

SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Building a healthier nation through science, innovation and transformation

Science Forum SOUTH AFRICA

10 YEARS OF IGNITING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SCIENCE 2025

DATE: Wednesday, 26 November 2025
TIME: 09h35 – 11h05
VENUE: CSIR ICC (Emerald Room)

ABOUT THE SESSION:

The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) plays a vital role in placing science at the centre of society by generating evidence that saves lives and drives better health outcomes. This session will showcase how SAMRC's world-class expertise, infrastructure, and national footprint are shaping solutions to South Africa's most pressing health challenges. From tackling obesity, diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease to addressing gender-based violence, climate risks, and poverty, SAMRC research highlights how social determinants influence health across the life course. Through initiatives such as SAPRIN, the One Health approach, and evidence translation for the National Health Insurance (NHI), the SAMRC strengthens population health intelligence and informs equitable policy. Participants will gain insights into how science, innovation, and community-embedded approaches can reduce health inequities, improve resilience, and place evidence at the heart of universal health coverage and South Africa's development agenda.

Time	Session	Participants
9:35 – 9:40	Opening	**Dr Ebrahim Samodien** Facilitator
9:40 – 9:55	Building a healthier nation for all through science and medical Research	**Prof Ntobeko Ntusi** SAMRC President & CEO
9:55 – 10:02	Gender-based violence (GBV) and disability	**Prof Nwabisa Shai** Gender and Health Research Unit (GHRU)
10:02 – 10:09	Climate & Health	**Prof Caradee Wright** Environment and Health Research Unit (EHRU)
10:09 – 10:16	SAMRC/UJ Centre for Epidemics Research (PACER) – The Next Generation	**Prof Edmore Marinda** SAMRC/University of Johannesburg Pan African Centre for Epidemics Research Unit (PACER)
10:16 – 10:24	Community Engagement for Trust, Relevance, and Shared Ownership in Health Research and Innovation; Insights from SAPRIN, a National Research Infrastructure	**Mr Tinofa Mutevedzi** The South African Population Research Infrastructure Network (SAPRIN)
10:24 – 10:45	Panel Discussion	All
10:45 – 10:55	Q & A	All
10:55 – 11:02	Final Reflections	All
11:02 – 11:05	Summary and session closing	