

SAMRC RCD REGIONAL GRANT HOLDERS CONFERENCE



Preliminary Programme

20-21 October 2025 / Venue: Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University

Day 1

08:30 – 09:00	Registration	
Session 1		
09:00 – 09:10	Housekeeping	Dr Nwabisa Shai and Prof Larry Obi (TBC)
09:10 – 09:30	Welcome Address	Dr Abeda Dawood, RCD Division Manager
09:30 – 10:00	SAMRC President and CEO Address	Prof Ntobeko Ntusi
10:00 – 10:30	Group Executive Business Advancement of the NRF Address	Dr Thandi Mgwebi (TBC)
10:30 – 10:50	SAMRC Executive Director Address	Dr Michelle Mulder
10:50 – 11:10	Tea/Coffee Break	
Session 2		
11:10 – 11:25	MCSP PI Talk	Refilwe Phaswana-Mafuya /UJ (TBC)
11:25 – 11:40	RCDI PI Talk	Afsatou Traore/UNIVEN (TBC)
11:40 – 11:55	RCDI PI Talk	Vusi Mbazima /UL (TBC)
11:55 – 12:10	RCDI PI Talk	Thivhulawi Malwela/UNIVEN (TBC)
12:10 – 12:30	MCSP PI Talk	David Katerere /TUT (TBC)
12:30 – 13:00	Lunch	

Session 3		
13:00 – 13:30	Keynote Address: Navigating the HDI Pros and Cons for Successful Research Capacity Development	Prof Pascal Bessong (TBC)
Parallel Session 3A – Student Talks		
13:30 – 13:45	Student Talk	Maphepele Sara Mashilo (RCDI-Nested Scholarship)/UNIVEN (TBC)
13:45 – 14:10	Student Talk	Ntshunxeko Banda (RCDI-Nested Scholarship)/UNIVEN (TBC)
14:10 – 14:25	Student Talk	Mante Dolly Kgakishe (RCDI-Nested Scholarshipd)/UL (TBC)
14:25 – 14:40	Student Talk	Thizwilondi Madzaga (RCDI-Nested Scholarship)/UNIVEN (TBC)
14:40 – 14:55	Student Talk	Mmamudi Anna Makhafola (RCDI-Nested Scholarship)/SMU (TBC)
14:55 – 15:10	Student Talk	Rendani Musoliwa (RCDI-Nested Scholarship)/UNIVEN (TBC)
Parallel Session 3B – RCDI PI, HDI Staff Development and Student Talks		
13:30 – 13:45	RCDI PI Talk	Livhuwani Tshivhase /UNISA (TBC)
13:45 – 14:10	HDI Staff Development Talk	Atholl Kleinhans (Research Capacity Development Initiative- UK Staff Development) (TBC)
14:10 – 14:25	HDI Staff Development Talk	Tshegofatso Mogase (Research Capacity Development Initiative- UK Staff Development) (TBC)
14:25 – 14:40	HDI Staff Development Talk	Veena Abraham (Research Capacity Development Initiative- UK Staff Development) (TBC)
14:40 – 14:55	HDI Staff Development Talk	Mahlako Makhubela (Research Capacity Development Initiative- UK Staff Development) (TBC)
14:55 – 15:10	Student Talk	Tshwarelo Mohale (RCDI-Nested Scholarship)/UL (TBC)
15:10 – 15:30	Tea/Coffee Break	
Parallel Session 4A – EIP & Postdoc Talks		
15:30 – 15:45	EIP Talk	Michael Zulu /WITS (TBC)
15:45 – 16:00	EIP Talk	Anine Crous /UJ (TBC)
16:00 – 16:15	Postdoc Talk	Justine Fri /UNIVEN (TBC)
16:15 – 16:30	Postdoc Talk	Michel Strauss /NW (TBC)
16:30 – 16:45	Postdoc Talk	Tiffany Smith /WITS (TBC)
Parallel Session 4B – Student & Postdoc Talk		
15:30 – 15:45	Student Talk	(TBC)

15:45 – 16:00	Postdoc Talk	Chenai Mlandu /WITS (TBC)
16:00 – 16:15	Postdoc Talk	Idris Njanje /UNIVEN (TBC)
16:15 – 16:30	Postdoc Talk	Efficient Ncube /WITS (TBC)
16:30 – 16:45	Postdoc Talk	Tebogo Marutha/UP (TBC)
16:45	Day 1 Closing Remarks	
17:00	Cocktail Reception	Cafeteria

Day 2

Session 1		
09:00 – 09:10	Housekeeping	Dr Nwabisa Shai and Prof Larry Obi (TBC)
09:10 – 09:40	Career/Academic Development Talk 1	Dr Judy Dlamini (TBC)
09:40 – 09:55	Career/Academic Development Talk 2	Prof Alvaro Viljoen (TBC)
09:55 – 10:25	Overview of NRF Rating and Funding Opportunities	Dr James Meiring (TBC)
10:25 – 10:45	Tea/Coffee Break	
Session 2 – SAMRC RCD Funding Programmes Overview and PI Talks		
10:45 – 11:15	RCD Funding Programmes Talk SAMRC Extramural Programme	Dr Abeda Dawood Dr Eunice Zwane (TBC)
11:15 – 11:30	MCSP PI Talk	Mandisa Singata-Madliki /WITS (TBC)
11:30 – 11:45	RCDI PI Talk	Hyla Louise Kluyts/SMU (TBC)
11:45 – 12:00	RCDI PI Talk	Nqobile Mkolo /SMU (TBC)
12:00 – 12:15	RCDI PI Talk	Xavier Noundou /SMU (TBC)
12:15 – 12:45	Lunch (Poster Presentations)	
Session 2 Continued – EIP Talks		
12:45 – 13:00	EIP Talk	Blassan George/UJ (TBC)
13:00 – 13:15	EIP Talk	Kgomotso Poopedi/UL (TBC)
13:15 – 13:30	EIP Talk	Janan Dietrich /WITS (TBC)
13:30 – 13:45	EIP Talk	Lusilda Schutte /WITS (TBC)
13:45 – 14:00	EIP Talk	Kristie Bloom /WITS (TBC)

Session 3 – Closing Session		
14:00 – 14:15	SAMRC Legal Presentation	Mr Philip du Plessis (TBC)
14:15 – 14:30	SAMRC Finance Presentation	Mr Goodtime Moja (TBC)
14:30 – 14:40	Student Awards	Executive Director / RCD Division Manager/ RCD Grants Programme Manager
14:40 – 15:00	Closing Remarks	RCD Grants Programme Manager/ Chair/ Co-chairs

Programme Notes:

- MCSP: Mid-Career Scientist Programme
- EIP: Early Investigators Programme
- POSTDOC: Postdoctoral Fellowship Programmes
- RCDI: Research Capacity Development Initiative