



GLOPID-R AFRICA HUB LAUNCH HYBRID EVENT

SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL CONFERENCE CENTRE

Cape Town, South Africa (and online)
22-23 August 2023



WELCOME TO THE LAUNCH OF GLOPID-R AFRICA HUB



DEAR ESTEEMED DELEGATES,

On behalf of the organising committee, I am pleased to welcome you to the GloPID-R Africa Hub, a pivotal gathering of minds dedicated to advancing global health resilience. As we convene at the prestigious SAMRC Conference Centre, we embark on a journey of collaboration, innovation, and shared expertise that promises to shape the future of infectious disease preparedness and response.

In a world interconnected like never before, our collective commitment to safeguarding public health knows no boundaries. Over the next two days, we will delve into critical discussions, explore groundbreaking research, and forge lasting partnerships that transcend borders and disciplines. Together, we will lay the foundation for a stronger, more coordinated response to infectious disease outbreaks, ensuring the health and well-being of communities worldwide.

The SAMRC Conference Centre's state-of-the-art facilities and inspiring surroundings serve as the ideal backdrop for our endeavours. This is a space where ideas converge, knowledge is amplified, and solutions are born. Beyond the conference sessions, take a moment to savour the cultural richness and natural beauty that Cape Town has to offer – a city known for its resilience, diversity, and spirit of innovation.

As we embark on this remarkable journey, let us remember that our challenges are formidable, but so is our collective determination to overcome them. The GloPID-R Africa Hub is not just a meeting but a testament to our shared commitment to global health equity, collaboration, and progress.

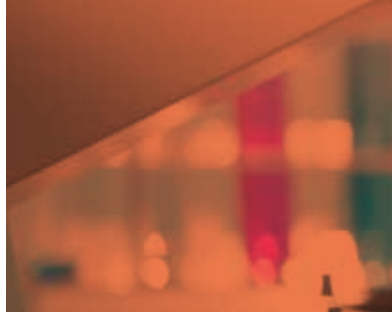
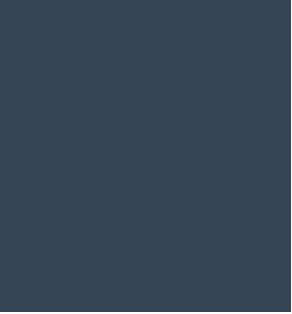
I look forward to personally welcoming you to the SAMRC Conference Centre and witnessing the transformative conversations that will shape the future of global health resilience. Together, we can and will make a difference.

Safe travels and see you soon!

Dr Duduzile Ndwandwe

Lead: GloPID-R Africa Hub Secretariat

Deputy Director: Cochrane South Africa



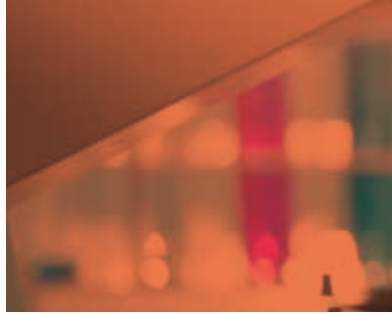
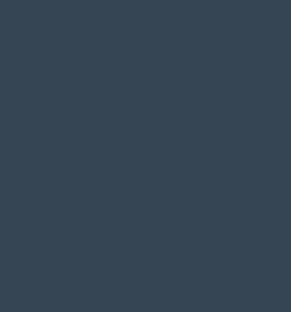
INTRODUCTION

There is an urgent need to facilitate leadership and coordination of pandemic preparedness and response in low- and middle- income countries (LMICs). Lessons learnt from such efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and outbreaks of other infectious diseases of epidemic and pandemic potential, such as Ebola virus disease, tuberculosis and human immunodeficiency virus, need to be consolidated and developed further, especially on the African continent. This is necessary to support the rapid and seamless deployment and utilisation of available resources for contextually relevant research endeavours should another novel pathogen emerge or a previous one re-emerges.

The Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R) is a global alliance of research funding organisations facilitating coordinated research on emerging infectious diseases with epidemic and pandemic potential. One of GloPID-R's core objectives is to identify gaps and align funding with research needs, especially in LMICs. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, GloPID-R, in conjunction with the research funding group UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR), facilitated cohesive COVID-19 research and supported the development of locally identified research priorities in LMICs. To further support this core objective, the Africa Hub secretariat will expand GloPID-R's strategic focus on research preparedness and response on the African continent. In addition, the secretariat will map the infectious disease research funding landscape and survey funders to increase regional engagement and membership. An Africa Hub launch meeting will be held to bring together regional partners, attract new members, and develop a shared agenda for identifying, supporting and undertaking contextually relevant research.

THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM AND ORGANISATION

The GloPID-R Africa Hub secretariat and the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), through its Cochrane South Africa (CSA) intramural unit, are hosting a two-day conference to launch the new hub on **22 – 23 August 2023, in Cape Town, South Africa**. The launch is bringing together about 100 key stakeholders, including longstanding and new GloPID-R members, current and prospective funders, and partner organisations from Africa and beyond. The program includes keynote presentations and group and guided discussions to identify priority research areas on the continent, strengthen existing research collaborative ties, and form new ones.



THE CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the conference is to establish the GloPID-R Africa Hub and its secretariat, and unite local stakeholders to evaluate how Africa has reacted to COVID-19, assess preparedness for pandemic research, encourage cooperation among donors, determine crucial research subjects, and investigate methods to enhance early warning and surveillance systems and Discuss approaches to lowering identified barriers to effective research on the continent (from research to policy to practice).

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Develop a clear understanding of GloPID-R's central purpose to ensure alignment with planned regional hub activities.
- Increase GloPID-R membership and engagement on the continent.
- Strengthen collaborative ties amongst researchers and funders on the continent.
- Establish a basic organisational structure and a jointly proposed memorandum of understanding ahead of terms of reference to be developed later. This refers to the Africa Hub, and not to the event.
- Glean delegates' perceptions on what has worked well and lessons learnt in managing previous epidemics and the COVID-19 pandemic, and obtain their feedback on the main barriers, research gaps, and future opportunities.

PROGRAMME

DAY 1: 22 August 2023 SAMRC Conference Centre

TIME	ITEM	
09:00 – 9:15	SITE REGISTRATION & TEA/COFFEE	DIAL-IN AND SOUND CHECK
09:15 – 9:30	<i>Dr Duduzile Ndwandwe (SAMRC)</i>	HOUSE RULES
	PLENARY SESSION 1 <i>Moderator: Prof Koleka Mlisana (NHLS)</i>	
09:30 – 10:00	WELCOMING AND OPENING	Prof Glenda Gray President and CEO, SAMRC
10:00 – 10:30	Overview of GloPID-R	Dr Barbara Kerstiens Co-Chair, GloPID-R
10:30 – 11:00	Epidemics and pandemics: Snapshots of the past, present and future for Africa	Dr Elvis Temfack Senior Research Officer, Africa CDC
11:00 – 11:30	3 rd Africa Health Research and Innovation Funders Forum	Prof Richard Gordon Director: International Business Development, SAMRC
11:30 – 12:15	DISCUSSION	PLENARY SESSION 1 Q&A
12:15 – 13:00	LUNCH	
	GloPID-R Working Groups <i>Moderator: Dr Emilia Antonio (GloPID-R)</i>	
13:00 – 13:20	Clinical trial networks	Dr Alice Norton Head: Research and Policy Team, GloPID-R
13:20 – 13:40	Data sharing	Dr Alice Norton Head: Research and Policy Team, GloPID-R
13:40 – 14:00	Coordinated funding	Dr Hans Hagen Director: Scientific and Advocacy, GloPID-R
14:00 – 14:20	Research in low- and middle-income countries	Prof Charles Wiysonge Regional Adviser, WHO
14:20 – 15:20	DISCUSSION	GloPID-R Working Groups Q&A
15:20 – 15:30	WRAP-UP AND CLOSING OF THE DAY	Dr Duduzile Ndwandwe SAMRC & GloPID-R Africa Hub Secretariat
15:30 – 16:30	GLOPID-R CLOSED MEETING	GloPID-R Central Secretariat and Africa Hub Secretariat



PROGRAMME

DAY 1: 22 August 2023 SAMRC Conference Centre

18:00 – 22:00	DINNER AND NETWORKING SESSION	Gold Restaurant: https://goldrestaurant.co.za/
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DAY 2: 23 August 2023 SAMRC Conference Centre

TIME	ITEM	
08:45 – 09:30	DIAL-IN AND SOUND CHECK	
	PLENARY SESSION 2 <i>Moderator: Prof Andre Kengne (SAMRC)</i>	
09:30 – 10:00	Covid-19 research for policy: Lessons learnt	Prof Salim S. Abdool Karim Director: CAPRISA/ Chair:UNAIDS Scientific Expert Panel
10:00 – 10:20	Overview of SAMRC as a research funding organisation	Dr Michelle Mulder Executive Director: Grants, Innovation and Product Development Unit, SAMRC
10:20 – 10:40	GloPID-R: The need for the Africa Hub	Prof Charles Wiysonge Regional Adviser, WHO
10:40 – 11:00	Overview of funders in Africa	Dr Emilia Antonio Research and Policy Officer, GloPID-R
11:00 – 11:40	DISCUSSION	PLENARY SESSION 2 Q&A
11:40 – 11:50	GROUP PHOTO	
11:50 – 12:05	COFFEE BREAK	

PROGRAMME

DAY 2: 23 August 2023 SAMRC Conference Centre

12:05 – 13:05	<p>BREAKAWAY SESSIONS <i>Moderated Q&A based on questions provided to the group to cover the objectives of the Africa Hub</i></p> <p>Group 1: Africa's response to national and regional epidemics with a particular focus on the COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p>Group 2: The state of pandemic preparedness on the continent</p> <p>Group 3: Identifying priority research areas on the continent and ways of addressing them</p> <p>Group 4: Strengthening early warning and surveillance systems</p> <p>Group 5: Identified barriers from research to policy to practice on the continent</p>	<p><i>Moderators</i></p> <p>Prof Bongani Nkambule (Academic Leader-Research, UKZN)</p> <p>Prof Moses Bockarie (Former Director, EDCTP)</p> <p>Dr Abdourahmane Sow (Director: Public Health, Institut Pasteur de Dakar)</p> <p>Dr Susan Nzenze (Public Health and Research Consultant, NICD)</p> <p>Prof Sara Cooper (Senior Scientist, Cochrane South Africa)</p>
13:05 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
14:00 – 14:50	<p>FEEDBACK FROM BREAK AWAY SESSION <i>10 Minutes of feedback per group with discussion</i></p>	Group 1 -5
14:50 – 15:30	GENERAL DISCUSSIONS	

PROGRAMME

DAY 2: 23 August 2023 SAMRC Conference Centre

15:30 – 16:00	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION Moderator: Prof Mark Engel (SAMRC) What will the GloPID-R Africa Hub look like? Suggested speakers to represent the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WHO Afro - Africa CDC - EDCTP - Science granting councils - GloPID-R - Research & Development /innovations 	<p>Dr Abdou Salam Gueye Regional Emergency Director, WHO</p> <p>Dr Elvis Temfack Senior Research Officer, Africa CDC</p> <p>Dr Thomas Nyirenda Strategic Partnerships and Capacity Development Manager, EDCTP</p> <p>Dr Puleng Tshitlho Project Manager, NRF</p> <p>Dr Hans Hagen Director: Scientific and Advocacy, GloPID-R</p> <p>Prof Collet Dandara Professor of Genetics, UCT</p>
16:00 – 16:15	View from Asia Pacific	<p>Prof Choong-Min Ryu Head: Infectious Disease Research Center, KRIBB</p>
16:15 – 16:30	GLOPID-R AFRICA HUB SECRETARIAT REPORT	<p>Dr Duduzile Ndwandwe Lead Secretariat, SAMRC and GloPID-R Africa Hub</p>
16:30 – 16:45	CONFERENCE CLOSING REMARKS	<p>Dr Mongezi Mdhluli Chief Research Operation Officer, SAMRC and Co-Chair, GloPID-R</p>
18:00 – 22:00	NETWORKING DINNER	<p>Bloemendal 360: https://bloemendalestate.co.za/home/360bloemendal/</p>



SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



PROF GLENDA GRAY

Prof Glenda Gray is the first female President and CEO of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC). She was the Chair of the Research Committee on COVID-19, bringing together scientific evidence and experience to the Minister of Health and the National Coronavirus Command Council. Gray spearheads the SAMRC funding broadly and for COVID-19. In her first five-year tenure at the helm of the SAMRC, the organisation experienced five consecutive clean audits, transformed grant funding initiatives that significantly improved funding for young scientists, black African scientists and women; and established key collaborations and partnerships that will significantly progress scientific research.

Gray studied medicine and paediatrics at Wits University where she remains a Full Professor: Research in the School of Clinical Medicine. A National Research Foundation A1-rated scientist, Gray is world-renowned for her research in HIV vaccines and interventions to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV. She co-founded and led, with James McIntyre, the globally eminent Perinatal HIV Research Unit at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto. For this work, she and McIntyre received the Nelson Mandela Health and Human Rights Award in 2002. She is co-Principal Investigator of the National Institutes of Health-funded HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) and directs the programme in Africa. Amongst many others, Gray's accolades include the Hero of Medicine Award from the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care, and the Outstanding Africa Scientist Award from the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership. Forbes named Gray one of Africa's 50 Most Powerful Women and TIME as one of the world's 100 Most Influential people. In 2013, she was awarded South Africa's highest honour, the Order of Mapungubwe. Her qualifications include MBBCh (Wits), FCPaeds (SA), DSc (honoris causa Simon Fraser University), DSc (honoris causa Stellenbosch University), and LLD (honoris causa Rhodes University).



PROF SALIM S. ABDOOL KARIM

Prof Salim S. Abdool Karim is a clinical infectious diseases epidemiologist widely acknowledged for his scientific contributions and leadership in AIDS and Covid-19. He is the Director of CAPRISA (Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa) and Professor of Global Health in Epidemiology at Columbia University. He is an Adjunct Professor at Cornell and Harvard Universities, Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Special Advisor on pandemics to the WHO Director-General. He is Vice-President of the International Science Council. He is a member of the WHO Science Council. He serves on the Boards of the New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet HIV and Lancet Global Health. He is a Member of the US National Academy of Medicine and Fellow of the Royal Society.



SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



DR MONGEZI MDHLULI

Dr Mongezi Mdhuli is the Chief Research Operation Officer (CROO) in the office of the SAMRC President. He is responsible for the research operations of the SAMRC, the Project Management Office, Research Operations (including laboratory operations) Ethics Committee and the Research Integrity Office and overseeing the efficient operations of the Insectary and PUDAC. Prior to the CROO position, Mongezi was employed in the SAMRC as a Scientist and then moved to head the supply Chain Management Division.



PROF CHARLES WIYSONGE

Prof Charles Wiysonge is the head of World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa as the Regional Adviser for Immunisation and Team Lead for the Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Programme. He served on GloPID-R LMIC working group as a chair and is a member of numerous national, continental, and global scientific and strategic advisory committees on vaccines and immunisation, clinical research, and evidence-based health care. In 2001, he started his relationship with the SAMRC when he was selected as the first recipient of a prestigious Public Health and Primary Care Scholarship. The scholarship enabled him to study systematic reviews and meta-analysis at Oxford University. He served for the SAMRC as a Senior Unit Director of both Cochrane and the HIV and other Infectious Diseases Research Unit.



DR HANS HAGEN

Dr Hans Hagen is a trained parasitologist and medical entomologist and obtained his PhD in 1992, conducting research on the transmission of onchocerciasis. This was followed by seven years of post-doctoral work in the UK, US, and Sweden, continuing his extensive field research in several countries across West and Central Africa. From 1999 to 2006, he worked as Scientific Programme Officer at the Wellcome Trust, mainly on international funding programmes, before moving to the Royal Society where he worked until 2015, initially as Senior Manager for International Grants and later as Head of Grants. During this time, he established several new programmes, mainly for capacity strengthening in sub-Saharan Africa, fundraising a total of about £24m. Following two years as COO of Cambridge University Health Partners until 2017, he moved to the Institut Pasteur in Paris to continue his career as Deputy Director of the former Center for Global Health. In early 2021, he started his current post as Scientific & Advocacy Director at the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R), initially based at the Fondation Mérieux in Lyon, but since January 2023 at Charité University Medicine in Berlin



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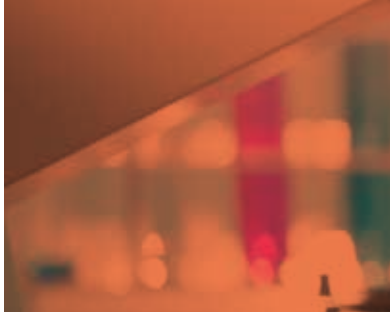
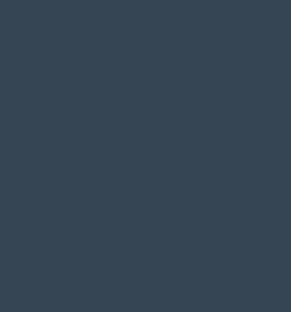
DR ALICE NORTON

Dr Alice Norton is a PSI Investigator and lead the Research and Policy team for the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R) undertaking research and policy development to support global research funders in their preparedness and response to infectious diseases. The team focusses on a range of research to inform policy and direct policy development and she has a particular interest in research prioritisation. She is also the PI for the Pandemic PACT programme and previous Head of the COVID-19 Research Coordination and Learning Initiative (COVID CIRCLE), tracking research funding and identifying research needs to inform action in collaboration with key stakeholders including global research funders, WHO, GAVI and CEPI. Her work is currently funded by Wellcome, IDRC (Canada), EDCTP and UKRI. She is a Course Advisor for the International Health and Tropical Medicine masters course- focussing on global health policy and evaluation and leadership and is on the admissions, management and organisation panels and groups. She sat on advisory boards for a range global health projects and has been a funding panellist and reviewer for several global funders and journals. She has over 20 year's experience in global health. She is an infectious disease epidemiologist by training, undertaking her PhD and Post- Doctoral Research Associate work at Imperial College London on Neglected Tropical Diseases. She worked as a Programme Manager for the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative in Tanzania, before joining the Wellcome Trust where she worked for nine years on global health funding, policy and developed a new global health insight and analysis function. She worked as an independent global health policy research consultant for two years before being appointed to the Head of COVID CIRCLE role at UKCDR to lead their research and policy work for the COVID-19 pandemic. She has also been involved in the IHTM Masters course for the past four years and joined GloPID-R in 2021.



PROF MOSES JOHN BOCKARIE

Prof Moses John Bockarie is Adjunct Professor at Njala University, Bo, Sierra Leone and honorary Professor in the University of Cape Town, South Africa. He was Director of International Cooperation (Africa) and Head of Africa Office of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) from July 2008 to April 2023. Prof. Bockarie, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, is a specialist in the field of neglected tropical diseases and an internationally experienced researcher. He has worked in many countries in Africa, Europe, and the Pacific region, and in the United States of America. He is the 2016 recipient of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Mackay Medal for outstanding work in tropical health. Professor Bockarie has served as Chair of the WHO/TDR Scientific Working Group for Vectors, Environment and Society and member of the WHO-AFRO Regional Programme Review Group for Neglected Tropical Diseases. He currently serves on WHO Regional Expert Advisory Committee on Traditional Medicine for COVID-19. He was Director of the Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases and Professor of Tropical Health Sciences at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), United Kingdom from 2008 to 2016. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Zoology from the University of Sierra Leone and a Masters and PhD



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in tropical health sciences from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Prof. Bockarie worked on various research programmes on malaria and other neglected diseases in Sierra Leone, before taking up an appointment at the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, becoming Principal Research Fellow in Medical Entomology and Head of the Vector Borne Disease Unit in 1996. In 2005 he joined the Centre for Global Health and Diseases, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Ohio, USA as Visiting Professor, where he continued his research on neglected diseases until his appointment in Liverpool in 2008.

PROF CHOONG-MIN RYU

Prof Choong-Min Ryu is the Head of Infectious Diseases Research Center, Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology (KRIBB), S. Korea. He is a member of the special government committee for infectious disease (COVID-19), S. Korea. He is the Specialty Chief Editor in *Frontiers in Microbiology* and editors in *ISME Communications*, *Plos One*, etc. He obtained his Ph.D. at Auburn University, USA.



DR SUSAN NZENZE

Dr Susan Nzenze is the Acting Head of the Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response and Head-Notifiable Medical Conditions at the NICD. She has closer to 15 years' experience in the field of public health and has worked on several surveillance studies, including post-vaccine introduction studies for Pneumococcal Conjugate and Rotavirus vaccines, TB/HIV studies and Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS) pilot. She qualified as a medical doctor at the University of Zimbabwe and has a master's in public health (specialising in Health Economics; awarded with distinction) and a PhD in Public Health from the University of the Witwatersrand. She holds tenure as an Associate Professor at the University of Zimbabwe. Important public health contributions include providing evidence for the indirect effect of pneumococcal childhood immunisation in South Africa. Dr Nzenze has over 35 publications in local and international peer-reviewed journals and has presented her work at local and international conferences. She has received PRF funding for three consecutive years. She is currently enrolled in cohort 6 in the International Program in Public Health Leadership and is a trainer in the Data2Policy initiative. Her research interest includes communicable and non-communicable disease surveillance and prevention, the use of digital tools in health care, data for decision-making, and cost-effective and cost-effective interventions.



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PROF KOLEKA MLISANA

Prof Koleka Mlisana is the Associate Professor and Head of both the Medical Microbiology Department at the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN) and National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS) based at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital. She served as the Project Director of the tenofovir gel trial in eThekweni under the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), as well as the Head of HIV Pathogenesis and Vaccine Research Programme (also under CAPRISA). Her research interests now include TB diagnostics, drug resistance as well as sexually transmitted infections. Prof Mlisana has been a member of the Board of the South African Medical Research Council and currently sits on the National Advisory Group on Immunisation (NAGI).



DR THOMAS NYIRENDA

Dr Thomas Nyirenda is Strategic Partnerships & Capacity Development Manager and Head of Africa Office of the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnerships (EDCTP). He is a public health physician and research scientist with 28 years' experience of working in sub-Saharan Africa in areas of Clinical Medicine, Public Health and Clinical Research.

He trained in Medicine at University of St Andrews (Scotland), St Mary's Hospital (London) and Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS) in Malawi. He did his Public Health training at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). Before joining EDCTP in 2004 he held positions at Ministry of Health in Malawi, World Health Organisation (WHO) Stop TB Department in Geneva, and WHO Country Office in Malawi. His role in academia has included course moderation at University of Witwatersrand (South Africa), and teaching at the Department of Global Health of University of Stellenbosch (South Africa). He is also chairperson for the Science for Africa Foundation Advisory Board on Clinical Trials Capacity Data Base programme (CTC), and represents EDCTP (in both official and personal capacity) on several other committees such as the AUDA-NEPAD AMRH working groups, African CDC Science Task Force on COVID-19, Global COVID-19 Coalition, TB Vaccine Initiative (TBVI), WHO Advisory Group on Clinical Trials Coordination and Strengthening, GloPID-R Africa Hub Advisory Group, MRCT- Subject Matter Expert (SME) Group for ICH E8 training, and the Advisory Group of Global Health Trials Network of University of Oxford. He has published widely in the areas of infectious diseases clinical and operations research and is Chief Editor of an online newsletter – Malawi Health Weekly (www.malawihealthweekly.com). More about him can be found on the following links: [linkedin.com/in/thomas-nyirenda-89600b14/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomas-nyirenda-89600b14/); www.researchgate.net/profile/Thomas-Nyirenda-2/; www.edctp.org/about-us/edctp-secretariat/dr-thomas-nyirenda/



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DR EMILIA ANTONIO

Dr Emilia Antonio is a part-time Research and Policy Officer with the GloPID-R Research & Policy Team at the University of Oxford, working on the Pandemic PACT Programme. She previously supported with work on GloPID-R's low- and middle-income country (LMIC) working group and the GloPID-R regional hubs. Emilia trained and worked as a medical doctor in Ghana and graduated from the MSc programme in International Health and Tropical Medicine at the University of Oxford in 2020. She has worked as freelance Research and Policy Assistant with the COVID-19 Research Coordination and Learning (COVID CIRCLE) initiative. She is currently enrolled on the PhD programme in Clinical Medicine at the University of Oxford. Her research interests are in exploring the use of systems approaches in the assessment of research funding processes during disease outbreaks. E-mail: emilia.antonio@ndm.ox.ac.uk



ASS. PROF SARA COOPER

Prof Sara Cooper is a Senior Scientist at Cochrane South Africa, Associate Professor Extraordinary in the Department of Global Health at Stellenbosch University and Honorary Research Associate in the Division of Social & Behavioural Sciences at the University of Cape Town. She has an academic background in Psychology and History and a PhD in Medical Sociology. Her research seeks to bridge critical social science theory and methodologies with public health, most recently focusing on issues of vaccination, use of qualitative evidence in policy- and decision-making and qualitative evidence synthesis methodology.



PROF BONGANI NKAMBULE

Prof Bongani Nkambule was born in Ermelo, Mpumalanga, South Africa. He obtained his PhD in Hematological Pathology in 2015 (Stellenbosch University, South Africa) and is a Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) registered Medical Biological Scientist in the discipline of Hematology. Prof Bongani Nkambule is currently an Associate Professor and Academic Leader of Research in the school of Laboratory Medicine and Medical Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Durban, South Africa. He has received several prestigious fellowships during his tenure, including the University of KwaZulu-Natal Fogarty international Center (FIC)- funded Developing Research, Innovation, Localization and Leadership in South Africa (DRILL) fellowship (2016-2021) and the most recently completed a 2-year National Institutes of Health (NIH) Senior Research Fellowship (2021-2023) at the world's leading Laboratory of Hemostasis and Platelet Biology, National Institutes of Health/National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the Framingham Heart Study, USA. Prof Bongani Nkambule has been appointed as a council member on the American heart Association (AHA) ATVB & Lifestyle Clinical Lipidology, Lipoprotein, Metabolism & Thrombosis Committee of the council on Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology.



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Professor Bongani Nkambule has over 90 peer-reviewed publications and has received several research awards including the 2019 School of Laboratory Medicine and Medical Sciences Top performing Senior Lecturer award (Research Productivity) and the 2021 University of KwaZulu-Natal Top 10 Young Researcher Award. Prof Bongani Nkambule has graduated seven Doctoral students and 10 Masters students in the past 5 years (2017-2023). He is currently the Main supervisor of 11 postgraduate students (five doctoral candidates and six Masters students). Prof Bongani Nkambule is also Principal Investigator on several multi-disciplinary projects with several research grants worth over R3 Million. His primary research focus is on immunohematology, platelet function and immune thrombosis in infectious disease and malignancies.

DR MICHELLE MULDER



Dr Michelle Mulder is the Executive Director of the Grants, Innovation and Product Development Unit (GIPD) at the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC). Michelle strategically manages Research & Development (R&D) funding, including SAMRC grant mechanisms and strategic funding partnerships, to enable the SAMRC to fund and support cutting edge research that impacts on the lives of South Africans. This role also focuses on supporting and driving innovation, both within the SAMRC and with external innovation projects aimed at developing new health solutions.

Dr Mulder holds a doctorate in Medical Microbiology from the University of Cape Town and has post-doctoral experience in a start-up biotechnology company emanating from the University of Cambridge (UK). She has previously spent 10 years consulting on technology innovation through her own company and has been involved for the last 17 years in the strategic management and commercialization of the SAMRC's intellectual property and in capacity building in these areas in southern and east Africa.

She has also spent the last 9 years managing grant funding for the SAMRC. She has headed the Technology Transfer Office, the Global Health Innovation Accelerator and the GIPD HIV Programme, and provided oversight of various other grant programs and strategic projects for GIPD. She has also been extensively involved in the SAMRC's funding response to COVID-19.

Dr Mulder was a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern African Research & Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) for 10 years, including 3 years as Vice President: Innovation and Technology Transfer, and 2 years as President. She served previously as Chair of the Board of Acorn Technologies, a life sciences incubator, a Director of the Licensing Executive's Society South Africa, the South Africa Liaison for the Life Sciences Committee of LESI, a member of the Higher Education South Africa (HESA) Strategy Group for Innovation and Technology Transfer and a board member of the Biologicals and Vaccines Institute of SA (Biovac). She currently serves as a board member for two SAMRC linked companies and is a member of the NHLS Research and Innovation Committee.



SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



PROF RICHARD GORDON

Prof Richard Gordon is currently the Director of International Business Development at the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC). Previously, he was the Executive Director of the Grants, Innovation and Product Development groups at the SAMRC which oversaw the majority of the international partnerships which were seeking to develop new drugs vaccines and medical devices for diseases of Africa.

Richard has held a number of international positions specializing in establishing innovation based international research partnerships with funders, international partners and the private sector. Most recently, these included the Ministerial Advisory Committee for Anti-Microbial, Director of the Technology Innovation Agency API cluster program seeking to develop a drug API manufacturing Industry in South Africa as well as the South African representative on the EU led Joint Program for Anti-Microbial Research consisting of 29 countries.

Richard is now heavily involved in building capacity in Africa and is working with partners seeking to expand in Africa. These include, Afrigen and the mRNA Hub program, The Chan Soon-Shiong Family Foundation SAMRC Capacity development program and the African Health Research and Innovation Funders Forum. He has a particular passion for Climate and Health.

Richard completed his PhD at the University of Cape Town and his post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Cambridge.



PROF MARK ENGEL

Prof Mark Engel is based in the SA Cochrane Centre as a Chief Specialist Scientist. Initially a medical laboratory scientist, he was later a Harvard University fellow in Public Health in 2001, before pursuing a career in epidemiology. Following his completion of an MPH, he was awarded his PhD in 2013 for a large longitudinal study on the epidemiology of RHD in Cape Town children.

Prof Mark Engel networks with African colleagues to apply a wide range of investigative approaches, from molecular to population-based research to all aspects of Rheumatic Heart Disease. In 2016, he established the AFROStrep Study, in efforts to improve the understanding of the role of group A streptococcus in RHD development and inform putative vaccines under development. His work, supported over the years by the SA National Research Foundation, the SA Medical Research Council, the American Heart Association and NIH in the USA, has been presented both nationally and internationally. Recently, Mark managed the RHDGen Study, an Africa-wide initiative to investigate molecular aspects of RHD, reporting novel insights in susceptibility genes and proteomic profiles in RHD. Mark also teaches health research methods while supervising postgraduate students. He is a member of the African Union/PASCAR Education Taskforce and the Burden of Disease Working Group of the Strep A Vaccine Global Consortium (SAVAC).



SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



DR ELVIS TEMFACK

Dr Elvis Temfack joined Africa CDC in May 2021 as a Senior Research Officer within the Division of Public Health Institutes and Research, based in Ethiopia. He has over 15 years of experience in clinical research and clinical case management and is currently a member of the Africa CDC COVID-19 clinical case management technical working group. Prior to joining Africa CDC, he worked with Epicentre in Paris, a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Research in Epidemiology and Response to Emerging Diseases, working in Malawi for three years as a field principal investigator, generating relevant clinical evidence to support Malawian Ministry of Health change of policy for HIV first-line treatment from Efavirenz to Dolutegravir-based therapy. He is a member of the European Society of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID), the International Society of Human and Animal Mycology (ISHAM) and a contributor to the Mycology One World One Guideline working group, an initiative of the European Confederation of Medical Mycologist (ECMM), ISHAM and American Society of Microbiology initiative (ASM). He has co-authored many peer-reviewed publications in high readership international journals and is an associate editor in some international journals. He is also a member of many collaborative working groups, especially those addressing research in human health.



PROF COLLET DANDARA

Prof Collet Dandara is currently serving as Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Health Sciences, at the University of Cape Town. He is a Professor of Genetics at the University of Cape Town, a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), a Fellow, Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). He holds full membership of the Institute of Infectious Diseases and molecular medicine (IDM). He is the Principal Investigator (PI) in the "Pharmacogenomics and Drug Metabolism Research Group", he is the Director of the South Africa Medical Research Council (SAMRC) "Platform for Pharmacogenomics Research and Translation". He has extensive experience in pharmacogenomics research on infectious and cardiovascular diseases in African populations. Is one of the leading experts in pharmacogenomics on the African continent with an international standing in the field. He was an inaugural committee member of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Young Affiliate/Alumni (TYAN) Executive Committee (2016-2021). He has a track record of successful supervision to graduation of postgraduate students, with over 60 students graduated (>30 Honours, about 20 MSc and >10 PhD). His research group regularly hosts postdoctoral Research Fellows. He was a Finalist in the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) of South Africa in 2014, in the category of Human Capacity development. He is widely published with >160 publications in international peer-reviewed journals with an H-index of 37. He is a former Board Member of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC). He is a member of the African Society for Human Genetics (AfSHG) Executive, and a founding member of the African Pharmacogenomics Network (APN). He is an outgoing Chair of the Southern African Society for Human Genetics (SASHG). Collet has huge passion for dissemination of knowledge, mentorship of emerging academics/colleagues, and career guidance to high school learners.

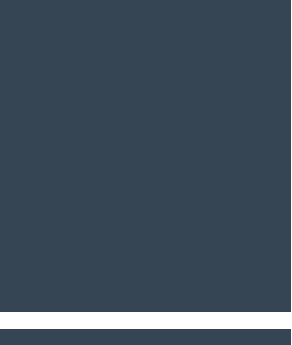


SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



PROF ANDRE PASCAL KENGNE

Prof Andre Pascal Kengne earned his MD degree from the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon. He did his residency training in internal medicine at the Yaounde University Teaching Hospital. In 2009, he obtained a PhD in Medicine from the University of Sydney, Australia, the major focus of which was cardiovascular epidemiology and prevention. Prof Kengne is a Fellow of the International Society of Hypertension, The George Institute for Global Health, Australia, The Julius Center for Health Science and Primary Care (Netherlands); member of the American Society of Hypertension, High blood pressure Council of Australia and many other local/regional societies. He is on the editorial board of the Cardiovascular Journal of Africa and Pan-African Medical Journal and serves as reviewer for several additional medical journals. He has authored numerous articles and book chapters in the areas of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and chronic diseases, and clinical decision making, and has lectured in Cameroon and abroad on these topics. He has been involved in many research projects in Cameroon, Europe and in Australia, including the ADVANCE trial and the Asia Pacific Cohort Studies Collaboration. He joins the MRC South Africa after five consecutive years at the George Institute for Global Health in Sydney, and a brief collaborative visit of six months at the Julius Centre for Health Science and Primary Care in Utrecht.



NETWORKING AND DINNER

GOLD RESTAURANT

<https://goldrestaurant.co.za/>

Welcome to Gold Restaurant, a captivating culinary and cultural destination nestled in the heart of Cape Town, South Africa. With its rich fusion of flavours, vibrant atmosphere, and immersive experience, Gold Restaurant offers an enchanting journey into the diverse tapestry of African cuisine, music, and traditions.

Located against the iconic Table Mountain backdrop, Gold Restaurant is a treasure trove of sensory delights, inviting you to embark on a gastronomic expedition that celebrates the continent's rich heritage. As you enter its doors, you'll be transported to a world where history, art, and flavour intertwine to create an unforgettable evening.



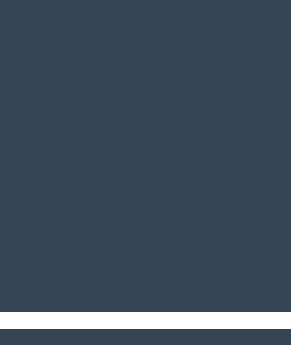
Gold Restaurant's menu is a testament to Africa's vast culinary diversity, featuring dishes inspired by various regions, cultures, and influences. From Moroccan tagines to Cape Malay curries, each plate tells a story of ancestral techniques and contemporary creativity.

Whether you're a food enthusiast, a connoisseur of flavours, or simply curious about new tastes, Gold Restaurant promises an unparalleled dining experience that will tantalise your taste buds and broaden your culinary horizons.

But Gold Restaurant is more than just a place to enjoy delectable dishes; it's a living tribute to Africa's traditions and a celebration of its people. Throughout your visit, you'll be serenaded by the soulful rhythms of live African music, creating an ambience that resonates with the heartbeat of the continent. Dancers adorned in traditional attire will gracefully perform captivating routines, immersing you in the cultural richness of Gold Restaurant.

Whether you're seeking a romantic evening, a memorable family gathering, or a unique cultural adventure, Gold Restaurant promises an immersive experience beyond the plate. Come savour and explore the flavours, sounds, and stories that make Africa extraordinary. Your journey awaits at Gold Restaurant, where every meal is a voyage into the heart of the continent's vibrant spirit.





NETWORKING AND DINNER

BLOEMENDAL 360

<https://bloemendalestate.co.za/home/360bloemendal/>

Welcome to Bloemendal 360, an enchanting destination with a panoramic view of beauty, relaxation, and indulgence. Situated in a serene and picturesque setting, Bloemendal 360 is your gateway to a world of elevated experiences where nature's splendour meets modern comfort.

Nestled amidst rolling hills and lush vineyards, Bloemendal 360 is a haven of tranquility in the heart of the Cape Winelands, South Africa. Our boutique estate invites you to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and immerse yourself in a world where luxury and natural wonder coexist in perfect harmony.



From the moment you arrive, you'll be greeted by breathtaking vistas that stretch as far as the eye can see. Whether lounging by our infinity pool, strolling through our meticulously manicured gardens, or sipping on our finest wines in the shade of ancient oak trees, every corner of Bloemendal 360 offers a visual feast that will leave you awestruck.

Indulge your palate with exquisite culinary creations that showcase the finest local ingredients and international flair. Our world-class chefs curate a dining experience as unforgettable as the landscape. Whether you're savouring a gourmet meal in our elegant restaurant or enjoying a casual picnic under the open sky, each bite celebrates flavors designed to tantalise your taste buds.

At Bloemendal 360, relaxation and rejuvenation are paramount. Unwind in our luxurious spa, where skilled therapists will pamper you with a range of treatments inspired by ancient wellness traditions. Let the stresses of the world melt away as you bask in the serenity of our wellness sanctuary.

From intimate weddings and special occasions to corporate events and unforgettable getaways, Bloemendal 360 provides a versatile backdrop for any celebration. Our dedicated team ensures that every detail is meticulously attended to, creating seamless and memorable experiences that exceed your expectations.

Whether you're seeking a romantic escape, a family retreat, or a venue for your next event, Bloemendal 360 promises a multi-sensory journey that delights, rejuvenates, and captivates. Come, explore, and be enchanted by the extraordinary beauty and hospitality of Bloemendal 360 – where every moment is a cherished memory waiting to be created.



ACCOMMODATION

CENTURY CITY HOTELS

Cape Town, South Africa:
<https://www.cchotels.co.za/>

Welcome to Century City Hotels, your gateway to a world of modern elegance, impeccable hospitality, and unparalleled convenience in the heart of Cape Town, South Africa. Situated amidst the dynamic urban landscape of Century City, our hotels offer a harmonious blend of luxury and accessibility, making them the perfect choice for leisure and business travelers. Our collection of hotels is designed to cater to your every need, ensuring a comfortable and memorable stay. Each room and suite is thoughtfully appointed with contemporary furnishings, offering a tranquil retreat after a day of exploration or work. Whether you're gazing out at the stunning cityscape or unwinding in plush comfort, our accommodations provide a haven of relaxation.



At Century City Hotels, we pride ourselves on providing a range of exceptional amenities to enhance your stay:

- **Dining Excellence:** Indulge your palate at our exquisite restaurants, where culinary delights crafted by skilled chefs await. From delectable local cuisine to international flavours, each dish is a masterpiece designed to satisfy even the most discerning taste buds.
- **Wellness and Fitness:** Recharge and rejuvenate in our state-of-the-art wellness centres and fitness facilities. Whether you prefer a vigorous workout or a soothing spa treatment, our dedicated spaces are designed to cater to your holistic well-being.
- **Business and Events:** Century City Hotels offers a comprehensive range of meeting and event spaces equipped with cutting-edge technology for our corporate guests. Whether you're hosting a conference, seminar, or private gathering, our venues ensure your events are successful and seamless.
- **Shopping and Entertainment:** Outside the hotel, discover a vibrant neighbourhood brimming with shopping, entertainment, and leisure options. Explore the Canal Walk Shopping Centre, a premier retail destination offering an array of shops, theatres, and attractions just moments away from your doorstep.
- **Connectivity and Accessibility:** With easy access to major highways and public transportation, Century City Hotels provide the perfect starting point for exploring Cape Town's iconic landmarks, including Table Mountain, Robben Island, and the bustling V&A Waterfront.
- **Sustainability and Service:** We are committed to environmental responsibility and sustainable practices, ensuring that your stay contributes to a greener future. Our attentive and dedicated staff is always on hand to ensure your needs are met with warmth and efficiency.

Whether you're seeking a weekend escape, a memorable family vacation, or a productive business trip, Century City Hotels offer a world of luxury, comfort, and convenience. Join us in experiencing the epitome of modern hospitality in the captivating city of Cape Town.

SURVEY



CONTACT DETAILS