

16TH BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH & INNOVATION PLATFORM CONFERENCE

AFRICAN YOUTH SHAPING THE HEALTH OF THE CONTINENT:
Innovations in Biomedical Research, Mental and Climate Health

**A CONFERENCE TO
SHOWCASE MSC, PHD,
AND POSTDOCTORAL
RESEARCH**

CONFERENCE DATE

27 – 29 October 2026

Abstract submission deadline:
31 July 2026

VENUE (HYBRID)

**SAMRC Conference Centre
or Online**

Registration Fee: Free

Presentation themes:

Obesity and diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease, infectious diseases, African traditional Medicine, mental health, and climate Health.

[Click here for
Registration](#)

[Click here for
abstract submission](#)

KEY SPEAKERS

Including international and national experts, non-profit organisations, and individuals with lived experience.

Cardiovascular

Prof Carina Mels
North-West University

Cancer advocacy

Ms Zodwa Sithole
Head: Advocacy, Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA)

Infectious disease

Prof Thumbi Ndung'u
Africa Health Research Institute, UKZN

Diabetes

Prof Joel Dave
Division of Endocrinology, Faculty of Health Sciences, UCT

Diabetes lived experience

Ms Carol Hendricks
Mitchells Plain Diabetes Support Group

Climate Action

Prof Mark New
African Research Universities Alliance's Centre of Excellence for Climate and Development

Climate health

Prof Caradee Wright
Environment and Health Research Unit (SAMRC)

Mental Health

Prof Jason Bantjes
Mental Health, Alcohol, Substance Use and Tobacco Research Unit (SAMRC)

Advocacy and support for mental health

Ms Cassey Chambers
South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG)

Lived experience, mental health and climate advocacy

Ms Thembelihle Ngcai
Beyond Access Consulting (Disability Advocate)