

SAMRC RCD REGIONAL GRANT HOLDERS CONFERENCE

PROGRAMME

Funding for Impact: Strengthening Research Capacity for
Translation, Implementation, and Health Impact



Pre-Conference Workshop
16 September 2026



Conference
17 September 2026



iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu,
East London Health Resource
Centre, Eastern Cape

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP- 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

09h00 - 09h30	REGISTRATION
Facilitator: <i>Dr Frederic Nduhirabandi</i>	Venue: Auditorium
09h30 - 09h50	Opening <i>Dr Abeda Dawood (SAMRC) + iWS Representative</i> Health & Safety Prof Wezile Chitha / Prof Sikhumbuzo Mabunda
09h50 - 10h45	Finance Workshop This session will focus on effective financial management of grant-funded projects, including managing expenditure in line with the approved budget, financial processes and requirements, and the preparation and submission of financial reports. <i>Mr Philip du Plessis / Mr Peter Mwewa (SAMRC)</i>
10h45 - 11h10	TEA / COFFEE BREAK
11h10 - 12h00	Legal Workshop This session will provide an overview of the legal and contractual processes involved in managing research grants with universities and other external partners. It will cover the review and approval of contracts, engagement with institutional research offices, obtaining the necessary approvals and signatures, and key legal and compliance considerations for grant holders. <i>Ms Alma Purcell (SAMRC)</i>
12h00 - 12h50	KIMS: AI, Integrity and Knowledge and Information This session will explore the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and information systems in research, with a focus on their responsible and ethical use. Participants will examine the implications of AI for research integrity, publication quality, and trust in scholarly outputs, while considering good publication practices, responsible scholarly dissemination, and the importance of transparency in reporting AI use. The session will also highlight the appropriate acknowledgement of funding and research support as an essential component of responsible research practice, providing practical guidance for navigating the opportunities and challenges of AI in contemporary research. <i>Dr Natasha Langdown (SAMRC)</i>
12h50 - 13h20	LUNCH
13h20 - 14h50	SAMRC Emerging Researcher Seminar Series Introduction to scientific writing: This section aims to introduce postgraduate students to what scientific writing is, the importance of scientific writing, the forms of scientific writing, and tips for writing a successful scientific report. Objectives of a research proposal: The purpose of this section is to enable the student to write an impeccably researched, documented, and original proposal. Secondly, this section will also include aspects of research ethics. Writing a thesis: This section aims to introduce the postgraduate student to a thesis as scientific communication and the layout of the thesis, including structure, editorial care, references and citations, writing style and editing. <i>Dr Abeda Dawood (SAMRC)</i>
14h50 - 15h00	Closing Remarks <i>Dr Abeda Dawood (SAMRC)</i>
15h00	CLOSING

CONFERENCE - 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

08h30 - 09h00	REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING	
Session 1 Chairperson: A/Prof Nwabisa Shai		Venue: Auditorium
09h00 - 09h10	House Keeping A/Prof Nwabisa Shai	
09h10 - 09h20	Welcome Address from the SAMRC's RCD Division Dr Abeda Dawood	
09h20 - 09h30	Welcome Address from iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu Vice Chancellor Prof Thandi Mgwebi (iWS)	
09h30 - 10h00	Address by SAMRC President and CEO Prof Ntobeko Ntusi	
10h00 - 10h30	Beyond Publication: Designing Research for Use, Scale, and Health Impact Keynote Speaker: Prof Charles Shey Wiysonge (SUN)	
10h30 - 10h50	Address by SAMRC Executive Director Dr Michelle Mulder	
10h50 - 11h10	TEA / COFFEE BREAK, NETWORKING AND GROUP PHOTO	
Session 2 Chairperson: Prof Wezile Chitha/ Prof Sikhumbuzo Mabunda		Venue: Auditorium
11h10 - 11h30	A program of research on novel techniques to improve safety of vaginal and caesarean Delivery, and current projects Dr Mandisa Singata-Madliki / iWS (MCSP) and Dr Katrin Middleton (iWS)	
11h30 - 11h45	Improving the performance of public hospitals through a focused implementation of clinical governance interventions in South Africa's Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga provinces Prof Wezile Chitha / iWS (MCSP)	
11h45 - 12h00	Human Papillomavirus Genotype Landscape Across Cervical Cytology Grades and Impact of HIV Among Women of Eastern Cape Province, South Africa Prof Zizipho Mbulawa / iWS (RCDI)	
12h00 - 12h15	Acute kidney injury risk predictors and outcomes: Findings from a South African rural tertiary hospital Prof Nomaxabiso Mooi and Prof Busisiwe Mrara / iWS (RCDI)	
12h15 - 12h30	An exploratory study on psychological violence in the nursing profession: Manifestations and experiences Prof Willie Chinyamurindi / UFH (RCDI)	
12h30 - 13h00	From Genomics to Leadership, Innovation and Impact Keynote speaker: Prof Alison September (UCT)	
13h00 - 13h45	LUNCH BREAK NETWORKING, PHOTOS AND POSTER VIEWING AND PRESENTATIONS	

Session 3 Chairperson: A/Prof Nwabisa Shai			Venue: Auditorium			
13:45 - 14:30	Panel: "Being a PI within HDI/ Research-Constraint University in the time of Research Translation" Prof David Katerere & Prof Teke Apalata & Prof Anthony Okoh					
Session 3 Parallel Session	Venue: Auditorium		Venue: Seminar Room		Venue: Video Conference Room	
	Session 3 A Chairperson: A/Prof Nwabisa Shai		Session 3 B Chairperson: Dr Sibusiso Nomatshila		Session 3 C Chairperson: Dr Mandisa Singata-Madliki	
14h30 - 14h45	Socio-Demographic Factors Associated with Alcohol and Tobacco Use Among Virally Suppressed People Living with HIV in the Eastern Cape, South Africa	Dr Zanele Nomatshila (iWS)	Clinical Spectrum, genetic susceptibility and quality of life of South African adults with Gouty Arthritis	Prof Thozama Dubula (iWS)	Maternal perspective on the timing of prophylactic antibiotic administration at caesarean delivery and their potential neonatal effects: a cross-sectional study	Dr Kaajal Brijlall (iWS)
14h45 - 15h00	Association of Central and Peripheral blood pressure with cardiovascular biomarkers in women with preeclampsia	Dr Xolani Mbongozi (iWS)	Association between formal education, cervical cancer knowledge, and health-seeking behaviour in a rural Eastern Cape community, South Africa	Dr Charles Businge (iWS)	Documented Health System and Clinician-related Challenges among Neonatal Deaths at a Rural District Hospital, Eastern Cape, South Africa: A Retrospective Descriptive Study (2019-2025)	Dr Babalwa Ntshalintshali (iWS)
15h00 - 15h15	The Relationship Between Motor Proficiency and Academic Performance in 11-13 year old primary school children in the Eastern Cape: MPAC-EC study	Dr Xonnè Muller (UFH)	Cancer Epidemiology and Decentralization Service Program Initiation: A Cross-Sectional Analysis of Hospital-Based Oncology Admissions and Cancer Service Disparities	Dr Maumbangu Milambo (iWS)	Negative Appendectomy Rate in Paediatric Patients in a Resource-Limited Region	Dr Sello Machaea (iWS)
15h15 - 15h30	Assessing patients' experience of care in four referral hospitals: A cross-sectional survey of outpatients in two South African rural provinces	Mr Onke Mnyaka (iWS)	Systemic Challenges Affecting Hospital Performance: Operational Managers' Experiences of Implementing Clinical Governance in South African Public Hospitals	Ms Nomfuneko Sithole (iWS)	The Effects of a Two-dimensional Intervention on Metabolic, Behavioral and Psychological Risk Factors Associated with Non-Communicable Diseases among Adolescents in the Eastern Cape, South Africa	Mr Ondela Matshikiza (UFH)
15h30 - 15h45	Exploring clinical governance and organisational learning in public sector hospitals in the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga provinces of South Africa	Ms Kedibone Maake (iWS)	Observed hospital management involvement in the implementation of clinical governance activities in two South African Provinces	Dr Siphokazi Pahlana (iWS)	Assessing Barriers to Prostate Cancer Screening and Diagnosis in Qumbu, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa	Dr Nanga Sopazi (iWS)

Session 4 Chairperson: <i>Prof Wezile Chitha / Prof Sikhumbuzo Mabunda</i>		Venue: Auditorium
15h45 - 16h15	SAMRC capacity development: Introduction of the Centre for Advanced Training and Innovative Research (CATIR) <i>Dr Pritika Ramharack</i>	
16h15 - 16h45	Strengthening Nurses' Adoption of Electronic Health Records (EHRs) for Maternal and Child Health Service Delivery <i>Prof Liezel Cilliers (UFH) (RCDI)</i>	
	Building Emotional Resilience and Reducing Burnout among Healthcare Workers in the Eastern Cape through a Mobile-Based Personal Mastery Intervention <i>Prof Juliet Townes (UFH) (RCDI)</i>	
	Exploring Community-Based Approaches to Speech, Language, and Hearing Service Delivery in the Eastern Cape, South Africa <i>Prof Mikateko Ndhambi (UFH) (RCDI)</i>	
	ONCOHART: A Prospective Study of Pre-existing and Treatment-Induced Hypertension and Subclinical Cardiotoxicity in Breast Cancer Patients <i>Dr Nare Sekoba (UFH) (RCDI)</i>	
16h45 - 17h00	Investigating the Influence of Seasonal Variation in the Polyphenolic Profile of Pterocarpus angolensis bark and Fruit Extracts <i>Dr Mapula Razwinani (NMU) (EIP)</i>	
Session 5 Chairperson: <i>Dr Frederic Nduhirabandi</i>		Venue: Auditorium
17h00 - 17h10	Awards <i>Dr Abeda Dawood (SAMRC)</i>	
17h10 - 17h20	Vote of Thanks & Closing Remarks <i>A/Prof Nwabisa Shai and Prof Wezile Chitha / Prof Sikhumbuzo Mabunda</i>	
	CLOSING	

POSTER PRESENTATIONS		
<i>Facilitator: Prof David Katerere</i>		
<i>Ms Siyonela Mlonyeni</i>	<i>RCD01</i>	<i>Exploring the Quality of Clinical Records for Effective Clinical Governance in selected South African Referral Hospitals</i>
<i>Ms Ruth Tshabalala</i>	<i>RCD02</i>	<i>Reliable Information Sources Consulted by Nurses at the Point of Care in Four Selected South African Referral Hospitals</i>
<i>Mr Siyabonga Sibulawa</i>	<i>RCD03</i>	<i>Hospital Board Members Perspectives on Clinical Governance</i>
<i>Ms Xolelwa Ntlongweni</i>	<i>RCD04</i>	<i>Developing health behavioural strategies to reduce the burden of prostate cancer in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa</i>
<i>Dr Nolusindiso Ncitakalo</i>	<i>RCD05</i>	<i>Barriers to accessing cancer care services in Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga provinces of South Africa: cancer survivors' perspectives</i>
<i>Dr Vinny Ntiyiso Khosa</i>	<i>RCD06</i>	<i>Estimating and Ranking of Common Cancers in South Africa's Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga Provinces: A Patient Survey in Three Referral Hospitals</i>
<i>Prof Martha Chadyiwa</i>	<i>RCD07</i>	<i>The management of workplace violence & injury on the outcomes of work: A moderated-mediation model of decent work & workplace safety amongst nurses in South Africa</i>