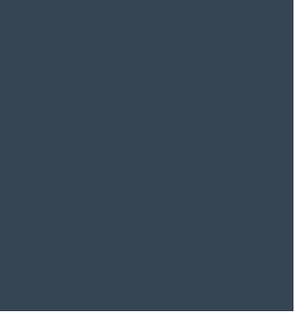




GLOPID-R AFRICA HUB LAUNCH HYBRID EVENT

SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL CONFERENCE CENTRE

Cape Town, South Africa and Online
22-23 August 2023



INTRODUCTION

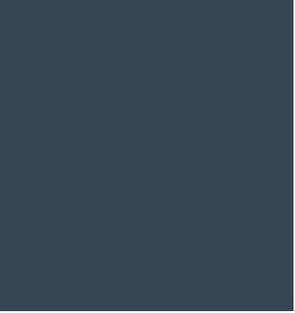
There is an urgent need to facilitate leadership and coordination of pandemic preparedness and response in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Lessons learnt from such efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and outbreaks of other infectious diseases of epidemic and pandemic potential, such as Ebola virus disease, tuberculosis and human immunodeficiency virus, need to be consolidated and developed further, especially on the African continent. This is necessary to support the rapid and seamless deployment and utilisation of available resources for contextually relevant research endeavours should another novel pathogen emerge or a previous one re-emerge.

The Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R) is a global alliance of research funding organisations facilitating coordinated research on emerging infectious diseases with epidemic and pandemic potential. One of GloPID-R's core objectives is to identify gaps and align funding with research needs, especially in LMICs. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, GloPID-R, in conjunction with the research funding group UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR), facilitated cohesive COVID-19 research and supported the development of locally identified research priorities in LMICs.

To further support this core objective, the Africa Hub secretariat will expand GloPID-R's strategic focus on research preparedness and response on the African continent. In addition, the secretariat will map the infectious disease research funding landscape and survey funders to increase regional engagement and membership. An Africa Hub launch meeting will be held to bring together regional partners, attract new members, and develop a shared agenda for identifying, supporting and undertaking contextually relevant research.

THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME AND ORGANISATION

The GloPID-R Africa Hub secretariat and the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), through its Cochrane South Africa (CSA) intramural unit, are hosting a two-day conference to launch the new hub on 22 – 23 August 2023, in Cape Town, South Africa. The launch is bringing together about 100 key stakeholders, including longstanding and new GloPID-R members, current and prospective funders, and partner organisations from Africa and beyond. The programme includes keynote presentations and group and guided discussions to identify priority research areas on the continent, strengthen existing research collaborative ties, and form new ones.

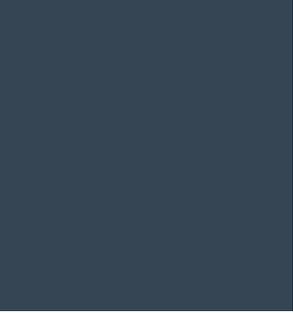


THE CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the conference is to establish the GloPID-R Africa Hub and its secretariat, and unite local stakeholders to evaluate how Africa has reacted to COVID-19, assess preparedness for pandemic research, encourage cooperation among donors, determine crucial research subjects, and investigate methods to enhance early warning and surveillance systems and discuss approaches to lowering identified barriers to effective research on the continent (from research to policy to practice).

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Develop a clear understanding of GloPID-R's central purpose to ensure alignment with planned regional hub activities.
- Increase GloPID-R membership and engagement on the continent.
- Strengthen collaborative ties amongst researchers and funders on the continent.
- Establish a basic organisational structure and a jointly proposed memorandum of understanding ahead of terms of reference to be developed at a later stage. This refers to the Africa Hub, and not to the event.
- Glean delegates' perceptions on what has worked well and lessons learnt in the management of previous epidemics and the COVID-19 pandemic, and obtain their feedback on the main barriers, research gaps, and future opportunities.



PROGRAMME

DAY 1: 22 August 2023 SAMRC Conference Centre

TIME	ITEM	
09:00 – 9:15	SITE REGISTRATION & TEA/COFFEE	DIAL-IN AND SOUND CHECK
09:15 – 9:30	<i>Dr Duduzile Ndwandwe (SAMRC)</i>	HOUSE RULES
	PLENARY SESSION 1 <i>Moderator: Prof Koleka Mlisana (NHLS)</i>	
09:30 – 10:00	WELCOMING AND OPENING	Prof Glenda Gray President and CEO, SAMRC
10:00 – 10:30	Overview of GloPID-R	Dr Barbara Kerstiens Co-Chair, GloPID-R
10:30 – 11:00	Epidemics and pandemics: Snapshots of the past, present and future for Africa	Dr Elvis Temfack Senior Research Officer, Africa CDC
11:00 – 11:30	3 rd Africa Health Research and Innovation Funders Forum	Prof Richard Gordon Director: International Business Development, SAMRC
11:30 – 12:15	DISCUSSION	PLENARY SESSION 1 Q&A
12:15 – 13:00	LUNCH	
	GloPID-R Working Groups <i>Moderator: Dr Emilia Antonio (GloPID-R)</i>	
13:00 – 13:20	Clinical trial networks	Dr Alice Norton Head: Research and Policy Team, GloPID-R
13:20 – 13:40	Data sharing	Dr Alice Norton Head: Research and Policy Team, GloPID-R
13:40 – 14:00	Coordinated funding	Dr Hans Hagen Director: Scientific and Advocacy, GloPID-R
14:00 – 14:20	Research in low- and middle-income countries	Prof Charles Wiysonge Regional Adviser, WHO
14:20 – 15:20	DISCUSSION	GloPID-R Working Groups Q&A
15:20 – 15:30	WRAP-UP AND CLOSING OF THE DAY	Dr Duduzile Ndwandwe SAMRC & GloPID-R Africa Hub Secretariat



PROGRAMME

DAY 1: 22 August 2023 SAMRC Conference Centre

15:30 – 16:30	GLOPID-R CLOSED MEETING	GloPID-R Central Secretariat and Africa Hub Secretariat
18:00 – 22:00	DINNER AND NETWORKING SESSION	Gold Restaurant: https://goldrestaurant.co.za/

DAY 2: 23 August 2023 SAMRC Conference Centre

TIME	ITEM	
08:45 – 09:30	DIAL-IN AND SOUND CHECK	
	PLENARY SESSION 2 <i>Moderator: Prof Andre Kengne (SAMRC)</i>	
09:30 – 10:00	Covid-19 research for policy: Lessons learnt	Prof Salim S. Abdool Karim Director: CAPRISA/ Chair:UNAIDS Scientific Expert Panel
10:00 – 10:20	Overview of SAMRC as a research funding organisation	Dr Michelle Mulder Executive Director: Grants, Innovation and Product Development Unit, SAMRC
10:20 – 10:40	GloPID-R: The need for the Africa Hub	Prof Charles Wiysonge Regional Adviser, WHO
10:40 – 11:00	Overview of funders in Africa	Dr Emilia Antonio Research and Policy Officer, GloPID-R
11:00 – 11:40	DISCUSSION	PLENARY SESSION 2 Q&A
11:40 – 11:50	GROUP PHOTO	
11:50 – 12:05	COFFEE BREAK	

PROGRAMME

DAY 2: 23 August 2023 SAMRC Conference Centre

12:05 – 13:05	BREAKAWAY SESSIONS <i>Moderated Q&A based on questions provided to the group to cover the objectives of the Africa Hub</i>	<i>Moderators</i>
	Group 1: Africa's response to national and regional epidemics with a particular focus on the COVID-19 pandemic	Prof Bongani Nkambule (Academic Leader-Research, UKZN)
	Group 2: The state of pandemic preparedness on the continent	Prof Moses Bockarie (Former Director, EDCTP)
	Group 3: Identifying priority research areas on the continent and ways of addressing them	Dr Abdourahmane Sow (Director: Public Health, Institut Pasteur de Dakar)
	Group 4: Strengthening early warning and surveillance systems	Dr Susan Nzenze (Public Health and Research Consultant, NICD)
	Group 5: Identified barriers from research to policy to practice on the continent	Prof Sara Cooper (Senior Scientist, Cochrane South Africa)
13:05 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
14:00 – 14:50	FEEDBACK FROM BREAK AWAY SESSION <i>10 Minutes of feedback per group with discussion</i>	Group 1 -5
14:50 – 15:30	GENERAL DISCUSSIONS	

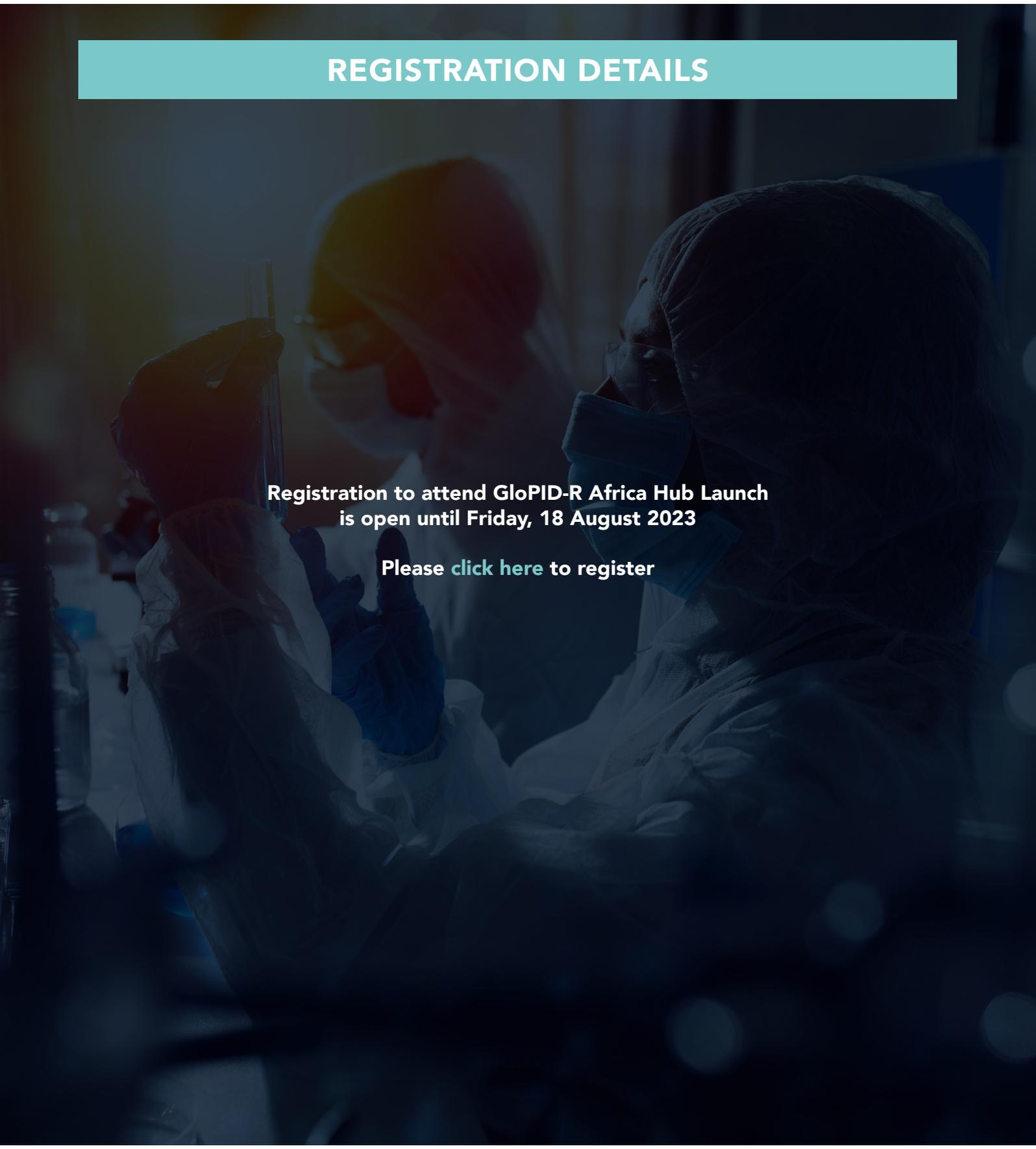
PROGRAMME

DAY 2: 23 August 2023 SAMRC Conference Centre

15:30 – 16:00	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION Moderator: Prof Mark Engel (SAMRC) What will the GloPID-R Africa Hub look like? Suggested speakers to represent the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WHO Afro - Africa CDC - EDCTP - Science granting councils - GloPID-R - Research & Development /innovations 	<p>Dr Abdou Salam Gueye Regional Emergency Director, WHO</p> <p>Dr Elvis Temfack Senior Research Officer, Africa CDC</p> <p>Dr Thomas Nyirenda Head/Director, EDCTP Africa Office</p> <p>Dr Puleng Tshitlho Project Manager, NRF</p> <p>Dr Hans Hagen Director: Scientific and Advocacy, GloPID-R</p> <p>Prof Collet Dandara Professor of Genetics, UCT</p>
16:00 – 16:15	View from Asia Pacific	<p>Prof Choong-Min Ryu Head: Infectious Disease Research Center, KRIBB</p>
16:15 – 16:30	GLOPID-R AFRICA HUB SECRETARIAT REPORT	<p>Dr Duduzile Ndwandwe Lead Secretariat, SAMRC and GloPID-R Africa Hub</p>
16:30 – 16:45	CONFERENCE CLOSING REMARKS	<p>Dr Mongezi Mdhuli Chief Research Operation Officer, SAMRC and Co-Chair, GloPID-R</p>
18:00 – 22:00	NETWORKING DINNER	<p>Bloemendal 360: https://bloemendalestate.co.za/home/360bloemendal/</p>



REGISTRATION DETAILS



**Registration to attend GloPID-R Africa Hub Launch
is open until Friday, 18 August 2023**

Please [click here](#) to register