

15th Biomedical Research & Innovation Platform Conference 2025

Programme

15-16th October 2025

Venue: Auditorium SAMRC Conference Centre

Wednesday 15th October 2025

8:00 – 8:30	Registration	
8:30 – 9:00	Welcome and Opening Address by SAMRC President and CEO, Prof Ntobeko Ntusi	
SESSION 1		
Session Chairs: Prof Rabia Johnson & Dr Nonhlakanipho Sangweni		
9:00 – 9:30	Confirmed keynote speaker: Dr Farouk Mandoo, Alberton Hospital, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng “Intersection of oncology and cardiology”	
9:30 – 9:42	MSc student presentation	
9:42 – 9:54	MSc student presentation	
9:54 – 10:06	PhD student presentation	
10:06 – 10:18	Postdoctoral fellow presentation	
10:18 – 10:50	Tea/coffee	
SESSION 2		
Session Chairs: Dr Hygon Mutavhatsindi & Dr Sello Mikazi		
10:50 – 11:20	Confirmed keynote speaker: Prof Gerard Walzl, Division of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics, University of Stellenbosch. “TB immunology and the interaction with non-communicable diseases”	
11:20 – 11:32	MSc student presentation	
11:32 – 11:44	MSc student presentation	
11:44 – 11:56	PhD student presentation	
11:56 – 12:08	PhD student presentation	
12:08 – 12:20	Postdoctoral fellow presentation	
12:20 – 12:40	Pre-lunch walk around campus	
12:40 – 13:40	Lunch	
SESSION 3		
Session Chairs: Dr Kwazi Gabuza & Dr Brian Munansangu		
13:40 – 13:52	MSc student presentation	
13:52 – 14:04	MSc student presentation	
14:04 – 14:16	PhD student presentation	
14:16 – 14:28	PhD student presentation	



14:28 – 14:40	Postdoctoral fellow presentation	
14:40 – 16:10	Interactive Poster Session 1	

Thursday 17th October 2024

SESSION 4		
Session Chairs: Dr Afolake Arowolo & Dr Asanda Mtintsilana		
8:45 – 09:15	Confirmed keynote speaker: Prof Francois van der Westhuizen, North West University, “Investigating Mitochondrial Disease in South Africa over three decades: outcomes moving from a reductionist to a multi-omics and multi-centre approach”.	
09:15 – 09:27	MSc student presentation	
9:27 – 9:39	MSc student presentation	
9:39 – 9:51	PhD student presentation	
9:51 – 10:03	PhD student presentation	
10:03 – 10:15	Postdoctoral fellow presentation	
10:15 – 10:27	Postdoctoral fellow presentation	
10:30 – 11:00	Tea/coffee	
SESSION 5		
Session Chairs: Prof Julia Goedecke & Dr Babalwa Jack		
11:00 – 11:30	Confirmed Keynote speaker: Professor Tommy Olsson, Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, Umea University, Sweden, “Lessons from intervention studies with diet and exercise in obesity and type 2 diabetes”	
11:30 – 11:42	MSc student presentation	
11:42 – 11:54	MSc student presentation	
11:54 – 12:06	PhD student presentation	
12:06 – 12:18	PhD student presentation	
12:18 – 12:30	Postdoctoral fellow presentation	
12:30 – 13:25	Lunch	
13:25 – 14:55	Interactive Poster Session 2	
SESSION 6		
Session Chairs: Dr Zainonesa Abrahams & Dr Nnini Obonye		
14:55 – 15:20	Confirmed keynote speaker: Prof Cassandra Quave, Department of Dermatology and Human Health, Emory University, USA, “Documentation and pharmacological evaluation of plants used in traditional medicine – rich experiences from an ethnobotanist”	
15:20 – 15:45	Confirmed keynote speaker: Dr Pelly Malebe, Product manager, Roche, “Innovating for Impact: Shaping the Future of Healthcare through Diagnostics”.	
15:45 – 16:30	Closing address and Prize Giving Prof Johan Louw, Director Platforms, SAMRC	