

SAMRC RCD REGIONAL GRANT HOLDERS CONFERENCE



**Funding to Impact: Fostering Capacity Development
Partnerships for Innovation Leadership**

Programme



20 - 21 October 2025



**Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences
University, Garankuwa, Gauteng**



DAY 1 - MONDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2025

08h30 - 09h00	REGISTRATION	
Session 1 Chairperson: Prof Nwabisa Shai	Venue: Pharmacy Building	
09h00 - 09h10	House Keeping: Prof Nwabisa Shai	
09h10 - 09h15	Welcome Address from the SAMRC's RCD Division: Dr Abeda Dawood	
09h15 - 09h25	Welcome Address from Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University: Prof Tandi Matsha	
09h25 - 09h55	SAMRC President/CEO Address: Prof Ntobeko Ntusi	
09h55 - 10h25	Keynote speaker: Dr Thandi Mgwebi (Group Executive: Business Advancement of The National Research Foundation of South Africa) Partnerships for Impact	
10h25 - 10h45	TEA / COFFEE BREAK	
Session 2 Chairperson: Prof Lawrence Obi	Venue: Pharmacy Building	
10h45 - 11h00	Harnessing big heterogeneous data to evaluate the potential impact of HIV responses among key populations in South Africa: a capacity development endeavor	Prof Refilwe Phaswana-Mafuya /UJ (MCSP)
11h00 - 11h15	ADME polymorphism in tuberculosis from patients in healthcare facilities in the Vhembe District	Prof Afsatou Traore/UNIVEN (RCDI PI)
11h15 - 11h30	Anti-cancer, Anti-diabetic, Anti-Obesity and Anti- inflammatory potential of plant extracts/plant derived compounds	Prof Vusi Mbazima and Kgomotso Poopedi /UL (RCDI PI)
11h30 - 11h45	Use of dialogue to uncover perceptions of the preconception care from women of reproductive age in the sampled districts of Limpopo Province	Prof Thivhulawi Malwela/UNIVEN (RCDI PI)
11h45 - 12h00	Developing nutraceutical products for the management of obesity and diabetes: Evaluating the Effects of the Niselo® Sorghum Probiotic Drink among Mineworkers in South Africa	Prof David Katerere /TUT (MCSP)
12h00 - 12h30	Keynote speaker: Prof Pascal Bessong (Director: SAMRC-UNIVEN Antimicrobial Resistance and Global Health Research Unit) Strategic Research Development in a Resource-Constrained Environment: Engagement with the South African Medical Research Council	
12h30 - 13h00	LUNCH (Poster Presentations)	

Session 3 Parallel Session		Venue: Pharmacy Building				
	Session 3 A Chairperson: Dr Lindokuhle Ndlandla		Session 3 B Chairperson: Dr Kristie Bloom		Session 3 C Chairperson: Prof Mercilene Machisa	
13h00 - 13h15	Metabolomic and Pharmacogenomic profiling of drug- sensitive and drug-resistant Tuberculosis in a South African cohort	Dr Maphepele Sara Mashilo (UNIVEN)	Mapping the Landscape of LGBTIQ+ Inclusion in Health Professions Education	Mr Atholl Kleinhans (SMU)	Evaluating the effects of Niselo® sorghum probiotic drink on diabetes among mineworkers	Ms Rethabile Joyce Moshoeshe (TUT)
13h15 - 13h30	In vitro modulation of cisplatin-induced oxidative stress and inflammatory response	Ms Mante Dolly Kgakishe (UL)	Factors associated with parental hesitancy toward Covid-19 vaccination of children aged 5-11 years old	Ms Thandi Ngobe (UJ)	Perspectives on the Usability and Feasibility of the Key Populations Unique Identifier Codes in South Africa's Routine Health Information Management System.	Mr Mashudu Rampilo (UJ)
13h30 - 13h45	Pharmacogenetics Investigation of Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) in First-Line anti-Tuberculosis Drugs in the Vhembe district of Limpopo	Mr Rendani Musoliwa (UNIVEN)	Workplace Mental Health Interventions for Academic Staff: Review of Effectiveness and Feasibility	Ms Veena Abraham (SMU)	Assessing Training Needs for The South African Hemp Farmer Industry	Dr Tshepo Lechaba (TUT)
13h45 - 14h00	Towards establishing a framework on decolonizing activity selection training in the occupational therapy curricula in the South African context	Ms Mahlako Makhubela (SMU)	Dolutegravir-based antiretroviral treatment regimen administration by healthcare workers and associated factors in pregnant and childbearing age women living with HIV	Ms Cabangile Mtshali (UJ)	Review of Tenofovir-induced Acute Kidney Injury Detection Methods in Sub-Saharan Africa	Ms Ketlareng Polori (UJ)
14h00- 14h15	Bioelectrical Impedance Vector Analysis in the Stabilisation of Severe Acute Malnutrition: A Pilot Study from Hospitals in Tshwane	Ms Tshegofatso Mogase (SMU)	The Association Between Climate Change and Birth Outcomes	Ms Rolivhuwa Mudau (UNIVEN)	Investigating the risk factors of hypertension among pregnant women in the Limpopo Province.	Ms Thizwilondi Madzaga (UNIVEN)
14h15 - 14h30	Dual Electrospray Ionization Mode Metabolomic Profiling Unravels Signature Metabolites of <i>Lippia javanica</i> and <i>Acorus calamus</i>	Ms Anna Makhafola (SMU)	A retrospective analysis of factors associated with HIV viral load outcomes amongst patients on antiretroviral therapy	Mr Sphiwe Mlondolozzi (UJ)	Sexually transmitted infections programme evaluation in the primary healthcare facilities in Limpopo Province, South Africa	Ms Mohlago Seloka (UJ)
14h30 - 14h50	TEA / COFFEE BREAK					

Session 4 Parallel Session				
	Session 4 A Chairperson: Prof Janan Dietrich		Session 4 B Chairperson: Dr Michael Zulu	
14h50 - 15h05	Prevalence, Transmission Dynamics, and Trends of Sexually Transmitted Infections in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review	Ms Joy Mhlongo (UJ)	Application of Anyplex™ and Allplex™ assays in determining MTB/MDR/ NTM patients in the Vhembe district, Limpopo, RSA	Ms Ntshunxeko Banda (UNIVEN)
15h05 - 15h20	Factors associated with Sexually transmitted infection literacy among men who have sex with men and transgender people in Soweto: A machine learning approach	Dr Claris Siyamayambo (UJ)	Factors associated with condom use among circumcised men in South Africa	Ms Zine Carol Nkambule (UJ)
15h20 - 15h35	Investigating the Phytochemistry and Biological Activity of <i>Burkea africana</i> extracts	Dr Iliassou Mouafon Lah (TUT)	Early-Life Acquisition of Antimicrobial Resistance in a Rural Sub-Saharan African Community of Low Socioeconomic Status: Insights from Infant Gut Resistome	Dr Justine Fri (UNIVEN)
15h35 - 15h50	Medicinal plant-derived nanoparticles against food borne pathogens	Dr Manikandan Gurusamy (TUT)	Socioeconomic Differences in Nutrient Intake, Metabolite Profiles, and Blood Pressure: the African-PREDICT Study	Dr Michel Strauss-Kruger (NWU)
Session 5 Chairperson: Dr Abeda Dawood		Venue: Pharmacy Building		
16h00 - 16h20	Keynote speaker: Will Rohde (Quantahub ² AI Frameworks, USA) Transforming Health Research with AI: From Data to Discovery			
16h20 - 16h30	Training health care students on AI content creation: Prof David Katerere (TUT)			
16h30 - 16h40	Closing Remarks: Prof Nwabisa Shai			
17h30	Networking Dinner - Venue: Pharmacy Building, Postgrad Room, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU) Chairpersons: Prof Nwabisa Shai and Prof Lawrence Obi			
	CLOSING OF DAY 1			

DAY 2 - TUESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2025

Session 1 Chairperson: Prof Lawrence Obi		Venue: Pharmacy Building	
09h00 - 09h05	House Keeping: Prof Nwabisa Shai		
09h05 - 09h20	SAMRC RCD Executive Line Address: Dr Michelle Mulder (SAMRC Executive)		
09h20 - 09h50	Keynote speaker: Prof Keolebogile Motaung (FALF/FREF /NMU) From Curiosity to Impact: My Journey in Science, Innovation, and Leadership		

09h50 - 10h20	Keynote speaker: Prof Johan Louw (Platform Director) Introduction to Centre for Advanced Training and Innovative Research (CATIR)	
10h20 - 10h40	TEA / COFFEE BREAK	
Session 2 A Chairperson: Prof Lawrence Obi	Venue: Pharmacy Building	
10h40 - 10h55	SAMRC RCD Funding Programmes	Dr Abeda Dawood (SAMRC RCD Division Manager)
10h55 - 11h10	SAMRC Extramural Unit Programmes	Dr Refiloe Eunice Zwane (SAMRC VP Office)
11h10 - 11h35	Overview of NRF Rating and NRF Funding Programmes	Dr James Meiring (Director: Reviews and Evaluations at The National Research Foundation of South Africa)
Session 2 B Chairperson: Prof Lusilda Schutte	Venue: Pharmacy Building	
11h35 - 11h50	Safe caesarean birth techniques: protocol for a randomized factorial design clinical trial	Prof Mandisa Singata-Madliki /WITS (MCSP)
11h50 - 12h05	Enhancing the User Experience of a Perioperative Digital Health Tool for Information Exchange with Clinical Service Providers: A Qualitative Observational Study Using a Human-Centered Design Thinking Approach	Prof Hyla Kluyts/SMU (RCDI PI)
12h05 - 12h20	Identification of South African Plant-Based Bioactive Compounds as Potential Inhibitors against the SARS-CoV-2 Receptor	Prof Nqobile Mkolo /SMU (RCDI PI)
12h20 - 12h35	Partnering with the community in the management of childhood illnesses in Limpopo Province, South Africa	Prof Livhuwani Tshivhase /UNISA (RCDI PI)
12h35 - 13h05	LUNCH (Poster Presentations)	
Session 3 Chairperson: Dr Kgomotso Poopedi	Venue: Pharmacy Building	
13h05 - 13h20	Investigating the association of emotion regulation on substance misuse and sexual risk among South African adolescent boys: Findings from the Tsamaisano study	Prof Janan Dietrich /WITS (EIP)
13h20 - 13h35	Investigation of potential viral (HIV) inhibitors from <i>Erythrina caffra</i> : a South African medicinal plant	Prof Xavier Noundou /SMU (RCDI PI)
13h35 - 13h50	Trajectories, Determinants, and Correlates of Mental Health in the PURE-SA Cohort	Prof Lusilda Schutte /NWU (EIP)
13h50 - 14h05	Self- Amplifying RNA Vaccines against Hepatitis B Virus	Dr Kristie Bloom /WITS (EIP)
Session 4 Chairperson: Dr Frederic Nduhirabandi	Venue: Pharmacy Building	
14h10 - 14h25	Understanding the SAMRC legal and contracting process	Mr Goodtime Moja (SAMRC Legal and Compliance Department)
14h25 - 15h20	Understanding the SAMRC financial processes: payment, budget form and management, financial report in line with SAMRC expectations	Mr Philip du Plessis (SAMRC Project Management and Accounting Office)

15h20 - 15h40	Awards	Dr Abeda Dawood, DVC SMU Prof Dini Mawela, and Dr Frederic Nduhirabandi
15h40 - 15h55	Vote of Thanks Closing Remarks	Prof Nwabisa Shai/Organising Committee

CLOSING OF DAY 2

POSTER PRESENTATIONS		
Dr Michael Zulu/ WITS (EIP)	RCD01	Investigating inflammatory mechanisms of increased risk of cardiovascular disease in women living with HIV
Dr Kgomotso Poopedi/ UL (EIP)	RCD02	Methylation of <i>RARβ2</i> and Expression of MCP-1/VEGF as Prognostic Markers in Black South African Breast Cancer Patients
Dr Tiffany Smith/ WITS (Extramural Postdoc)	RCD03	Development of multivalent adenoviral vector and mRNA vaccines for a heterologous prime-boost strategy against monkeypox virus (MPXV)
Dr Tebogo Marutha/ UP (Extramural Postdoc)	RCD04	Functional Characterization of Tumour Biology in HIV and HPV-Associated Cervical Cancer: Insights into the Tumour Microenvironment
Ms Tshwarelo Evidence Mohale/ UL (RCDI Nested)	RCD05	Synergistic effects of docetaxel and kaempferol co-treatment induce apoptosis via ROS mediated mitochondrial depolarisation, genotoxicity and G2/M arrest in MDA-MB-231 cells.
Dr Efficient Ncube /TUT (Extramural Postdoc)	RCD06	Molecular networking in advancing ethno-pharmacological research of South African medicinal plants
Dr Idris Njanje /UNIVEN (Extramural Postdoc)	RCD07	Enteric ESKAPE pathogens in a community of low socio-economic status in Limpopo Province, South Africa
Dr Melissa Tibatts (UJ)	RCD08	Factors affecting the uptake of COVID-19 vaccine amongst people living with HIV at Esselen Clinic in Johannesburg, South Africa
Mr Ishmael Malatji (UJ)	RCD09	The impact of Covid-19 on HIV clinic attendance among people living with HIV in Johannesburg, Gauteng Province: A cross-sectional study
Ms Amanda Mohlala (UJ)	RCD10	Effectiveness of digital tools in improving quality assurance outcomes of rapid HIV testing: A systematic Review
Mr Kofi Atakorah-Yeboah (UJ)	RCD11	Perspectives of Men Who Have Sex with Men on HIV Testing Interventions in Ghana
Mr Musa Jaiteh (UJ)	RCD12	Integrating Machine Learning in HIV Testing Interventions in Gauteng Province, South Africa: Opportunities, Challenges, and Implementation Strategies
Ms Lifutso Motsieloa (UJ)	RCD13	Stakeholder Roles and Views in the Implementation of the Differentiated HIV Treatment Service Delivery Model Among Female Sex Workers in Gauteng Province, South Africa.
Ms Phatho Ramantswana (TUT)	RCD14	Mushroom Cultivation as a Tool for Rural Development in South Africa
Ms Sebati Ramakgahlela (UJ)	RCD15	HIV Treatment Services among Men who have Sex with Men during Covid-19, Limpopo Province, South Africa
Mr Ratif Abdulai (UJ)	RCD16	Interventions for the Promotion of Consistent and Correct Use of Condoms with Condom-compatible Lubricants among Men who have Sex with Men in Ghana: A Qualitative Study Among Key Stakeholders
Ms Nonhlanhla Princess Manzi (UJ)	RCD17	Antiretroviral therapy uptake and associated factors during the COVID-19 lockdown period among people living with HIV in a selected district of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa
Ms Thabile Khumalo (UJ)	RCD18	Factors associated with adherence to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis among young women aged 18-30 years in Alfred Nzo District, Eastern Cape Province of South Africa
Ms Khomotso Mmusi (TUT)	RCD19	Fungi-Derived Ingredients in Cosmetics and Skincare



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