SAMRC PRESIDENT AND CEO'S LECTURE



Lecture by **Prof Bernard Keavney**

Congenital heart disease: from cause to comorbidity

Synopsis of the lecture:

It is now established that a wide spectrum of genetic variants can influence the risk of congenital heart disease (CHD). Prof. Keavney will discuss some of the contributions pertinent to this conclusion, using copy number variant analysis, whole-exome sequencing and genome-wide association study approaches. As patients with even severe CHD now have an excellent chance of surviving to adulthood, increasingly important questions are currently arising regarding any excess susceptibility to common comorbidities that adult CHD patients may have. Prof Keavney will discuss this work using large population databases to explore this issue.

SAMRC Conference Centre, 1 Duiker Street, Parrow Valley, Cape Town and Online (MS Teams)

12h00

Monday, 23 November 2026

Click here to register

ABOUT PROF BERNARD KEAVNEY

Professor Bernard Keavney is the British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Manchester and a Consultant Cardiologist at Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust.

He qualified in medicine from the University of Oxford in 1988 and has built an extensive career in cardiovascular research and clinical practice. He previously held academic positions at Oxford and Newcastle universities, where he established the Molecular Cardiovascular Research Group. He was awarded a British Heart Foundation Personal Chair in 2008, which has been renewed three times, and has held British Heart Foundation programme grant funding since 2003.

His clinical interests include inherited cardiovascular diseases and heart disease in pregnancy. He has also held several prominent leadership positions, including Chair of the UK Biobank International Scientific Advisory Board and Lead of the Genomics England Cardiovascular Clinical Interpretation Partnership.

Professor Keavney has longstanding research ties with South Africa. He collaborated with the late Professor Bongani Mayosi, co-authoring 27 publications and co-leading the UK MRC-funded DJEMBE study, which strengthened research partnerships between the universities of Manchester and Cape Town. He currently collaborates with Professor Liesl Zühlke on the PROTEA and ERICA studies in Cape Town.

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