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15TH BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH & INNOVATION PLATFORM CONFERENCE 2025

15 & 16 October 2025

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Time: 15 October 8:00 – 16:30
16 October 8:15 – 16:30

Venue: Auditorium SAMRC
Conference Centre

[Teams link](#)

For enquiries email: BRIP.symposium@mrc.ac.za

Day 1
Wednesday, 15 October 2025

8:00 – 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 8:40	Welcome and housekeeping – Prof Julia Goedecke, BRIP
8:40 – 9:00	Opening Address by SAMRC President and CEO, Prof Ntobeko Ntusi

Session 1 – Cancer and Cardiovascular disease

Session Chairs:

Prof Rabia Johnson & Dr Nonhlakanipho Sangweni

Teams link

9:00 – 9:30

Keynote speaker:

Dr Farouk Mamdoo, Alberton Hospital, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng *"Intersection of oncology and cardiology"*



9:30 – 9:40

Investigating the interplay between hepatic mitochondrial bioenergetics and O-linked glycosylation in response to chemotherapy

9:40 – 9:50

HIV protease inhibitor: a potential treatment option for cervical cancer

9:50 – 10:00

Relationship between Doppler velocimetry and foetal growth in preeclamptic pregnancies in Mthatha, South Africa: A cross-sectional cohort study

10:00 – 10:10

Association of leptin and adiponectin with myocardial infarction: a nested case-referent study in northern Sweden

10:10 – 10:20

Airborne microplastics: emerging environmental risk factors in cardiovascular disease

10:20 – 10:50

Tea/coffee

Jana Strydom
(MSc, Stellenbosch University)

Lilian Makgoo
(PhD, University of Limpopo)

Chuma Mabuto
(MSc, Walter Sisulu University)

Nike Hansen
(PhD, Umeå University)

Jerome Otit
(PhD, University of Fort Hare)

Session 2 – Infectious Diseases

Session Chairs:

Dr Hygon Mutavhatsindi & Dr Sello Mikasi

Teams link

10:50 – 11:20

Keynote speaker:

Prof Gerard Walzl, South African Medical Research Council Centre for Tuberculosis Research, Biomedical Research Institute, Division of Immunology, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University.
"TB immunology and the interaction with non-communicable diseases"



11:20 – 11:30

Metal-coated superparamagnetic iron oxide nanoparticles enhance repurposed therapeutics against mycobacterium tuberculosis

11:30 – 11:40

Insights into hepatitis E virus in South Africa: linking zoonotic reservoirs and human infection

11:40 – 11:50

Targeting drug-tolerant tuberculosis through synergistic repurposing of approved drugs

11:50 – 12:00

Impact of *Gag* and *Nef* gene mutations on integrase drug resistance among patients failing second-line ART

12:00 – 12:10

Application of omics approaches in the discovery of diagnostic biomarkers for tuberculous meningitis

12:10 – 12:20

Skeletal muscle and adipose tissue variations in microRNA expression by HIV status and antiretroviral therapy

Motunrayo Badejo
(PhD, Stellenbosch University)

Mokgadi Salome Keetse
(MSc, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University)

Hleziphi Mpundu
(Postdoc, Stellenbosch University)

Frans Ntsaka Makhura
(MSc, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University)

Tiphany Nkomo
(PhD, Stellenbosch University)

Victoria Patten
(Postdoc, South African Medical Research Council)

12:20 – 12:40

Pre-lunch walk around campus

12:40 – 13:30

Lunch

E-POSTER SESSION 1 (Auditorium and Exhibition Hall)

13:30 – 15:00

E-Poster Presentation Session 1a: Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease (Auditorium)

Teams link

E-Poster Presentation Session 1b: Infectious Diseases and Other (Exhibition Hall)

Teams link

[Please refer to the e-poster programme]

Session 3 – Cancer & African Traditional Medicine

Session Chairs:

Dr Kwazi Gabuza & Dr Brian Munansangu

Teams link

15:00 – 15:10

Combined treatment of docetaxel and kaempferol synergistically induces apoptosis in MDA-MB-231 cells through ROS-mediated mitochondrial depolarization, DNA damage, and G2/M phase arrest.

Tshwarelo Mohale
(PhD, University of Limpopo)

15:10 – 15:20

HIV-1 Tat expression correlates with increased stiffness and actin cytoskeletal remodelling in Burkitt lymphoma cells

Arthur Ndeh Foute
(MSc, University of Cape Town)

15:20 – 15:30

Investigating the role of sorafenib on autophagic flux in a hepatocellular carcinoma cell model

Relebogile Thubisi
(MSc, University of Free State)

15:30 – 15:40

Harnessing medicinal plant extracts for synergistic antibacterial and biofilm-inhibitory action in dental infection management

Mulanga Lusicious Mulaudzi
(PhD, University of Limpopo)

15:40 – 15:50

Investigation of the anticancer potential of *Euryops floribundus* crude acetone and methanol leaf extracts against cervical cancer cells

Kagiso Salamina Makwaana
(MSc, University of Limpopo)

15:50 – 16:00

In vitro evaluation of phytochemicals, antioxidants, and antimycobacterial activities of selected medicinal plants

Maphuti Matlala
(PhD, University of Limpopo)

16:00 – 16:10

Evaluation of herb–drug Interactions: influence of Lerumo™ and Air Immune™, herbal immune boosters, on the metabolism and absorption of ethinylestradiol (EE), the active ingredient of oral based contraceptives.

Pretty Zungu
(PhD, University of Zululand)

16:10 – 16:20

THC-induced cognitive impairment in mice is associated with Δ FosB and let-7d expression

Musa Aminu
(PhD, Nelson Mandela University)

16:20 – 16:30

The effects of cannabidiol oil on the hippocampal neuroanatomy in diabetic Wistar rats

Keabetswe Mahlatji
(MSc, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University)

Day 2

Thursday, 16 October 2025

8:15 – 8:45

Registration

Session 4 – Genomics/Omics

Session Chairs:

Dr Lawrence Mabasa & Dr Tarryn Willmer

[Teams link](#)

8:45 – 09:15

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"*



9:15 – 9:25

Gene expression profiling of breast tumours in black South African women: pilot findings from whole genome transcriptome sequencing

Ayesha Shaik
(PhD, Stellenbosch University)

9:25 – 9:35

Drug resistance burden and whole genome characterization of *Acinetobacter baumannii* from a tertiary laboratory

Refilwe Motswiane
(MSc, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University)

9:35 – 9:45

Sex-specific proteomic scores enhance dysglycaemia prediction in an African population: a machine learning approach

Bontle Masango
(PhD, University of the Witwatersrand)

9:45 – 9:55

Evaluation of a novel 115-Plex Luminex panel as a tool for the discovery of biomarkers in serum, saliva and urine in presumptive TB patients

Candice Snyders
(PhD, Stellenbosch University)

9:55 – 10:05

Genomic investigation of carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* from a neonatal ICU outbreak in Gauteng

Ankonisaho Mahalihali
(MSc, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University)

10:05 – 10:15

Circulating maternal microRNAs, HIV and preterm birth in South African women

Yoonus Abrahams
(Postdoc, South African Medical Research Council)

10:15 – 10:45

Tea/coffee

Session 5 – Obesity and Diabetes

Session Chairs:

Prof Julia Goedecke & Dr Babalwa Jack

[Teams link](#)

10:45 – 11:15

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"*



Session 5 – Obesity and Diabetes

Session Chairs:

Prof Julia Goedecke & Dr Babalwa Jack

Teams link

11:15 – 11:25

The effect of obesogenic diets on intestinal barrier and immune markers in Wistar rats

11:25 – 11:35

The impact of non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors and nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors-based HIV-cART regimens on the markers of glucose homeostasis in male diet-induced prediabetic Sprague Dawley rats

11:35 – 11:45

Sex and HIV specific contributions of insulin dynamics to the development of dysglycaemia: A longitudinal analysis of the Middle-Aged Soweto Cohort

11:45 – 11:55

Investigating the role of DNA methylation and single-nucleotide polymorphisms in gestational diabetes mellitus

11:55 – 12:05

Decoding the diabetic brain: glucolipotoxicity-induced inflammation in microglial

12:05 – 12:15

The effects of the antipsychotic drug Olanzapine on male and female rat reproductive systems against a background of a high-sugar diet: A comparative study

12:15 – 13:15

Lunch

Abegail Tshivhase
(Postdoc, South African Medical Research Council)

Amogelang Sedibe
(MSc, University of Pretoria)

Lebo Moshupya
(PhD, University of the Witwatersrand)

Matladi Masete
(PhD, University of Pretoria)

Toluwalope Ajonijebu
(Postdoc, North West University)

Sune Bester
(MSc, Stellenbosch University)

E-POSTER SESSION 2 (Auditorium and Exhibition Hall)

13:15 – 14:45

E-Poster Presentation Session 2a: African Traditional Medicine and Cancer. (Auditorium)

Teams link

E-Poster Presentation Session 2b: Obesity, Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease (Exhibition Hall)

Teams link

[Please refer to the e-poster programme]

Session 6

Session Chairs:

Prof. Afolake Arowolo & Dr Asanda Mtintsilana

Teams link

14:45 – 15:10

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"*



15:10 – 15:45

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 Rabia Johnson,
BRIP Director, SAMRC

E-POSTER PRESENTERS

Day 1

Wednesday, 15 October 2025
13:30 – 15:00

Poster Presentation Session 1a:
Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease

Venue: Auditorium
Session chair:
Dr Afolake Arowolo
Teams link

Poster No.	Theme	Name	Abstract Title	Level of Study	Organisation
1	Cancer	Mante Kgakishe	<i>Momordica balsamina</i> : a novel adjuvant for mitigating cisplatin-induced nephrotoxicity	PhD	University of Limpopo
2	Cancer	Handre Muller	Time-dependent dysregulation of hepatic Nrf2 pathways in Doxorubicin-induced liver injury.	MSc	Stellenbosch University
3	Cancer	Annick van Niekerk	A SNAP-tag scFv antibody-drug conjugate for immunotherapy for cervical cancer	Postdoc	University of Cape Town
4	Cancer	Babushi Madaba	Green synthesis of metal oxide nanoparticles using endophytes isolated from <i>Kirkia acuminata</i> for anticancer and antimicrobial applications	MSc	University of Limpopo
5	Cancer	Chante Adams	New curcumin derivatives as potential anticancer agents	MSc	University of the Western Cape
6	Cancer	Folasade Banji-Onisile	Antimicrobial and anticancer effects of ethyl acetate extract of Pleosporales species isolated from <i>Terminalia phanerophlebia</i> root	PhD	University of KwaZulu-Natal
7	Cancer	Jenna Muhlberg	Repurposing the antifungal piroctone olamine for colorectal cancer therapy through targeting <i>TBX3</i>	MSc	University of Cape Town
8	Cancer	Mashego Nathan Maleka	The potential effect of perforin and granzyme A in cervical cancer treatment	MSc	University of Limpopo
9	Cancer	Sanele Mathibela	Cannabinoid-Cisplatin combinations induce apoptosis and mitotic arrest in cervical cancer cells	MSc	University of Pretoria
10	Cancer	Sidrah Palekar	Comparative efficacy of fractionated Cape Cobra (<i>Naja nivea</i>) venom on breast and cervical cancer cell lines	MSc	Stellenbosch University
11	Cancer	Tawfeeq Khalfe	Delivering piroctone olamine for the treatment of glioblastoma	MSc	University of Cape Town
12	Cancer	Theresia Guada	The investigation of microRNA expression as a molecular marker for meningioma at a tertiary laboratory in northern Pretoria, South Africa	MSc	Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University
13	Cardiovascular disease	Jeanne Du Plessis	Unravelling cardiovascular differentiation: the effects of two growth serums in a novel human ventricular cardiac spheroid model.	MSc	Stellenbosch University
14	Cardiovascular disease	Khanyisa Maswanganyi	Cardiometabolic disorders and HIV-PrEP: exploring the effects of nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors on cardiometabolic markers in diet-induced prediabetic Sprague-Dawley rats	MSc	University of Pretoria
15	Cardiovascular disease	Lynn Joy Solomon	Hypertension epigenetic markers identification and comparison between adolescents from urban and rural low-income settings: Developmental Origins of Health and Disease study	MSc	University of the Western Cape
16	Cardiovascular disease	Nokulunga Mlaba	Establishment and characterization of a scaffold-free 3-dimensional human cardiomyocyte spheroid model	MSc	Stellenbosch University

Poster No.	Theme	Name	Abstract Title	Level of Study	Organisation
17	Cardiovascular disease	Nonduduzo Mabaso	Progression of dyslipidaemia in liver tissues of obese <i>db/db</i> mice	PhD	North West University
18	Cardiovascular disease	Onalerena Mabeba	A wider angle of carotid bifurcation is a predisposing factor of atherosclerosis in carotid arteries of South African cadavers	MSc	Sefako Makgatho Health Science University

Day 1
 Wednesday, 15 October 2025
 13:30 – 15:00

Poster Presentation Session 1b:
 Infectious Diseases and Other

Venue: Exhibition Hall
 Session chair:
 Dr Hygon Mutavhatsindi
[Teams link](#)

Poster No.	Theme	Name	Abstract Title	Level of Study	Organisation
19	Infectious Diseases	Dineo Madikgetla	Gut microbiome and mental health in long COVID	MSc	Stellenbosch University
20	Infectious Diseases	Matsilane Lethabo Mashilo	Phytochemical analysis and biological activity of selected medicinal plants used for the treatment of tuberculosis and related symptoms	PhD	University of Limpopo
21	Infectious Diseases	Mukovhe Rammela	Evaluating the implementation effectiveness of an adolescent and youth-friendly services programme to address HIV/AIDS, STIs and teenage pregnancy in Vhembe district.	PhD	University of Venda
22	Infectious Diseases	Nuraddin Nasir Goronyo	CD137 in tuberculosis: A scoping review of its emerging role in clinical diagnosis, prognosis, and immunotherapy	MSc	Stellenbosch University
23	Infectious Diseases	Onalenna Ramocha	Whole genome characterization of non-O1/non-O139 <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> circulating in wastewater treatment plants in the Tshwane district.	MSc	Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University
24	Infectious Diseases	Sanele Percyval Mkhabela	Molecular detection, prevalence and sociodemographic risk factors of sexually transmitted infections in pregnant women in Capricorn district Limpopo province, South Africa	MSc	University of Limpopo
25	Infectious Diseases	Wendy Phoswa	Prevalence of depression among people living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy in Africa: A systematic review and meta-analysis	Postdoc	University of South Africa
26	Other	Thabo Makgoba	Discovery of HDAC3 inhibitors for Alzheimer's disease: A computational and bioassay approach	PhD	University of the Western Cape
27	Other	Cebile Jobe	In Ovo Co-aflatoxicosis and <i>Urginea epigea</i> Nano-Silver/Zinc Oxide administration on broiler chicken energy metabolic-immuno physiological mechanisms	Postdoc	North West University
28	Other	Patronella maphela Maroale	Synthetic and preliminary pharmacological studies on fisetin-inspired flavonoid derivatives	MSc	University of the Western Cape
29	Other	Danielle Swanepoel	The differential expression of glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor between blood and the placenta.	MSc	Stellenbosch University
30	Other	Bridget Nwovhe	Reasons for rejection of routine coagulation samples in a tertiary laboratory	MSc	University of South Africa

Poster No.	Theme	Name	Abstract Title	Level of Study	Organisation
31	Infectious Diseases	Melita Sekele	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 neuroinvasion in respiratory COVID-19 suspected and not suspected patients admitted at Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital	MSc	Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University
32	Infectious Diseases	Potsiso Koma	The <i>in vitro</i> antioxidant, antimycobacterial, and antibiofilm activities of traditional medicinal plants used to treat respiratory infections	PhD	University of Limpopo
33	Infectious Diseases	Ramolobane Mahlatse Mogodi	<i>In silico</i> evaluation of 2-(chloropropyl-1-ynyl-quinoline) (LA59E4) derivative as a potential inhibitor of SARS-COV2 viral entry, assembly and replication	MSc	University of Limpopo
34	Infectious Diseases	Sithembiso Ndwandwe	Anti-inflammatory, anti-neuraminidase, and cytotoxicity evaluation of selected medicinal plants traditionally used for the treatment of respiratory viral infections	PhD	Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University
35	Other	Luthando Tiya	Development and validation of LC-MS/MS analysis method for biomonitoring of glyphosate and its metabolites in human serum	PhD	Stellenbosch University

Day 2
Thursday, 16 October 2025
 13:15 – 14:45

Poster Presentation Session 2a:
 African Traditional Medicine and Cancer

Venue: Auditorium
Session chair:
 Dr Babalwa Jack
Teams link

Poster No.	Theme	Name	Abstract Title	Level of Study	Organisation
36	African Traditional Medicine	Elliasu Salifu	<i>Boswellia carterii</i> essential oil and constituents alleviate anxiety-like behaviour in zebrafish larvae model	Postdoc	Tshwane University of Technology
37	African Traditional Medicine	Mahlogonolo Phasha	Geographical influence on the antioxidant and antibacterial activities of <i>Peltophorum africanum</i>	PhD	Sefako Makgatho Health Science University
38	African Traditional Medicine	Michael Chukwuka Ojo	Potential anti-Alzheimer's disease compounds isolated from <i>Bauhinia bowkeri</i> stem bark	PhD	University of Zululand
39	African Traditional Medicine	Tsholofelo Motshologane	The effect of Musa spp (banana) isolated tyrosinase by Kojic acid and extracts from <i>Artemisia spp</i>	MSc	Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University
40	African Traditional Medicine	Katlego Modisane	Investigating the potential of selected indigenous medicinal plants in promoting skin health using <i>in vivo</i> and <i>in vitro</i> assays	PhD	Tshwane University of Technology
41	African Traditional Medicine	Maxleene Sandasi	The <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in silico</i> antidiabetic properties of <i>Entada elephantina</i> (Burch.)	PhD	Tshwane University of Technology
42	African Traditional Medicine	Mncedisi Sibisi	Antioxidant potential and enzymes (α-amylase and α-glucosidase) inhibitory effects of Hypoxis hemerocallidea crude extracts: Insight on <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in silico</i> investigations	MSc	University of Zululand
43	African Traditional Medicine	Polette Aphanh	Phytochemical profiling, cytotoxic, and anti-inflammatory evaluation of <i>Ozoroa paniculosa</i> leaf extracts	PhD	University of Limpopo

Poster No.	Theme	Name	Abstract Title	Level of Study	Organisation
44	African Traditional Medicine	Keitumetse Makgato	Effect of geographical location on the phytochemical composition and biological activities of <i>Monsonia angustifolia</i> collected from two provinces in South Africa	PhD	Sefako Makgatho Health Science University
45	African Traditional Medicine	Dorothy Moeketsi	Green-synthesized silver nanoparticles modulate glucose metabolism and inflammatory responses in LPS-activated microglial cells	MSc	Nelson Mandela University
46	African Traditional Medicine	Kgothatso Rakgate	Assessing the immune-modulatory effects of two indigenous plants on lymphocytes and neutrophils	MSc	University of Limpopo
47	Cancer	Tsholofelo Portia Moloi	Implications of Aflatoxin B1-induced hepatotoxicity: insights from an <i>in-vitro</i> human hepatocellular carcinoma (HepG2) cell model	MSc	North West University
48	Cancer	Walter Phogole	Exploring the anticancer potential of <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> extracts in cervical cancer cells	PhD	University of Limpopo
49	Cancer	Jessica Faure	Novel TM-based molecular hybrids as chemotherapeutic agents	MSc	University of Cape Town
50	Cancer	Nandi Ngesi	ABCC1 and ABCC10 as predictive biomarkers of docetaxel treatment response in prostate cancer	MSc	University of the Free State
51	Cancer	Nosipho Ntanz	Mechanisms of H2PMEN-induced cell death in MDA cells: necroptosis and apoptosis.	PhD	University of KwaZulu-Natal
52	Cancer	Paxton Barnard	Exploring the protective potential of pinocembrin (Pin) in a model of Doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity (DIC)	MSc	Stellenbosch University
53	Cancer	Anathi Burns	Gene transcription profiling of DMBA-induced mammary carcinogenesis: role of maternal methyl donor nutrients.	MSc	Stellenbosch University
54	Cancer	Valentia Monama	Pro-apoptotic anticancer mechanisms induced by <i>Warburgia Salutaris</i> (Bertol. F.) Chiov leaf extracts on selected cancer cell lines	PhD	Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University

Day 2
Thursday, 16 October 2025
13:15 – 14:45

Poster Presentation Session 2b:
Obesity, Diabetes and
Cardiovascular Disease

Venue: Exhibition Hall
Session chair:
Prof Julia Goedecke
Teams link

Poster No.	Theme	Name	Abstract Title	Level of Study	Organisation
55	Cardiovascular disease	Shadelene Demas	Genetic variation frequency of warfarin sensitivity SNPs in a mixed-ancestry South African population	MSc	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
56	Cardiovascular disease	Nasr Eshibona	Benchmarking RNA-Seq tools for optimized transcriptomic profiling in a hypertensive cohort	Postdoc	South Africa Medical Research Council
57	Cardiovascular disease	Kagiso Seakamela	Latent class analysis of multimorbidity and all-cause mortality: DIMAMO HDSS clinic linkage dataset	PhD	University of Limpopo
58	Obesity and Diabetes	Emihle Tiwane	Exploring in utero exposure to teratogens such as alcohol and nicotine in association with the development of cardiometabolic risk susceptibility: rural-urban low-income settings comparison	MSc	University of the Western Cape

Poster No.	Theme	Name	Abstract Title	Level of Study	Organisation
59	Obesity and Diabetes	Francisca Darkoh	Haemostatic and vascular blood alterations in sepsis and type 2 diabetes mellitus: impact of the endothelial glycocalyx	MSc	Stellenbosch University
60	Obesity and Diabetes	Kabelo Mokgalaboni	Investigating the impact of <i>abelmoschus esculentus</i> on glycemia and insulin resistance in type 2 diabetes and prediabetes	PhD	University of South Africa
61	Obesity and Diabetes	Mmaphuti Charity Lewatle	Altered genome-wide DNA methylation as predictive biomarkers of preterm birth in women with diabetes in pregnancy	MSc	South Africa Medical Research Council
62	Obesity and Diabetes	Mthokozisi Nxumalo	<i>Carica papaya</i> leaf and root extracts present a promising therapeutic alternative for managing type 2 diabetes mellitus by reducing oxidative stress-related inflammation associated with insulin resistance in cultured HepG2 liver and C2C12 muscle cells	PhD	University of KwaZulu-Natal
63	Obesity and Diabetes	Ramoagi Segone	The wound healing and antidiabetic potential of five Bulbine species using <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> assays	PhD	Tshwane University of Technology
64	Obesity and Diabetes	Rethabile Moshoeshe	Evaluating the effects of Niselo® sorghum probiotic drink on diabetes among mineworkers in the North West and Limpopo provinces of South Africa: A proof-of-concept study	PhD	Tshwane University of Technology
65	Obesity and Diabetes	Sacramento Martínez-Albaladejo	Dapagliflozin reduced pro-inflammatory and -fibrotic effects via NHE-1 inhibition in fatty acid-stimulated cardiomyocytes	MSc	Instituto de Investigacion Sanitaria Fundacion Jimenez Diaz UAM
66	Obesity and Diabetes	Vusi Ntywankile	Sex-specific effects of a high sugar diet and the antipsychotic drug olanzapine on kidney histology in a Wistar rat model	MSc	Stellenbosch University
67	Cardiovascular disease	Siphehile Mkhwanazi	Linkage of <i>ApoE</i> gene polymorphisms with risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases among Black South Africans with type 2 diabetes mellitus at an academic hospital in Gauteng province	MSc	Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University
68	Cardiovascular disease	Dinah Mohlele	Determination of the association between the Cuore risk model and sub-clinical atherosclerosis as measured using carotid intima-media thickness among residents of Dikgale, Mamabolo, and Mothiba, Limpopo province, South Africa.	MSc	University of Limpopo
69	Obesity and Diabetes	Mahlako Karabo Molomo	Establishing effective saponification concentration of palmitic acid for induction of insulin resistance in C2C12 cells <i>in vitro</i>	MSc	University of Pretoria