



8 October 2026
Sanlam Auditorium

23RD SYMPOSIUM ON DISEASES RELEVANT TO SOUTH AFRICA

Thursday, 8 October 2026

07h30-08h00	Registration, Coffee and tea	
08h00-08h10	Opening : Prof De Wet Wolmarans	
08h10-08h15	SESSION 1, Chair: Mr Nico Scheepers	
08h15-08h45	Pharmacists of the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District	<i>Working as a pharmacist for the Department of Health</i>
08h45-09h15	Dr Oburota U Onwuagbu	<i>Contraception</i>
09h15-09h45	Dr S'bongile Nkhahle	<i>Differential diagnosis of ADHD and it's management</i>
09h45-10h15	Ms Berna Kruger	<i>From Prescription to Persistence: Improving Adherence in chronic patients</i>
10h15-10h30	Q&A / Round table discussion	
10h30-11h00	Body Break / Coffee & Tea	
11h00	SESSION 2: NWU Centre for Human Metabolomics, Chair: Prof Ilse du Preez	
11h00-11h15	Dr Candidah Nephawe	<i>Gaucher bone disease: where diagnosis stalls, drug development struggles, and better models are needed</i>
11h15-11h30	Mr Jaco Visagie	<i>From Blood to Bone: Building the Model You Need</i>
11h30-11h45	Dr Albe Swanepoel	<i>CRACKING THE RARE DISEASE CODE How a Biobank, Big Data & Curious Scientists Are Solving Medical Mysteries</i>
11h45-12h00	Prof Ilse du Preez	<i>When Technology Meets Rare Disease: What Does It Take to Make a Diagnosis?</i>
12h00-12h15	Dr Lungani Mthembu	<i>From Nanostars to Point-of-Care Diagnostics: Nanotechnology-Enabled Colourimetric Biosensing for Rare Diseases</i>
12h15-12h25	Q&A session	



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12h25-12h45	Dr OL Tshenkeng	<i>Paediatric Gastroenteritis</i>
12h45-12h50	Q&A session	
12h50-13h30	LUNCH BREAK	
13h30	SESSION 3: APPLIED HEALTH-SCIENCES, Chair: Prof Anja Franken	
13h30-14h00	Dr Engela le Roux	<i>More Than Just Low Hb: The Hidden Impact of Iron Deficiency</i>
14h00-14h05	Q&A session	
14h05-14h35	Dr Cynthia Ramotsehoa	<i>Skin disorders caused by sun exposure in people with darker skin types.</i>
14h35-14h40	Q&A session	
14h40-15h00	Prof Martani Lombard	<i>Breastmilk substituted</i>
15h00-15h05	Q&A session	
15h05-16h25	Ms Misha Coutts	<i>Diabetes wearable devices</i>
16h25-16h30	Q&A session	
16h30-17h00	Dr Stephen Robert Selepe	<i>Digital health optimizing the pharmacist's chronic disease management.</i>
17h00-17h05	Q&A session	
17h15	Closing: Prof Jan Steenekamp	