

# SAMRC PRESIDENT AND CEO LECTURE

## LECTURE BY PROFESSOR RAVI GUPTA

The COVID-19 immunity landscape across diverse populations

### SPEAKER

**Professor Ravi Gupta**  
Professor of Clinical Microbiology at Cambridge University



The President and CEO of the South African Medical Research Council, Professor Ntobeko Ntusi, invites you to the SAMRC President Lecture, which Professor Ravi Gupta, a Professor of Clinical Microbiology at Cambridge University, will deliver.

He will deliver a talk titled: The COVID-19 immunity landscape across diverse populations.

#### The details of the event are as follows:



**SAMRC Conference Centre, Francie Van Zijl, Parow Valley, Cape Town or online**



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**Tuesday, 25 February 2025**

*Professor Gupta has worked on HIV drug resistance both at molecular and population levels, and his work led to changes in WHO treatment guidelines for HIV. He led the study demonstrating HIV eradication in the 'London Patient' – the world's second recorded cure in history.*

*He more recently reported how whole virus genome sequencing can inform clustering analysis and identify risk groups for interventions and also has an interest in CNS reservoirs of HIV. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Professor Gupta deployed his expertise in RNA virus genetics and biology to report that SARS-CoV-2 variants likely arise in immune-compromised individuals who are also at greatest risk of severe disease. Professor Gupta reported the first real-world data on vaccine escape responses towards new variants of concern, defined the replication advantage of the Delta variant, and the tropism shift of Omicron.*

*In addition, his group has defined mechanisms behind poorer vaccine responses in vulnerable populations as well as imprinted immunity. Professor Gupta has advised the UK government on COVID-19 through SAGE and NERVTAG. **In 2020 appeared in the list of 100 most influential people by TIME;** in 2022, 2023 and 2024 Professor Gupta was featured in the Clarivate list of the world's most highly cited scientists. He became a fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences in 2021. In 2023 he received the Translational Microbiology prize from the UK Microbiology Society and in 2024 he was a finalist in the MRC Impact Prize for open science. He was invited to deliver the prestigious JD Bernal Prize Lecture in 2024.*