS) Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (CMJAH) (2019-2025).	CETTI-P-25
Dr. Nicolette Comley-White	An interprofessional model of care for adolescents living with perinatal HIV.	CETTI-P-26
Dr. Samantha Jiri	Exploring provider-perceive determinants of cervical pre-cancer treatment implementation at primary care level: A qualitative study in Johannesburg health district.	CETTI-P-27
Mr. Justin Moodley	The effect of APOL-1 gene variants in kidney transplant recipients in South Africa.	CETTI-P-28
Mr. Dylan Kairuz	Growing green vaccines: Using agricultural waste to refine ionisable lipids for mRNA-LNP vaccines.	CETTI-P-29
Mr. Ntokozo Shongwe	An innovative targeted block-and-kill strategy for reducing the HIV-1 latent reservoir.	CETTI-P-30
Dr. Ridhwaanah Bhana	Assessing the therapeutic potential of an ancestral-derived AAV capsids for gene therapy applications.	CETTI-P-31
Ms. Nombulelo Dlambewu	<i>Agapanthus africanus</i> inhibits <i>Candida albicans</i> virulence: Implications for antifungal research.	CETTI-P-32

PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Mr. Theesan Naidu	Development and characterisation of an Imiquimod-loaded nanosystem for the treatment of skin cancers.	CETTI-P-33
Ms. Kiara Liebmann	Factors influencing bowel and bladder management in people with spinal cord injuries post discharge from a rehabilitation setting: a two-phase descriptive study.	CETTI-P-34
Ms. Jade Celgow	Regulation of PD-L1 Expression by PTEN through PI3K/AKT signalling in colorectal cancer cells.	CETTI-P-35
Ms. Zandile Thabede	Development of a liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) method for the measurement of meropenem in human plasma.	CETTI-P-36
Dr. Amy Strydom	Interpreting serum oestradiol concentrations in transgender women receiving feminising gender-affirming hormone therapy: a retrospective audit from a South African quaternary hospital.	CETTI-P-37
Ms. Dorothy Sefara	Building health together: Memory box workshops as a pathway to family and community empowerment in Soweto, South Africa.	CETTI-P-38
Ms. Boleng Modise	Microbial contamination of nebulisers in medical intensive care units at a tertiary hospital in Johannesburg.	CETTI-P-39
Ms. Lusanda Mtetwa	Advancing Thiol-Based hydrogel crosslinking: Validation of Cysteine-Enriched bioinks for 3D scaffold fabrication.	CETTI-P-40
Dr. Catherine Martin	PrEP use within multi-method PrEP services in primary care settings in South Africa.	CETTI-P-41
Ms. Safeera Sabjee	The transcription profile of a cuticle protein: Establishes an unexplored Link to the maturation pathway of a dominant malaria vector, Anopheles funestus.	CETTI-P-42
Ms. Ncha Anucha	Comparison of HbA1c analysis using two different methodologies: immunoassays and high-performance liquid chromatography.	CETTI-P-43
Ms. Adalayne Ramsamy	Recurrent systemic inflammation drives early myocardial fibrotic remodelling in The Rat Heart.	CETTI-P-44
Dr. Sarhana Dinat	Using South African propolis for oral infections.	CETTI-P-45
Ms. Prisca Rahatji	Impact of type 2 diabetes mellitus on the morphological characteristics of maxillary bones in a Sprague-Dawley rat model.	CETTI-P-46
Mr. Thendo Ndou	In Silico Design and Computational Evaluation of Hydroxybenzoic Acid Derivatives as Potential Antimicrobial Agents.	CETTI-P-47
Ms. Tamara Lottering	The same tool, different stories: Screwdriver trauma in Macerated versus Decomposed Bone.	CETTI-P-48
Dr. Nicole Poovan	STI prevalence among South African women in a 4CMenB vaccine trial for Neisseria gonorrhoeae prevention.	CETTI-P-49
Mr. Matimba Chali	Histopathological features and MicroRNA expression profiles in squamous cell carcinoma of the oral, skin, and lip.	CETTI-P-50
Ms. Shannon Valiatham	The role of glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase gene variants in the development of type 2 diabetes in a black South African population.	CETTI-P-51
Dr. Laila Choonara	Automated vs. manual oxygen titration in emergency care: A systematic review and meta-analysis.	CETTI-P-52
Dr. Laila Choonara	Cardiovascular outcomes and safety of chlorthalidone versus hydrochlorothiazide: A systematic review and meta-analysis.	CETTI-P-53
Dr. Sabrina Naude	Efficacy of equiosmolar hypertonic saline versus mannitol for intracranial hypertension in traumatic brain injury: A systematic review and Meta-analysis.	CETTI-P-54

PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Dr. Ismail Ravat	Medium-term outcomes of gradual deformity correction for neglected and recurrent blount's disease in skeletally mature patients.	CETTI-P-55
Ms. Rosina Tloubatla	DNMT2 expression in HIV-TB infected and uninfected tissues.	CETTI-P-56
Dr. Mahdi Boukrout	Beyond bronchodilation: A systematic review of the pathophysiological and clinical effects of nebulized ketamine in airway hyper-responsiveness.	CETTI-P-57
Ms. Lesedi Tiisetso Polo	Implementing the Guide for Monitoring Child Development (GMCD) tool in a tertiary care institution: Healthcare workers' experiences.	CETTI-P-58
Dr. Raheema Adam	Clinical characteristics and outcomes of invasive antimicrobial-resistant infections in infants <90 days of age.	CETTI-P-59
Dr. Prashika Singh	Development of preclinical mRNA vaccine candidates against Rift Valley Fever virus.	CETTI-P-60
Dr. Tiffany Smith	Characterisation of a multivalent mRNA construct for the development of a vaccine strategy against the monkeypox virus (MPXV).	CETTI-P-61
Dr. Coretta Letswalo	Refining perioperative blood loss estimation: An evaluation of gravimetric and absorptive capacities of various surgical textiles at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital.	CETTI-P-62
Ms. Thembeke Shiba	The antifungal activity of essential oils in treating onychomycosis- a biochemometric approach.	CETTI-P-63
Ms. Nokwazi Mthiyane	Establishing ABI values of healthy South Africans.	CETTI-P-64
Dr. Khanyisile Sibiya	Early implementation outcomes of long-acting depot buprenorphine integrated with infectious disease care among people who inject drugs in South Africa.	CETTI-P-65
Ms. Angela Kazadi	"Sputum is King": Understanding trust in tuberculosis diagnosis.	CETTI-P-66
Ms. Funiwe Mkele	Comparing tools to capture patient preference in sample type for tuberculosis testing.	CETTI-P-67
Ms. Thandeka Skosana	In silico identification of repurposed drugs targeting key pathways in black African patients with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma.	CETTI-P-68
Ms. Nikita Govender	Client and provider perspectives on aetiological testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections in primary healthcare: insights from a pilot trial in Johannesburg, South Africa.	CETTI-P-69
Mr. Nare Eugene Letlhaka	Evaluating the quality of life and burnout among caregivers of individuals with a Huntington disease in South Africa.	CETTI-P-70
Ms. Base Baloyi	Parental coping in the ICU: A narrative analysis of experiences following paediatric cardiothoracic surgery.	CETTI-P-71
Ms. Hlayiseka Mashaba	CD44 knockout in breast cancer: Optimisation clone isolation and analysis.	CETTI-P-72
Dr Precious Ngithule Mtetwa	Comparison of oral glucose tolerance test plasma glucose concentrations in sodium fluoride and citrate buffer tubes: Does citrate preservation make a difference?	CETTI-P-73
Ms. Palesa Masake	Production, characterisation, and immunogenicity testing of novel SARS-CoV-2 BA.2.86-based mRNA vaccines.	CETTI-P-74
Ms. Jamela Mabuza	Serotonergic dysfunction in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): construct validity of the prenatal valproic acid rat model.	CETTI-P-75
Mr. Mushe Nakana	Participant choice of tuberculosis testing method (Near point-of-care vs Laboratory based), and diagnostic yield during community-based tongue swab screening.	CETTI-P-76
Ms. Corine de Beer	Identification and classification of Cornelia de Lange syndrome genetic variants in a cohort of 7 South African individuals.	CETTI-P-77

PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Ms. Hannah Wellington	Formulation of a nano-enabled transdermal microneedle array patch for paediatric HIV treatment.	CETTI-P-78
Ms. Viwe Mpho Soci	Analysis of sequence variants in South African patients presenting with osteogenesis imperfecta.	CETTI-P-79
Ms. Njabulo Sibiya	Investigating the role of TNALP activity in colorectal cancer cell migration and tumour architecture.	CETTI-P-80
Ms. Paballo Mataboge	One clinic, integrated care: A cost analysis of trans-inclusive gender-affirming and HIV service delivery in Johannesburg, South Africa.	CETTI-P-81
Ms. Danielle Gouveia	Interpretation of variants in patients presenting with xeroderma pigmentosum.	CETTI-P-82
Dr. Rebecca van Dorsten	Towards the development of an affordable sub-Saharan Africa-focused trivalent HPV vaccine using the C1 expression platform.	CETTI-P-83
Mrs. Nazia Samudh	Multivalent Self-amplifying RNA Vaccines against Hepatitis B Virus Elicits Improved Immune Responses.	CETTI-P-84
Mr. Lavesan Munsami	Development of a Multimeric L1-Based Subunit Vaccine Against HPV 16, 18 & 35.	CETTI-P-85
Dr. Kitso-Lesedi Mrubata	Factors Influencing Uptake of Clinical Decision Support Tools by Primary Care Providers in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Rapid Review.	CETTI-P-86
Mr. Suhail Osman	Analysis of putative disease-causing variants in South African patients suspected of having Sotos syndrome.	CETTI-P-87
Dr. Dan Joel Lukumbi	Bridging Epidemiology and Bone Biology in HIV-Associated Osteonecrosis of the femoral head.	CETTI-P-88
Dr. Alhassan Sibdow Abukari	Evaluating the Holistic Value of Family-Centered Care in Paediatric Intensive Care Units: A Mixed-Methods Study.	CETTI-P-89
Ms. Cleo Ndhlovu	Clinical evaluation of Glycerol-Preserved Amniotic Membrane versus Acticoat® in partial-thickness burns: A within-patient controlled trial.	CETTI-P-90
Ms. Daniela Sefora Goeieman	Community-informed implementation of low dead-space needle and syringe distribution among people who inject drugs in Johannesburg, South Africa.	CETTI-P-91
Dr. Vukosi Baloyi	High-grade (AAST Grade IV–V) liver injuries in a predominantly penetrating trauma population: management and outcomes.	CETTI-P-92
Mr. Mmotong Mahloko	Respiratory system toxicosis in co-administration of combination antiretroviral (cART) drug and alcohol in T2D male rats: a histopathology study.	CETTI-P-93
Dr. Riven Ragunandan	Suprapatellar versus Infrapatellar Intramedullary Tibial Nailing: A survey of South African orthopaedic surgeons.	CETTI-P-94
Ms. Ruth Mogokotleng	Molecular epidemiology and antimicrobial resistance profiles of Enterococcus species isolated from poultry production in Gauteng province, South Africa.	CETTI-P-95
Ms. Tahseen Akram	Normotensive versus hypertensive backgrounds shape bone microarchitectural decline in Adenine-induced CKD.	CETTI-P-96
Dr. Felix Ikuomola	Differential effects of burn-induced hyperinterleukin-6-nemia in patients living with and without HIV.	CETTI-P-97
Ms. Nicolette Naidoo	Expanding the PrEP market: Early insights offering oral, ring and CAB PrEP in Sub-Saharan Africa	CETTI-P-98
Dr. Moyahabo Julius Rampya	Benchmarking acute stroke care at two South African tertiary hospitals: Early findings from a prospective stroke registry.	CETTI-P-99

PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Mr. Tshepo Malapile	Myocardial inflammatory activation is associated with subclinical systolic dysfunction in L-NAME-induced hypertension.	CETTI-P-100
Mrs. Hamisha Soma-Kasiram	Integrating HIV self-testing into community-based tuberculosis screening: uptake and impact on acceptability in the ACT-TB study.	CETTI-P-101
Dr. Leonard Muhango	Peri-operative nutrition in femoral neck fracture arthroplasty: A pragmatic framework to mitigate dual-hit catabolism and improve outcomes.	CETTI-P-102
Mr. Sahil Lala	In Vitro and In Silico assessment of phenylhydrazone quinoline hybrids for malaria vector control and antiparasitic activity.	CETTI-P-103
Ms. Tasneem Farhad	Development of patient-derived liver organoids to model chronic HBV infections.	CETTI-P-104
Ms. Vutomi Chabalala	Metabolomic profiling and antimicrobial evaluation of Warburgia salutaris for the potential treatment of oral infections.	CETTI-P-105
Dr. Mmakgabu Khemisi	From postgraduate research to clinical impact: Leveraging NHLS resources for translational science.	CETTI-P-106
Dr. Anura David	Simplifying TB diagnosis: Performance of the swab-based Pluslife MTB assay in a high HIV-burden population.	CETTI-P-107
Dr. Rashida Kidula	Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging findings of post-hospitalization COVID-19 cohort of African descent in Johannesburg, South Africa.	CETTI-P-108
Mr. Jabu Mahlangu	Drug repurposing identifies novel acetylcholinesterase inhibitors for Malaria vector control.	CETTI-P-109

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TRACK 2 – ORAL PRESENTATIONS
GLOBAL HEALTH AND HEALTH SYSTEMS
VENUE: CLASSROOM 3 (MED516), WITS MEDICAL SCHOOL

SESSION 1 (9:50-11:10) – Chairs: Prof. Sara Jewett (Nieuwoudt) and Dr. Aisosa Omoruyi

TIME	PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT ORAL No.
09:55 - 10:05	Dr. Stuart Pattinson	'Like an infant ... trying to run a marathon': A longitudinal audio-diary study exploring the transition from medical school to internship.	GHHS-O-01
10:05 - 10:15	Ms. Saabira Amod	Heat stress in rural South Africa: A pilot analysis of population exposure in rural Bushbuckridge, from 2023-2026.	GHHS-O-02
10:15 - 10:25	Dr. Niël de Beer	An analysis of market-dominant herbal active ingredients for contemporary pharmacognosy curriculum design.	GHHS-O-03
10:25 - 10:35	Ms. Molatela Mamabolo	Food insecurity and body composition differences in young black South African males and females.	GHHS-O-04
10:35 - 10:45	Dr. Lauren Frade	Belonging in Health Sciences: Undergraduate perceptions of LGBTQ+ campus climate.	GHHS-O-05
10:45 - 10:55	Ms. Caitlin De Winnaar	Can low concentrations of heavy metals aid the adaptation of the major malaria vector <i>Anopheles arabiensis</i> to urban habitats?	GHHS-O-06
10:55 - 11:10	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
11:10 - 12:10	POSTER PRESENTATIONS & EXHIBITION		
12:10 - 13:20	CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS		

- 1. Who Benefits:** Equity, Access & the Future of Health Innovation
Venue: Classroom 1 (MED519), Medical School
- 2. Making Health Systems Work:** Delivery, Policy and System Impact
Venue: Classroom 2 (Med 517), Medical School
- 3. From Lab to Lives:** Turning Discovery into Better Care
Venue: Classroom 3 (Med 516), Medical School

13:40 - 14:40	LUNCH		
13:40 - 14:40	Working Lunch Concurrent Workshops (bring your lunch): 1. The educational black box – turning teaching dilemmas into research opportunities (CHSE) 2. Beyond the CV: Academic Career Journeys in Health Sciences 3. To Postgrad or Not to Postgrad?		

SESSION 2 (14:45-16:05) – Chairs: Dr. Zodwa Ndlovu and Dr. Koketso Tshite

14:50 - 15:00	Dr. Duane Blaauw	The quality of primary care received by foreign migrants in South Africa. A standardised patient audit.	GHHS-O-07
15:00 - 15:10	Ms. Aurielle Louw	The time-dependent cardiac inflammatory responses triggered by Group B Streptococcus in neonatal Sprague-Dawley rats.	GHHS-O-08
15:10 - 15:20	Mr. Musawenkosi Ncube	A decade of surveillance on the burden of respiratory syncytial virus-associated acute lower respiratory tract infections in hospitalised infants in South Africa: Implications for prophylactic strategies.	GHHS-O-09
15:20 - 15:30	Ms. Jessica Mbali Mazibuko	A health systems approach to integrated HIV prevention and emergency contraceptive services: Barriers and facilitators influencing willingness to access pharmacy-based service in South Africa.	GHHS-O-10

15:30 - 15:40	Mr. Mukandi Nkunabu	Descriptive analysis of the incidence of mumps in Gauteng, South Africa in 2024.	GHHS-O-11
15:40 - 15:50	Ms. Denny Mabetha	PrEP services for young men in rural South Africa: A qualitative analysis of opportunities beyond public facilities.	GHHS-O-12
15:50 - 16:05	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
16:05 - 16:20	TEA BREAK & EXHIBITION		
SESSION 3 (16:20-17:40) – Chairs: Dr. Mpho Matlakale and Dr. Husna Ismail			
16:25 - 16:35	Mr. Siya Dubazana	Assessing HIV vulnerability among young women in South Africa: A comparison of three risk assessment tools.	GHHS-O-13
16:35 - 16:45	Mrs. Asisipo Mohamed	Preserved mitochondrial health in innate and adaptive immune cells from South African HIV-1 controllers.	GHHS-O-14
16:45 - 16:55	Ms. Karabo Salemane	Optimising pathogen recovery from wastewater: Comparative evaluation of thirteen concentration methods for wastewater-based epidemiology.	GHHS-O-15
16:55 - 17:05	Ms. Nonhlakanipho Mabuza	Context, fluidity and meaning of accountability in the public mental health sector of a South African province.	GHHS-O-16
17:05 - 17:15	Ms. Lulama Yawa	Factors associated with all-cause mortality during tuberculosis treatment among patients in Blantyre, Malawi between 2014 and 2021.	GHHS-O-17
17:15 -17:25	Mrs. Rebecca Coetzee	From simulation to clinical practice: Building obstetric readiness among clinical associate students.	GHHS-O-18
17:25 - 17:40	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
PRIZE GIVING/RECEPTION			

TRACK 2 - POSTERS		
GLOBAL HEALTH AND HEALTH SYSTEMS		
VENUE: WITS MEDICAL SCHOOL		
PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Mr. Tionge Sikwese	Uptake and completion of tuberculosis preventive therapy in populations beyond household contacts and people living with HIV: A systematic review and meta-analysis.	GHHS-P-01
Dr. Gary Gabriels	Integrating science, safety and performance: A transdisciplinary assessment of whey protein supplement labelling.	GHHS-P-02
Ms. Elizabeth Kachingwe	Effects of global HIV funding shifts on donor-supported staffing and HIV service delivery in South African primary healthcare facilities.	GHHS-P-03
Mr. Shakeel Mc Kenzie	Influenza A and other respiratory pathogens in adults hospitalised with acute respiratory illness in Soweto, South Africa (2025-2026): A preliminary analysis.	GHHS-P-04
Mrs. Cecilia Peach	Giving a voice to silent disabilities: Exploring the journey of people with systemic lupus erythematosus	GHHS-P-05
Mr. Neevesh Govindsamy	The effect of the SREBP-1c rs2033690347 and NR1H3 rs2279238 gene polymorphisms on lipid accumulation in a human hepatocellular cell line.	GHHS-P-06
Dr. Faith Mary Musvipwa	User experiences with long-acting injectable CAB-LA PrEP in South Africa: Qualitative insights into acceptability, motivations for use, and challenges.	GHHS-P-07

PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Ms. Violet Bosire	The impact of donor funding disruptions across the paediatric HIV care cascade in Sub-Saharan Africa (2005–2025): A scoping review.	GHHS-P-08
Dr. Emily Prendergast	The causes and contribution of severe and antimicrobial-resistant infections to morbidity and mortality among hospitalised adults with advanced HIV disease in Johannesburg, South Africa.	GHHS-P-09
Dr. Vaneshveri Naidoo	Strengthening professional ways of knowing, doing and being as clinical education practitioners.	GHHS-P-10
Ms. Laeeqa Sujee	Integrating cost-effectiveness in physiotherapy curricula: Developing resource-conscious practitioners for under-resourced communities.	GHHS-P-11
Ms. Lulama Nkuna	Genomic insights into Carbapenem and Colistin resistance in multidrug-resistant <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i> and <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> .	GHHS-P-12
Ms. Laeeqa Sujee	Advancing social justice in Physiotherapy curricula: Preparing socially accountable practitioners for diverse and underprivileged communities.	GHHS-P-13
Ms. Eva Mathatha	Nutrition-specific interventions for prevention and control of anaemia among adolescents in low and middle-income countries (LMICs): An umbrella review.	GHHS-P-14
Ms. Kimberly Mc Alpine	Climate change and vertically transmissible infections in maternal and neonatal populations: A systematic review.	GHHS-P-15
Mr. Cyril Chironda	One country, different clusters? Multimorbidity patterns across rural South Africa, 2012–2022.	GHHS-P-16
Mrs. Isatu Jalloh	Knowledge, attitudes, and practices of healthcare professionals towards adverse drug reaction reporting in Sierra Leone.	GHHS-P-17
Ms. Nkoleleng Johannah Mashilo	Male access to healthcare and utilization of healthcare services in Africa: A scoping review.	GHHS-P-18
Ms. Nomsa Mahlalela	Lenacapavir misinformation that is most likely to undermine uptake among young women in South Africa: Insights from an online survey.	GHHS-P-19
Dr. Astrid Kouatcho	Assessment of facility-level factors influencing the adequacy of cervical screening specimens in Johannesburg community health centres and clinics, January to December 2025.	GHHS-P-20
Mrs. Amoge Eunice Jamesboy	Historical and contemporary distribution patterns of the <i>Anopheles coustani</i> group (Diptera: Culicidae) species in the Afrotropical Region.	GHHS-P-21
Mr. Boitumelo Komane	Association between blood pressure trajectories and kidney function in a cohort of urban black South African middle-aged men and women.	GHHS-P-22
Ms. Ayesha Davids	Efficacy and safety of essential oils in treating oral and dental diseases.	GHHS-P-23
Mr. Emili Yondu	Bridging regulatory silos: Biosimilar regulatory oversight in the East African Community (EAC).	GHHS-P-24
Mr. Pepukai Bengura	Developing empirical boundary of maximum follow-up durations for HIV outcomes using a precision-based survival analysis framework.	GHHS-P-25
Dr. Megan Dempster	Investigating causes of death in children under five years who are dead on arrival at healthcare facilities within Soweto.	GHHS-P-27
Ms. Desiré Jansen van Rensburg	Tobacco use and smoking cessation among inpatients at a South African psychiatric hospital.	GHHS-P-28
Dr. Husna Ismail	Utilising health and demographic surveillance systems for population-based active surveillance of background rates of adverse events of special interest.	GHHS-P-29
Mr. Bongani Ntimani	Anaemia in pregnancy: Haemoglobin screening coverage and distribution in a South African CHAMPS pregnancy surveillance cohort (2022–2025).	GHHS-P-30
Ms. Kutlwano Sifora	Individual and community level factors influencing modern contraceptive use among women of reproductive age in South Africa: a multilevel analysis.	GHHS-P-31

PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Ms. Gomolemo Moloi	Assessing oncology clinicians' knowledge and attitudes towards vaccination in adult cancer patients Before, During and After cancer treatment.	GHHS-P-32
Ms. Naledi Sibiya	Skeletal muscle mass associates with handgrip strength independent of total and central adiposity in black South African young adults.	GHHS-P-33
Dr. Chengetai Dare	Trends in advertising expenditure and exposure to ultra-processed food advertisements in South Africa between 2013 and 2022.	GHHS-P-34
Ms. Rixongile Malomane	Wastewater surveillance to monitor pulmonary tuberculosis burden? Exploring TB case counts, socio-economics, and TB nucleic acid signals in wastewater in South Africa, 2025.	GHHS-P-35
Ms. Pumela Mpukwana	The use of climate modelling in predicting mosquito population distribution for Gene drive deployment.	GHHS-P-36
Dr. Matsimela Ndwandwe	Prevalence of prosthetic joint infection following joint arthroplasty in patients with haemophilia: A systematic review and meta-analysis.	GHHS-P-37
Mr. Sinovuyo Halana	Central obesity and hypertension as predictors of arterial stiffness in young South African adults.	GHHS-P-38
Dr. Sulaiman Saloojee	Efficacy of zonisamide for body weight and adiposity: A systematic review and meta-analysis.	GHHS-P-39
Dr. Kimberley Gutu	Background Rates of Adverse Events for Vaccine Evaluation in Africa (BRAVE): Laying the groundwork for safer vaccines in Africa.	GHHS-P-40
Prof. Vernice Peterson	Ethnic disparities in hypertension among women in the May measurement month global campaigns 2021-2023.	GHHS-P-41
Dr. Takwanisa Machemedze	Cohort profile: The Soweto and Thembelihle Health and Demographic Surveillance System (SaT-HDSS).	GHHS-P-42
Dr. Emily Prendergast	Timely tracking of positive cryptococcal antigen results for people with HIV in South Africa: lessons from the CAST OFF-SA study.	GHHS-P-43
Ms. Dorothy Sefara	Prevalence and factors associated with congenital disorders identified through the UBOMI BUHLE pregnancy exposure registry in Soweto, South Africa.	GHHS-P-44
Dr. Kyle Nalathoren	Idiopathic chondrolysis of the hip in a 29-year-old male: A rare adult presentation with bilateral sequential hip destruction.	GHHS-P-45
Dr. Maria Mabyalwa Mudau	Successful implementation of a cohort supervision strategy for an Honours research project in Human Genetics.	GHHS-P-46
Ms. Lerato Ntsie	From clinical to care: Understanding women's antenatal care journeys in Soweto, South Africa.	GHHS-P-47
Prof. Shelley Schmollgruber	Assessing readiness for maternal RSV and GBS vaccines in South Africa: From policy to uptake.	GHHS-P-48
Mrs. Stefanie Vermaak	Developing a user-centred vaccine demand strategy for maternal vaccines in South Africa.	GHHS-P-49
Mr. Christian Mukendi	Group B Streptococcus Serotype-Specific IgG responses and transplacental antibody transfer in mother-newborn dyads across low- and middle-income countries in Africa and South Asia.	GHHS-P-50
Dr. Sarah Downs	Safe mkhukhu: Co-designing low-cost child injury prevention solutions for informal settlements.	GHHS-P-51
Mrs. Nombulelo Nkabinde	Pregnancy-associated invasive Group B Streptococcal disease in South Africa, 2020–2024.	GHHS-P-52
Ms. Rixongile Malomane	Guidelines for interpretation of mpox wastewater surveillance results: Learning from field experience in Gauteng province, South Africa, 2025	GHHS-P-53

PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Ms. Tlangelani Baloyi	From knowledge to action: Community-based burns education for paediatric burn prevention in South Africa.	GHHS-P-54
Ms. Nosiviwe Mnyaka	From heat awareness to workplace protection: heat-health literacy and occupational risk management among healthcare workers in Tshwane, South Africa.	GHHS-P-55
Ms. Fhatani Kwindi	Detection, characterization, and genetic relatedness of clostridioides difficile in hospital wastewater and clinical isolates from Johannesburg, South Africa.	GHHS-P-56
Mr. Gomolemo Maseng	The changes over time of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) seroprevalence, and viral load trends in South Africa, between 2017 and 2021.	GHHS-P-57
Ms. Mbali Sibiya	The prevalence of hepatic steatosis and liver fibrosis in middle-aged black South African men and women.	GHHS-P-58
Mr. Sadson Harawa	Internal migration, healthcare utilization dynamics and HIV control among young adults in rural South Africa.	GHHS-P-59
Dr. Bridget Vermeulen	Preconception left ventricular geometry and concentric remodelling in young women from Soweto, South Africa: the GenHeart Study.	WITHDRAWN
Dr. Faezaz Faezaz	TLD uptake and maternal HIV viral suppression at delivery in pregnant women living with HIV in Johannesburg, South Africa, July 2021-May 2026.	GHHS-P-61
Dr. Nontlantla Mdletshe	Beyond sun exposure: A scoping review of non-melanoma skin cancer in South Africa.	GHHS-P-62
Ms. Kgothatso Mpolokeng	Association of the EGFR rs712830 gene polymorphism with dysglycaemia and metabolic syndrome in a South African population.	GHHS-P-63
Mr. Sipho Gwala	Wastewater genomics complements clinical surveillance to resolve measles virus transmission.	GHHS-P-64
Ms. Jessica Yun	Evaluating electronic health record readiness for vaccine safety surveillance in African Hospital Settings: Evidence from BRAVE.	GHHS-P-65
Ms. Pamela Maluleke	"Parents Want Antibiotics": A Qualitative Study Exploring Antibiotic Use for Childhood LRTI Symptoms from the Perspectives of Caregivers, Healthcare Workers and Key Stakeholders in Ehlanzeni District, Mpumalanga.	GHHS-P-66
Mr. Prevail Mukwevho	Physical activity as a potential behavioural pathway linking cardiometabolic health and depressive symptoms among South African office workers.	GHHS-P-67
Dr. Pascalia Munyewende	Heat at home: Pregnant women's experiences of household heat and adaptation in Tshwane, South Africa.	GHHS-P-68
Dr. Glodi Kabobya	Temporal trends and risk factors for tuberculosis case notifications in Blantyre from 2011 to 2021, Malawi.	GHHS-P-69
Dr. Naseem Cassim	Utilising public-sector laboratory data to monitor diabetes incidence and glycaemic control in South Africa for 2025.	GHHS-P-70
Mrs. Denel Nettmann	Associate clinicians in African emergency care: A qualitative study.	GHHS-P-71
Dr. Hlambani Shirinda	Genomic epidemiology and antimicrobial resistance patterns of clostridioides difficile in Johannesburg hospitals.	GHHS-P-72
Dr. Vidya Keshav	A standardised analytical framework for evaluating Mpox diagnostics in low-incidence settings: Implications for diagnostic preparedness.	GHHS-P-73
Dr. Riffat Munir	Performance evaluation of the VITA™ point-of-care assay for CD4 enumeration in HIV care.	GHHS-P-74
Mr. Darshen Naidoo	Balancing public health and commercial speech: The case for front-of-pack warning labels.	GHHS-P-75
Mr. Fredrick Orwa	Does prior pregnancy loss affect antenatal care utilization in Kenya? A propensity score weighted analysis.	GHHS-P-76

PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Dr. Elizabeth Roos	Prevalence and incidence of chlamydia and gonorrhoea infections in adolescent females using long acting injectable cabotegravir as HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Uganda: results from HPTN 084-01.	GHHS-P-77
Ms. Nondumiso Mbatha	Working faster to escape the heat: Silent adaptation and occupational Strain among Midwives in Tshwane, South Africa.	GHHS-P-78
Dr. Denise Evans	Depression during and after TB in a cohort of individuals with pulmonary TB from Johannesburg, South Africa.	GHHS-P-79
Mrs. Fatima Kathrda	Characterising the multidimensional symptom experience of South African women with endometriosis: A descriptive phenomenological study.	GHHS-P-80
Ms. Tsakane Sono	Mapping the patient journey: Lessons for patient-centred hand-injury care in South Africa.	GHHS-P-81
Ms. Nondumiso Mudanalwo	Distribution of Ceftazidime–Avibactam Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations against Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacterales Isolates at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, South Africa (2019–2020).	GHHS-P-82
Ms. Kutloano Skhosana	Constraints to heat adaptation among pregnant women in a low-resource South African setting: A cross-sectional analysis of the HAPI study.	GHHS-P-83
Dr. Denise Evans	Johannesburg cohort results from the multi country TB sequel study.	GHHS-P-84
Mr. Maatla Dave Temane	Immigration of medical doctors into South Africa from 2012 to 2021: An analysis of Health Professions Council of South Africa registrations.	GHHS-P-85
Ms. Mulanga Ramatshimbila	Targeting iron homeostasis in anopheles larvae using chelation-based larvicides.	GHHS-P-86
Dr. Leonard Muhango	The turnaround time in a dedicated orthopaedic emergency theatre at a tertiary hospital in South Africa.	GHHS-P-87
Mr Edward Mosiamo	Perception and knowledge of healthcare workers towards “Emergency Department Physiotherapy” (EDP).	GHHS-P-88
Ms. Thembelihle Myeza	Investigating the effects of CKD and hypertension on central arterial haemodynamics in normotensive WKY and SHR rats.	GHHS-P-89
Dr. Godfred Yaw Boanyah	The life history characteristics of Anopheles arabiensis infected with Microsporidia MB, a Plasmodium blocking symbiont.	GHHS-P-90
Mr. Thomas Mabobe	The screening and testing programme by pharmacy students for the screening of non-communicable and communicable diseases at a university, South Africa.	GHHS-P-91
Mr. Kamohelo Sithole	Sex specific central haemodynamic determinants of central pulse pressure in young normotensive black South African adults.	GHHS-P-92
Dr. Petri Engela Fouche	A description of the admission demographic, professional and academic characteristics of Radiology Registrars (Residents) in South Africa.	GHHS-P-93
Dr. Koketso Tshite	From learning to leading: recommendations from emerging health professions educators across South Africa – A multi-institutional study.	GHHS-P-94
Mr. Aadil Emamally	Consumption, patterns, and health implications of weight loss supplements by athletes (boxers) worldwide: A scoping review protocol.	GHHS-P-95
Dr. Taariq Hassim	Prevention strategies for heel pressure injuries: A scoping review.	GHHS-P-96
Ms. Nolwazi Khumalo	The metabolic effects of weaning age and D-allulose in juvenile Sprague-Dawley rats.	GHHS-P-97

PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Ms. Tlangelani Hlongwane	Trends in children's living arrangements in rural South Africa: findings from Agincourt Health and demographic surveillance system (HDSS), (1993-2024).	GHHS-P-98
Dr. Aisosa Omoruyi	Strengthening South Africa's legal framework to reduce children's exposure to unhealthy food and beverages marketing: Ensuring policy coherence.	GHHS-P-99
Prof. Robyn van Zyl	Community knowledge and malaria prevention practices in the Vaal Triangle, South Africa.	GHHS-P-100
Dr. Monica Ewomazino Akokuwebe	From development to ageing in Sub-Saharan Africa: A scoping review of non-communicable diseases, prevention, and health systems equity across the Life Course.	GHHS-P-101
Ms. Caitlin Baia	Exploring the relationship between mycotoxin presence and oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma in South Africa.	GHHS-P-102
Mr. Mathee Glive Ramushu	Pooling sputum specimens of people at high risk of TB reduces costs of Xpert Ultra TB testing: Results from the TUTTPlus study in South Africa.	GHHS-P-103

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TRACK 3 – ORAL PRESENTATIONS			
BRAIN HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFESPAN – FROM MOLECULES TO SOCIETY			
VENUE: LECTURE THEATRE 1, WITS MEDICAL SCHOOL			
SESSION 1 (9:50-11:10) – Chairs: Prof. Christopher Szabo and Dr. Niel De Beer			
TIME	PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT ORAL No.
09:55 - 10:05	Dr. Joshua Davimes	Comfortably numb? Empathy, childhood adversity, and the dark factor of personality in medical students.	BHAL-O-01
10:05 - 10:15	Ms. Cheyann Dare	Alcohol-induced neuroinflammation promotes Tau Hyperphosphorylation through differential Tau Kinase activation.	BHAL-O-02
10:15 - 10:25	Prof. Sumaya Mall	The relationship between household asset index (HAI), food insecurity and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among older adults in rural, South Africa:2021-2022.	BHAL-O-03
10:25 - 10:35	Dr. Zinhle Vilakazi	Prevalence of neurodevelopmental disorder among children in rural South Africa: A community-based cross-sectional study.	BHAL-O-04
10:35 - 10:45	Ms. Lilian Muchai	Childhood community violence trajectories and adult intimate partner violence perpetration among South African men and women.	BHAL-O-05
10:45 - 10:55	Dr. Mohammed Sattar	Emergency neurosurgical operative workload at a high-volume tertiary centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.	BHAL-O-06
10:55 - 11:10	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
11:10 - 12:10	POSTER PRESENTATIONS & EXHIBITION		
12:10 - 13:20	CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS		
1. Who Benefits: Equity, Access & the Future of Health Innovation Venue: Classroom 1 (MED519), Medical School			
2. Making Health Systems Work: Delivery, Policy and System Impact Venue: Classroom 2 (Med 517), Medical School			
3. From Lab to Lives: Turning Discovery into Better Care Venue: Classroom 3 (Med 516), Medical School			
13:40 - 14:40	LUNCH		
13:40 - 14:40	Working Lunch Concurrent Workshops (bring your lunch): 1. The educational black box – turning teaching dilemmas into research opportunities (CHSE) 2. Beyond the CV: Academic Career Journeys in Health Sciences 3. To Postgrad or Not to Postgrad?		
SESSION 2 (14:45-16:05) – Chairs: Dr. Joshua Davimes and Mrs. Patience Chinyengetere			
14:50 - 15:00	Dr. Muhammed Sheik	The prevalence of cannabis associated mania-like presentations in hospitalised psychiatric patients.	BHAL-O-07
15:00 - 15:10	Dr. Memory Muturiki	Mental disorders amongst students: trends before and during COVID-19 in a South African university.	BHAL-O-08
15:10 - 15:20	Dr. Jaclyn Johnson	Effects of combination antiretroviral therapy on the cerebellum and pons in a diabetic rat model: From metabolic disease to brain health.	BHAL-O-09
15:20 - 15:30	Ms. Courtney Jeffery	Neuropathic pain in keloid scars in people of Black African ancestry.	BHAL-O-10

15:30 - 15:40	Ms. Liesl Strydom	Epigenetic Regulation of RELN and SHANK3 in a neurodevelopmental in vitro model of schizophrenia: Investigating creatine monohydrate as a methylation buffer.	BHAL-O-11
15:40 - 15:50	Dr. Yigael Powrie	Microbial stimulation alters amyloid precursor protein processing transcription in human neurons.	BHAL-O-12
15:50 - 16:05	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
16:05 - 16:20	TEA BREAK & EXHIBITION		
SESSION 3 (16:20-17:40) – Chairs: Prof. Sumaya Mall and Dr. Jaclyn Johnson			
16:25 - 16:35	Dr. Thabiso Tshabalala	The effects of Fluoxetine on cranial neural crest cell migration in vitro: Implications on SSRI-induced craniofacial malformations.	BHAL-O-13
16:35 - 16:45	Ms. Leandrie Pienaar	Chronic LPS-Induced neuroinflammation alters neurotransmitter dynamics and brain proteomic signatures.	BHAL-O-14
16:45 - 16:55	Dr. Mamello Ndimane	Neutropenia-related clozapine discontinuation practices and cost of haematological monitoring.	BHAL-O-15
16:55 - 17:05	Mr. Reenen Herbst	Biomimetic neuromelanin synthesis and acellular ferrous-Iron chelation profiling.	BHAL-O-16
17:05 - 17:15	Ms. Racilya Naicker	DNA methylation epesignatures as a novel approach to improve diagnosis in African rare disease patients in the DDD-Africa study.	BHAL-O-17
17:15 -17:25	Dr. Tammy Oldwadge	Exploring a profile of suicide victims in a large rural area, in Mpumalanga, South Africa.	BHAL-O-18
17:25 - 17:40	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
PRIZE GIVING/RECEPTION			

TRACK 3 - POSTERS		
BRAIN HEALTH ACROSS THE LIFESPAN – FROM MOLECULES TO SOCIETY		
VENUE: WITS MEDICAL SCHOOL		
PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Mr. Nashik Mohanlal	Subependymal giant cell astrocytoma presenting with severe bilateral visual loss in a child with tuberous sclerosis complex: A case report.	BHAL-P-01
Mr. Sanele Mvelase	Associations between depressive symptoms, behaviors and risk factors to HIV among HIV-negative men and women accessing prevention services in South Africa.	BHAL-P-02
Mr. Mickey Banda	Neurotoxic effects of HIV-1 subtype B and C viral proteins: A systematic review and meta-analysis of in vitro central nervous system models.	BHAL-P-03
Ms. Neoentle Nhlathathi	Pharmacogenetic screening to address Benign ethnic neutropenia in clozapine-treated patients with treatment-resistant schizophrenia.	BHAL-P-04
Dr. Mpho Matlakane	Risks and awareness of NIHL among dental students: A scoping review.	BHAL-P-05
Ms. Precious Ndubueze	The prevalence of substance uses amongst 3rd year BCMP students at Wits.	BHAL-P-06
Ms. Tyler Jacobs	An integrated pipeline reveals a new multi-target therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases.	BHAL-P-07
Ms. Carli Swanepoel	Evaluating the neuroprotective potentials of hydroxybenzoic acid derivatives in a cellular model of Parkinson's disease.	BHAL-P-08

PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Ms. Carli Swanepoel	Hypoxoside from African potato show neuroprotective potentials of in a cellular model of Parkinson's disease.	BHAL-P-09
Dr. Sabrina Naude	Rescuing cognitive performance from sleep debt: A systematic review of creatine supplementation.	BHAL-P-10
Mr. Godwin Kalu	Psychometric validation of a Mental Health Literacy Scale among university students in South Africa.	BHAL-P-11
Dr. Moyahabo Rampya	Social reintegration after stroke in Africa: A scoping review of determinants and intervention gaps.	BHAL-P-12
Mr. Mthokozisi Madonsela	Evaluating the neuroprotective potentials of molecular inclusion complexes of hydroxybenzoic acid derivatives in a cellular model of hydrogen peroxide-induced neurotoxicity.	BHAL-P-13
Ms. Andréa Lubbe	Investigating the effects of neuroinflammation on L-DOPA induced molecular and cerebrovascular changes in a rodent model.	BHAL-P-14
Ms. Carmen van der Merwe	Experiences and perspectives of caregivers of individuals with a Huntington disease phenotype in South Africa: A qualitative study.	BHAL-P-15
Dr. Melanie Vandiar	Use of neurocognitive screening tools amongst people with HIV infection in Johannesburg, South Africa.	BHAL-P-16
Dr. Thabiso Tshabalala	Contraceptive use and mental health among female university students: A cross-sectional study.	BHAL-P-17
Ms. Robyn Hocter	RNU4-2 variation in African patients with an unexplained neurodevelopmental disorder.	BHAL-P-18
Ms. Nothando Mwandla	Establishing a neuronal model to investigate the antimicrobial protection hypothesis of Alzheimer's disease	BHAL-P-19
Dr. Asanda Mtintsilana	Food insecurity, dietary inflammatory index and psychological distress in middle-aged Black South African women.	BHAL-P-20
Mr. Zamokuhle Nhlangothi	Preliminary findings on Obestatin's neuroprotective role in adolescent alcohol induced prefrontal cortex changes.	BHAL-P-21
Ms. Lesedi Litlhakanyane	Investigating the methylation patterns of CXCR4 and SLC2A1 in an in-vitro schizophrenic model and the implications of iso-mukaadial acetate's potential anti-inflammatory properties.	BHAL-P-22
Ms. Aashna Beepan	Longitudinal changes in self-reported sleep characteristics according to HIV status in older adults living in Rural South Africa.	BHAL-P-23
Mr. Sphiwe Mbonani	The neural connections of the nervus intermedius with the facial and vestibulocochlear nerves.	BHAL-P-24
Ms. Sanelisiwe Xhakaza	Temporal and regional effects of cannabidiol on markers of oxidative stress, apoptosis and associated lipid abundance in the rodent brain	BHAL-P-25

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TRACK 4 – ORAL PRESENTATIONS			
DIGITAL HEALTH, INNOVATION AND ETHICAL USE OF AI IN HEALTH SYSTEMS			
VENUE: CLASSROOM 2 (MED 517), WITS MEDICAL SCHOOL			
SESSION 1 (9:50-11:10) – Chairs: Dr. Ane Orchard and Mrs. Amanda Jankowitz			
TIME	PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT ORAL No.
09:55 - 10:05	Prof. Haroon Saloojee	AI at the bedside: Randomised controlled trial of ChatGPT’s impact on student performance in real-patient clinical exams.	DHIEU-O-01
10:05 - 10:15	Mrs. Fiona Els	Leveraging wastewater environmental surveillance and socio-economic survey data in a machine learning environment to identify Hepatitis A risk communities in Gauteng Province, South Africa.	DHIEU-O-02
10:15 - 10:25	Dr. Jef Vanhamel	Between promise and practice: Mapping the implementation of digital health technologies in five sentinel district hospitals in South Africa.	DHIEU-O-03
10:25 - 10:35	Ms. Kaela Kokkas	AI can match domain experts in evidence extraction and appraisal of microbial oncogenesis research.	DHIEU-O-04
10:35 - 10:45	Dr. Michael Gramanie	Evaluating multimodal large language model diagnostic performance at a tertiary South African hospital.	DHIEU-O-05
10:45 - 10:55	Mr. Michael Alves	We have failed persons with spinal cord injury: A scoping review of registries.	DHIEU-O-06
10:55 - 11:10	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
11:10 - 12:10	POSTER PRESENTATIONS & EXHIBITION		
12:10 - 13:20	CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS		
1. Who Benefits: Equity, Access & the Future of Health Innovation Venue: Classroom 1 (MED519), Medical School 2. Making Health Systems Work: Delivery, Policy and System Impact Venue: Classroom 2 (Med 517), Medical School 3. From Lab to Lives: Turning Discovery into Better Care Venue: Classroom 3 (Med 516), Medical School			
13:40 - 14:40	LUNCH		
13:40 - 14:40	Working Lunch Concurrent Workshops (bring your lunch): 1. The educational black box – turning teaching dilemmas into research opportunities (CHSE) 2. Beyond the CV: Academic Career Journeys in Health Sciences 3. To Postgrad or Not to Postgrad?		
SESSION 2 (14:45-16:05) – Chairs: Dr. Emmanuel Obasa and Ms. Amber Cheng			
14:50 - 15:00	Dr. Adam Vanker	Liberating the paper graveyard: An enterprise-grade, human-in-the-loop vision ai pipeline for digitizing legacy child health records in LMIC settings.	DHIEU-O-07
15:00 - 15:10	Ms. Tumai Muzorewa	The impact of methodological approach and ancestral proximity on PGS performance: Trends from a continental African cohort.	DHIEU-O-08
15:10 - 15:20	Ms. Nakita Shoebalak	Beyond likes and reach: Exploring young women’s engagement with HIV prevention content on social media.	DHIEU-O-09
15:20 - 15:30	Mr. Abebaw Azene	Predictions of diabetic complications among adults living with type 2 diabetes mellitus in Agincourt, South Africa: a machine learning approach.	DHIEU-O-10

15:30 - 15:40	Ms. Sinethemba Madlala	Risk-taking propensity and intentions to engage in HIV services following interaction with an AI-powered conversational agent among adolescent girls and young women in South Africa.	DHIEU-O-11
15:40 - 15:50	Prof. Sibusiso Mkwanaenzi	Can early warning systems reduce dehydration? Longitudinal evidence from pregnant and postpartum women in Tshwane, South Africa.	DHIEU-O-12
15:50 - 16:05	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
16:05 - 16:20	TEA BREAK & EXHIBITION		
SESSION 3 (16:20-17:40) – Chairs: Dr. Nicholas Bacci and Ms. Aviwe Mgobozi			
16:25 - 16:35	Dr. Shaida Khan	Impact of prompt design on ChatGPT outputs for chemical pathology queries.	DHIEU-O-13
16:35 - 16:45	Ms. Courtney Brown	From algorithms to action: hybrid computational-experimental pipeline leveraging quantum simulations for Parkinson’s disease therapeutic innovation.	DHIEU-O-14
16:45 - 16:55	Ms. Amber Cheng	Preparing Pharmacy students for allergy and anaphylaxis: A game-based simulation approach.	DHIEU-O-15
16:55 - 17:05	Mr. Muhammad Raees Dindar	Sleepless in silico: Cognitive and socio-emotional vulnerability in large language models.	DHIEU-O-16
17:05 - 17:15	Ms. Shriya Behara	The impact of AI-Driven diagnostic tools on the early detection of skin cancer: Clinical applications and future prospects.	DHIEU-O-17
17:15 -17:25	Dr. Amy Rouillard	Can LLMs accurately score medical diagnoses and clinical reasoning?	DHIEU-O-18
17:25 - 17:40	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
PRIZE GIVING/RECEPTION			

TRACK 4 - POSTERS		
DIGITAL HEALTH, INNOVATION & ETHICAL USE OF AI IN HEALTH SYSTEMS		
VENUE: WITS MEDICAL SCHOOL		
PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Ms. Nokhanya Sangweni	Evaluating vaccine coverage among Wits Faculty of Health Sciences students and staff and assessing acceptability of a digital app for life-course vaccination records.	DHIEU-P-01
Dr. Jef Vanhamel	Utilisation of digital health technologies among frontline health professionals in five sentinel district hospitals in South Africa.	DHIEU-P-02
Mr. Cyril Chironda	Transitions from healthy ageing to multimorbidity and death in rural South Africa: a multi-state modelling study using HAALSI Waves 1–3.	DHIEU-P-03
Mr. Rayhaan Hanslod	Multi-object detection: Dental caries detection using convolutional neural networks.	DHIEU-P-04
Dr. Slindile Mjadu	Strengthening routine health information system reporting to support data-driven hospital management: implementation at a tertiary hospital.	DHIEU-P-05
Ms. Ayanda Nkosi	Predictive risk modelling and behavioral segmentation to improve HIV care engagement in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.	DHIEU-P-06
Dr. Madri Jansen van Rensburg	Human-centred data capture in the era of digital automation and AI – insights from the ADMIRE (Automating Digitisation of Maternal and Infant Records) study.	DHIEU-P-07

PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Dr. Clarence Yah	Revisiting sample size requirements in machine learning prediction models: Balancing model complexity, overfitting, and predictive accuracy.	DHIEU-P-08
Ms. Krishnaveni Reddy	A novel self-administered behavioral risk assessment tool identifies young South African women with high risk for STIs and HIV.	DHIEU-P-09
Ms. Nakita Sheobalak	Engaging youth through AI: Sister Unathi's role in HIV prevention and sexual health education.	DHIEU-P-10
Ms. Kedeboni Mamosadi	Exploring patient and healthcare worker perspectives on WhatsApp-Integrated AI-Enabled Chatbots for chronic disease care in primary healthcare settings in South Africa and Eswatini: An early-stage research concept.	DHIEU-P-11
Mr. Simisola Ayodele	Engineering a 3D-Printable Amorphous Solid Dispersion Paste for Taste-Masked Dolutegravir Orally Disintegrating Tablets.	DHIEU-P-12
Ms. Chikondi Divala	The power of personal narratives: HIV prevention ambassadors engaging young adults through social media.	DHIEU-P-13
Dr. Laila Choonara	AI-integrated pulmonary nodule assessment: A systematic review and meta-analysis.	DHIEU-P-14
Dr. Muhammed Vally	Knowledge, perceptions and attitudes toward artificial intelligence in healthcare among healthcare professionals at a district regional hospital in South Africa: A cross-sectional survey study.	DHIEU-P-15
Ms. Leia Singh	Implementation of a localised Gen3 data discovery platform for African population health research.	DHIEU-P-16
Ms. Elmari Briedenhann	Sliding into socials to stop the spread of STIs.	DHIEU-P-17
Dr. Shabnam Shaik	Strengthening vaccine safety surveillance in South Africa: Structural enablers, reporting challenges, and lessons for AEFI monitoring in LMICs.	DHIEU-P-18
Ms. Wai Yin Chan	Leveraging COVID-19 as a natural experiment: Proof-of-concept analysis of South Africa's Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra cycle threshold data measuring tuberculosis burden.	DHIEU-P-19
Ms. Megan Rwigamba	The national integrated human resource information system (HRIS) as a health system innovation: Barriers and enablers to adoption in South Africa.	DHIEU-P-20
Ms. Kedeboni Mamosadi	Exploring patient and healthcare worker perspectives on WhatsApp-integrated AI-enabled digital tools for chronic disease care in primary healthcare settings in South Africa and Eswatini: A Formative Qualitative Study.	DHIEU-P-21
Ms. Itumeleng Mtimkulu	Age-related differences in engagement and retention within a WhatsApp-based mHealth system: evident from over 4000 participants in a community TB study.	DHIEU-P-22
Dr. Karabo Taye	A POPIA-aligned workflow for ethical AI-ready clinical data in VALID 2.0	DHIEU-P-23
Mr. Liron Krawitz	Exploring medical ethics extensions to MoralityGym for evaluating AI decision-making.	DHIEU-P-24
Ms. Neo Letele-Mohajane	Facilitators and barriers to the implementation of electronic health systems by health care workers at primary health care clinics in the City of Johannesburg.	DHIEU-P-25
Ms. Dzunisani Baloyi	Implementation of a wearable-device based study to measure behavioural and physiological outcomes among middle-aged and older rural South Africans.	DHIEU-P-26
Mrs. Amanda Jankowitz	A framework for game-based learning in Health Science education: Bridging pedagogy, technology and educator development in a resource-constrained context.	DHIEU-P-27

PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Mrs. Fiona Breytenbach	Why is functional electrical stimulation underused? Occupational therapists' perspectives on stroke rehabilitation in Gauteng, South Africa.	DHIEU-P-28
Dr. Clement Kufe	Reliability, validity and dimensionality of the satisfaction questionnaire among diabetes patients: Structural Equation Modelling (SEM).	DHIEU-P-29
Dr. Natasha Banda	Costing of a multimorbidity dashboard for scale-up in South African primary healthcare: The case of the MADIVA dashboard.	DHIEU-P-30
Dr. Daisy Kotsane	The barriers to digital transformation in the Wits School of Oral Sciences.	DHIEU-P-31

The “Digital Health, Innovation & Ethical Use of AI in Health Systems” track is proudly sponsored by WITS VIDA - <https://wits-vida.org/>



TRACK 5 – ORAL PRESENTATIONS PRECISION MEDICINE, OMICS & COMPUTATIONAL HEALTH VENUE: CLASSROOM 4 (MED 514), WITS MEDICAL SCHOOL			
SESSION 1 (9:50-11:10) – Chairs: Dr. Alaine Marsden and Dr. Charlise Basson			
TIME	PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT ORAL No.
09:55 - 10:05	Mr. Nicholas Dean	Genomic epidemiology of invasive and colonising <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> in young infants.	PMOCH-O-01
10:05 - 10:15	Ms. Isabel du Randt	CCR5 regulatory variants and novel loci associated with susceptibility to HIV-1 infection in Sub-Saharan African populations.	PMOCH-O-02
10:15 - 10:25	Dr. Therese Dix-Peek	in silico analysis of hnRNPA2B1, hnRNPA3 and KSRP in lung, breast, colorectal and prostate cancer.	PMOCH-O-03
10:25 - 10:35	Mr. Shiven Naidoo	Cross-tissue TGF-β signalling dysregulation in fibrosis.	PMOCH-O-04
10:35 - 10:45	Mr. Vusumuzi Mabasa	Multi-omics integration identifies C19ORF47 as a Hypomethylation-Activated driver of poor prognosis in endometrial cancer.	PMOCH-O-05
10:45 - 10:55	Ms. Oratile Sekwati	Antimicrobial Resistance Profiles and Genomic Determinants of <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> in a Johannesburg Tertiary Hospital.	PMOCH-O-06
10:55 - 11:10	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
11:10 - 12:10	POSTER PRESENTATIONS & EXHIBITION		
12:10 - 13:20	CONCURRENT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS		
1. Who Benefits: Equity, Access & the Future of Health Innovation Venue: Classroom 1 (MED519), Medical School 2. Making Health Systems Work: Delivery, Policy and System Impact Venue: Classroom 2 (Med 517), Medical School 3. From Lab to Lives: Turning Discovery into Better Care Venue: Classroom 3 (Med 516), Medical School			
13:40 - 14:40	LUNCH		
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SESSION 2 (14:45-16:05) – Chairs: Prof. Betty Maepa and Dr. Shooohana Singh			
14:50 - 15:00	Dr. Lindie Lamola	Exome sequencing reveals pathogenic germline variants in individuals with suspected hereditary cancer syndromes.	PMOCH-O-07
15:00 - 15:10	Mr. Malibongwe Masondo	Reduced TCRβ CDR3 repertoire diversity and increased clonal expansion in South African patients with systemic lupus erythematosus.	PMOCH-O-08
15:10 - 15:20	Dr. Thandiswa Ngcungcu	Impact of the OCA2 2.7kb deletion at the transcript level.	PMOCH-O-09
15:20 - 15:30	Mr. Thudzelani Malise	Development of an ex vivo drug sensitivity screening platform for South African multiple myeloma patients.	PMOCH-O-10

15:30 - 15:40	Ms. Thokozile Makhanya	Peroxidasin mediates A549 non-small cell carcinoma characteristics and response to chemotherapies.	PMOCH-O-11
15:40 - 15:50	Ms. Shannon Uren	Vitamin D3 Induces Isoform Switching in IFN- α Stimulated Macrophages.	PMOCH-O-12
15:50 - 16:05	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
16:05 - 16:20	TEA BREAK & EXHIBITION		
SESSION 3 (16:20-17:40) – Chairs: Dr. Kutlwano Xulu and Dr. Lindie Lamola			
16:25 - 16:35	Ms. Sinegugu Dubazana	Multi-omics analyses of the tumour microenvironment of South African pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma patients.	PMOCH-O-13
16:35 - 16:45	Ms. Thandeka Malinga	Pharmacogenetic variant assessment of benzodiazepine response in a paediatric status epilepticus cohort in Kano, Nigeria.	PMOCH-O-14
16:45 - 16:55	Mr. Nhlamulo Khoza	Genetic risk predictive modelling of cardiometabolic multimorbidities across Africa populations.	PMOCH-O-15
16:55 - 17:05	Ms. Mandisa Manyoni	The association of chromogranin A gene polymorphisms (rs9658638 and rs7159323) with chromogranin A concentrations in a South African population.	PMOCH-O-16
17:05 - 17:15	Ms. Mpho Mothupi	Oncometabolic phenotypes following low- and high-dose doxorubicin treatment in Triple-Negative breast cancer cell lines.	PMOCH-O-17
17:15 -17:25	Ms. Paige Payne	Variant analysis of MECP2 in South African patients with Rett Syndrome.	PMOCH-O-18
17:25 - 17:40	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		
PRIZE GIVING/RECEPTION			

TRACK 5 - POSTERS		
PRECISION MEDICINE, OMICS & COMPUTATIONAL HEALTH		
VENUE: WITS MEDICAL SCHOOL		
PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Ms. Milandie Viljoen	Evaluating the diagnostic utility of a copy number variant pipeline for tuberous sclerosis complex testing.	PMOCH-P-01
Mr. Yonatan Ariel Wolberg	A bioinformatics workflow to improve exome sequencing-based copy number variation analysis.	PMOCH-P-02
Ms. Sanelisiwe Duze	Genomic evidence of human–river transmission of multidrug-resistant Salmonella Typhi.	PMOCH-P-03
Ms. Chrizelle Kok	Automating variant filtering in African genomics: Towards scalable and reproducible workflows.	PMOCH-P-04
Ms. Nomashila Mahlangu	Global distribution and molecular epidemiology of salmonella serovar abaeetuba based on whole-genome sequencing data.	PMOCH-P-05
Ms. Diantha Thambiran	Molecular diagnosis of neurofibromatosis Type 1 using a targeted gene panel in South African patients.	PMOCH-P-06
Mr. John Bugbila	Investigation of enteroviruses in wastewater and surface water in Gauteng, South Africa for 2024.	PMOCH-P-07

PRESENTER	TITLE	ABSTRACT POSTER No.
Mrs. Alisha Badal	Novel Silver(I) Complex UJ3 Potentiates Olaparib and Upregulates the Tumor Suppressor IncRNA GAS5 in triple-negative breast cancer.	PMOCH-P-08
Mr. Wilson Madondo	Whole genome sequencing and characterization of Salmonella Irumu isolates collected in South Africa, 2020 to 2025.	PMOCH-P-09
Ms. Courtney Boake	Elucidating exosome-mediated T Cell exhaustion in colorectal cancer.	PMOCH-P-10
Mr. Blake Young	Investigating sonic hedgehog signalling in early-onset colorectal cancer among South African patients using patient-derived organoids.	PMOCH-P-11
Ms. Phumla Kulani	Mutational and Expression Profiles of CTNNB1, AXIN1, and AXIN2 in South African HCC.	PMOCH-P-12
Ms. Tyla Campbell	Molecular Characterisation of DMD Gene Variants in a Patient Cohort Clinically Suspected of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.	PMOCH-P-13
Ms. Bianca Wessels	Investigating the shared genetic architecture between anxiety disorders and corpus callosum subfields.	PMOCH-P-14
Ms. Kholeka Simelane	Factors associated with overall survival and progression-free survival in Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma patients treated with R-CHOP.	PMOCH-P-15
Mr. Liam McCourt	Modifying the C1 system for appropriate post-translational modifications to allow for high yield expression of CAP256.25.	PMOCH-P-16
Ms. Kealeboga Fako	Mapping metabolic alterations in autoimmune hepatitis using spatial metabolomics in an African population: A pilot study.	PMOCH-P-17
Ms. Rebecca Comrie	Identifying and classifying variants in South African patients with Kabuki-Like phenotypes.	PMOCH-P-18
Ms. Gemma Davies	Genetic determinants of susceptibility to infection with Hepatitis B virus in a Johannesburg population.	PMOCH-P-19
Ms. Aaliyah Khan	Variant analysis and interpretation in 7 distal arthrogryposis patients using targeted next-generation sequencing.	PMOCH-P-20
Ms. Anza Thiba	From microbial silos to cardiovascular synergy: Antibiotic-associated gut microbiome restructuring and systolic blood pressure patterns in hypertensive and normotensive rats.	PMOCH-P-21
Ms. Tshiamo Seema	Integrative bioinformatics analysis of candidate pathogenic variants in tuberous sclerosis complex.	PMOCH-P-22
Ms. Belva Nguenkeng	Identification and interpretation of genetic variants in suspected Alagille syndrome patients.	PMOCH-P-23
Ms. Batsheva Goldfein	A proteomic profile of type II diabetes in a South African population.	PMOCH-P-24
Ms. Zamokuhle Myeza	HLA-DR genotype expression in South African systemic lupus erythematosus patients.	PMOCH-P-25
Dr. Umar Adamu	Targeted metabolomic signatures across Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction defined Heart Failure phenotypes in a Sub-Saharan African Cohort.	PMOCH-P-26

The “Precision Medicine, Omics & Computational Health” track is proudly sponsored by Inqaba Biotech - <https://inqababiotec.co.za/>



Faculty of Health Sciences Research Day Announcement

Support Two Student-Led Initiatives at Research Day

As part of the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Day, we invite delegates to support two meaningful student-focused initiatives led by the Faculty Transformation Committee.

Career Closet Initiative



The Career Closet provides students with access to professional clothing for interviews, presentations, work-integrated learning placements, and other important career opportunities. Delegates are encouraged to donate clean, suitable-quality, pre-loved professional clothing and accessories that can help students present themselves confidently as they enter the world of work.

Sanitary Pad Collection Drive



Help us promote dignity and educational success by donating sanitary products for students in need. Access to menstrual hygiene products remains a challenge for many students, and your contribution can make a meaningful difference.

How You Can Help

When attending Research Day, please consider bringing one of the following:

- New sanitary products (pads, tampons, menstrual hygiene products)
- Pre-loved professional clothing (formal shirts, blouses, trousers, skirts, jackets, dresses)
- Professional accessories (ties, scarves, belts, handbags, shoes in good condition)

Donation collection points will be available at the Research Day registration area. Every contribution, no matter how small, helps support student success and well-being.

Thank you for helping us make a meaningful impact in the lives of our students.

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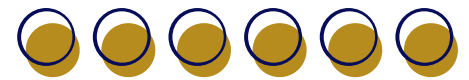
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2026 Faculty of Health Sciences

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