

SAMRC PRESIDENT LECTURE

Lecture by **Prof. Harsha Kathard**

Strengthening Disability Inclusion research
as a pathway to Health Equity. Challenging ableism



SAMRC Cape Town Main
Boardroom, Building A, 2nd Floor.
and Online (MS Teams)



11h00



Wednesday, 29 April 2026

ABOUT PROF HARSHA KATHARD

Prof Harsha Kathard is currently Research Director of Inclusive Practices Africa Research Unit at University of Cape Town. She is Professor in Disability Studies/Communication Sciences and Disorders in the Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and a speech-language therapist and audiologist by profession. She is an NRF-rated scientist whose research focuses is underpinned by decolonial scholarship. Her studies foreground systemic disability inclusion across Education, Health and Economies & Employment sectors. She has graduated several master's and PhD students across disciplines of Speech-language Pathology, Audiology, Health Sciences Education, Education, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Disability Studies. She serves as mentor to academics and students and has held several leadership positions during her career some of which include establishing the Department of Health Sciences Education at UCT; acting Deputy Dean, Undergraduate Education; Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning, UCT; and Chair of Education Committee Speech-language hearing professions, HPCSA. She partners with community organisations, corporates and Govt to facilitate inclusive practices.