



THE INAUGURAL SOUTH AFRICAN CLINICIANS SCIENTIST CONFERENCE

TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE THROUGH CLINICAL SCIENCE

Hosted by
The South African Clinician Scientist Society, South African Medical Research Council and Discovery



DAY 1: THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2021

08:00
09:00 **Arrival and Registration**

09:00 **OPENING SESSION 1** Chair: Prof Phumla Sinxadi

09:00 - 09:10 **WELCOME**
Prof Salome Maswime: **Chair of SACSS**

09:10 - 09:40 **Keynote Speaker:**
Role of clinician scientists
Prof Glenda Gray: **President of SAMRC**

09:40 - 10:30 **Plenary discussion 1:**
Developing clinician scientists as a new cadre in Africa (Change/New Research/Impact for future)
Facilitator: Prof Salome Maswime

1. Prof Richard Hift, **University of KwaZulu-Natal**
2. Prof Mike Sathekge, **University of Pretoria**
3. Prof Mosa Moshabela, **University of KwaZulu-Natal**
4. Prof Martin Smith, **University of the Witwatersrand**

10:30
11:00 **TEA BREAK**

SESSION 2: Non-communicable and Surgical diseases Chair: Dr Charlotte Schutz

11:00 - 11:20 Plenary speaker: Dr Nqoba Tsabedze, University of the Witwatersrand

11:20 - 11:40 Plenary speaker: Prof Bonga Chiliza, University of KwaZulu-Natal

11:40 - 12:00 Plenary speaker: Prof Heike Geduld, University of Cape Town

12:00 - 12:15 Identifying knowledge GAPS to improve surgical care in Africa: An African-centered theory of change approach - **D Breedt - Stellenbosch University**

12:15 - 12:30 Utilisation of health care services prior to suicidal behaviour in Cape Town - **T Kootbodien - National Institute for Occupational Health**

12:30 - 12:45 Excitatory GABAergic signalling is associated with acquired benzodiazepine resistance in status epilepticus - **R Burman University of Cape Town**

12:45 - 13:00 Psychological impact of trauma in people living with recent onset psychosis - **V Ntlantsana - University of KwaZuluNatal**

13:00
13:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

SESSION 3: Maternal, child and womens health

Chair: Dr Lindokuhle Ndlandla

13:30 - 13:50 Plenary Speaker: Dr Ameena Goga, SAMRC13:50 - 14:05 Dietary intake vulnerabilities among urban HIV-infected South African schoolchildren - **C Goosen - Stellenbosch University**14:05 - 14:20 The prevalence of abnormal Doppler's of the umbilical artery in a low-risk pregnant population in South Africa - **T Hlongwane - University of Pretoria**14:20 - 14:35 The prevalence and severity of asthma and atopy in school-going children in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa - **R Mphahlele - University of KwaZuluNatal**14:35 - 14:50 Infants identified as growth-restricted in utero using the Umbiflow™ device continue to lag behind in the first six months postnatally - **H Mulol - University of Pretoria**14:50 - 15:05 The use of continuous wave Doppler ultrasound of the umbilical artery to prevent unexplained stillbirths in a low-risk pregnant population in South Africa - **T Hlongwane - University of Pretoria**15:05 - 15:20 Oestradiol eluting scaffolds for pelvic organ prolapse - **C Gaffley - University of Cape Town**15:20
15:40 **TEA BREAK****SESSION 4: Infectious diseases**

Chair: Dr Stuart More

15:40 - 15:55 An observational study identifying highly tuberculosis-exposed, HIV-1-positive but persistently TB, tuberculin and IGRA negative persons with M. tuberculosis specific antibodies in Cape Town, South Africa - **E Kroon - Stellenbosch University**15:55 - 16:10 Barrier Integrity & understanding HIV Susceptibility in the penis: A Mechanistic search for Medical Male Circumcision - **C Rametse - University of Cape Town**16:10 - 16:25 The Evolution of Craniofacial Biology at the Faculty of Dentistry, UWC - **M Chetty - University of the Western Cape**16:25 - 16:40 Unpacking the use of oral PrEP as part of the HIV prevention package in a clinical trial - **I Beesham - MatCH Research Unit****Day 2: FRIDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2021****SESSION 5: Infectious diseases. Microbiome and genetics**

Chair: Prof Jackson Marakalala

08:30 - 09:00 Keynote Speaker
Lessons learnt of COVID-19/other diseases
*Prof Slim Abdool Karim, CAPRISA*09:00 - 09:15 A note of support from the Discovery Foundation
Dr Maurice Goodman, Discovery Foundation Trustee09:15 - 10:15 Plenary discussion 2:
Translation of basic science to clinical practice and to public health policies (Covid-19: a case study):
Lessons learnt

Facilitator: Prof Jackson Marakalala:

1. Prof Marc Mendelson, **University of Cape Town**
2. Ms Glaudina Loots, **Department of Science and Technology**
3. Prof Koleka Mlisana, **University of KwaZulu Natal**
4. Prof Keertan Dheda, **University of Cape Town**

10:15
10:30 **TEA BREAK**

SESSION 6: Public and global health. New technologies/tools to combat disease

Chair: Thembi Chandiwana

- 10:30 - 10:50 Plenary speaker: Prof Flavia Senkubuge, University of Pretoria
- 10:50 - 11:10 Plenary speaker: Prof Sudesh Sivarasu, University of Cape Town
- 11:10 - 11:30 Plenary speaker: Prof Tahir Pillay, University of Pretoria
- 11:30 - 11:45 Using machine learning algorithms for automated segmentation of PET-CT lung scans - **S Malherbe - Stellenbosch University**
- 11:45 - 12:00 Prospective Validation Of A Host-Blood Tuberculosis Transcriptomic Signature In Adults With HIV - **S Mendelsohn - University of Cape Town**
- 12:00 - 12:15 Training South African clinician-scientists: Lessons from the University of Cape Town's intercalated programme - **K Dusterwald - Murraysburg Provincial Hospital**

12:15
12:45**LUNCH****SESSION 7: Infectious diseases. Microbiome and genetics** Chair: Dr Stuart More

- 12:45 - 13:05 Plenary speaker: Dr Veronica Ueckermann
- 13:05 - 13:25 Plenary speaker: Prof Graeme Meintjes (HIV associated TB)
- 13:25 - 13:40 The Genetic Aetiology of Orofacial Clefts in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa - **T Naicker - University of KwaZuluNatal**
- 13:40 - 13:55 Neutrophils as effector cells in resistance to infection by Mycobacterium tuberculosis in HIV-infected persons - **E Kroon - Stellenbosch University**
- 13:55 - 14:10 20E signalling as a promising target for the control of malaria vectors in South Africa - **E Ekoka - University of the Witwatersrand**
- 14:10 - 14:20 Investigating the effects of impermeant anions and electrodiffusion on the electrical and computational properties of neurons - **E Shorer - University of Cape Town**

14:20
14:50**TEA BREAK****SESSION 8: POSTER SESSION**

Chair: Dr Richard Chawana

- 14:50 - 14:53 Effects of the coronavirus pandemic on medical and surgical education: Results of an international survey by the International Association of Student Surgical Societies (IASSS) - **D Breedt - Stellenbosch University**
- 14:53 - 14:56 Geriatric trauma in an academic hospital in Cape Town, South Africa: Are we that different? - **D Breedt - Stellenbosch University**
- 14:56 - 14:59 Embracing the challenge of generating cancer database of good quality in South Africa - **N Somdyala - South African Medical Research Council**
- 14:59 - 15:02 Rare Disease Genomics in South Africa: The Undiagnosed Disease Programme - **S Moosa - Stellenbosch University**
- 15:02 - 15:05 Host-directed therapy in immune-mediated diseases: discovery of an immune-priming long non-coding RNA for Interleukin-6 - **I Devenish - University of Cape Town**
- 15:05 - 15:08 A CRISPRi-based Toolkit for Mechanism of Action Elucidation in Mycobacteria **T de Wet - University of Cape Town**

15:08
15:43**PRIZES & CLOSING**