RURAL HEALTH & FAMILY PHYSICIANS JOINT CONGRESS 2026

United in Health, Connected by Care: Building Strong Primary Care Teams for Sustainable Health Care

Revised Scientific Programme: Draft 1.0 for Consideration

13–15 August 2026 | Accolades Conference Venue, Midrand, Gauteng

SAAFP|RuDASA|PACASA|RuReSA|RuNurSA

Prepared by the Chair, Scientific Committee: Prof. N.M.G. Mofolo, with Co-Chairs Ms D. Goeieman and Ms N. Reis. Subject to endorsement by the Scientific Committee and the Joint Congress Organising Committee, and to confirmation of speaker and presenter availability.

Track and Venue Architecture

The scientific programme is organised into five tracks aligned with the Congress sub-themes, each anchored to a fixed venue throughout the Congress: Track 1, Health Systems, Policy and Climate-Resilient Care (Arches Hall, which also serves as the main plenary venue); Track 2, Artificial Intelligence, Technology and Digital Health (Chestnut Room); Track 3, Clinical Practice and Preventative Care (Terrace); Track 4, Multidisciplinary Practice and Community-Oriented Primary Care (Ivory Hall); and Track 5, Narrative, Education and ePosters, incorporating the SFPP stream on Day 2 (Amber Room). Every oral paper is allocated a minimum of fifteen minutes, comprising a ten-minute presentation and five minutes of chaired discussion.

Day 1: Thursday, 13 August 2026

Opening Day: Ceremony, National Address and the Scientific Core

Time	Arches Hall (Main Plenary) — Track 1: Health Systems, Policy and Climate-Resilient Care	Chestnut Room — Track 2: Artificial Intelligence, Technology and Digital Health	Terrace — Track 3: Clinical Practice and Preventative Care	Ivory Hall — Track 4: Multidisciplinary Practice and Community-Oriented Primary Care	Amber Room — Track 5: Narrative, ePosters / SFPP Stream
07h30–08h30	Conference registration, CPD registration and open exhibition. Tea and coffee [Tent on the Greens]				
08h30–09h30	**Official Opening and Welcome — Joint Ceremony** Opening, welcome and introduction by the five founding organisations (SAAFP, RuDASA, PACASA, RuReSA and RuNurSA). Each organisation opens with a motivational reflection, vision or thought.				
09h30–10h10	**Keynote Address — RuDASA (30-minute address; 10-minute discussion)** Dr James van Duuren: Expanding the circle of responsibility — Bridging PHC, data and advocacy. Chair: Madeleine Muller				
10h10–10h50	**Keynote Address — RuNurSA (30-minute address; 10-minute discussion)** Ms Dinah Malekutu: Rural primary health care and the multidisciplinary team. Chair: Thabisa Mbuwako				
10h50–11h20	Tea break and exhibition [Tent on the Greens]				
11h20–12h20	**Workshop** Chair: Jenny Nash **W016 — Simon le Roux.** Defining Context-Appropriate Surgical Services for District Hospitals: A Participatory Workshop on Rural Surgical Systems Strengthening in South Africa.	**Workshop** Chair: Ozo Ibeziako **W003 — Mergan Naidoo.** [Ethics] Enhancing MCQ Construction and Examination Blueprinting in Family Medicine Using Generative AI.	**Workshop** Chair: Aviwe Mgobozi **W005 — Angela Hartwig.** Are you up to date on the new STGs? Rivaroxaban, rosuvastatin, levetiracetam and more.	**Workshop** Chair: Vuyelwa Radebe **W017 — Zanele Bosch.** Myalgic Encephalomyelitis and Long COVID: A Clinical Approach and Multidisciplinary Support Model for Resource-Constrained Settings.	**ePoster Session 1** Assessor: Hanneke Brits Chair: Mxolisi Xulu **S. Moodley.** Awareness of cervical cancer and cervical smear screening

Time	Arches Hall (Main Plenary) — Track 1: Health Systems, Policy and Climate-Resilient Care	Chestnut Room — Track 2: Artificial Intelligence, Technology and Digital Health	Terrace — Track 3: Clinical Practice and Preventative Care	Ivory Hall — Track 4: Multidisciplinary Practice and Community-Oriented Primary Care	Amber Room — Track 5: Narrative, ePosters / SFPP Stream
					among HIV-positive women, Hillbrow CHC. **T. Motsohi.** Knowledge, attitudes and practices of adult women in Witzenberg regarding long-acting reversible contraception. **L. Lenabe.** Integrated HIV, Hepatitis B and C screening among people who use drugs in community settings. **T. Motsohi.** Knowledge, perceptions and responses to danger signs in pregnancy, West Coast District. **J. Michell.** Delivery outcomes after previous Caesarean delivery at Zithulele Hospital. **V. Ramaphoko.** Evaluation of IMCI implementation at Esangweni CHC, Tembisa. **M. Saroka.** Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy at Kgapane Hospital, Limpopo. **I. Harbaoui.** Knowledge, attitudes and practice of family medicine practitioners regarding POCUS in South Africa. **C. Egenasi.** More than chest pain: a case of oesophageal foreign body ingestion.
12h20–13h00	**Oral Session 1 — Track 1** Assessor: Angela Hartwig Assessor: Olindah Silaule Chair: Jenny Nash **S. Comley.** Influencing factors of medical doctors' intentions to work in rural health facilities in the Eastern Cape. **R. Ortel.** From registrar to manager: a reflective analysis of leadership transition in a complex district hospital system. **K.T. Suthiram.** National implementation of Entrustable Professional Activities in	**Oral Session 1 — Track 2** Assessor: Mergan Naidoo Assessor: Tasleem Ras Chair: Tesha Pillay **W. Mapham.** Improving access to specialist services in rural areas. **N.S. Thomson.** A patient-consent-driven health information exchange. **N. Mofolo.** Mapping inequity: AI-assisted geospatial analysis of 293 clinical training platforms at the University of Pretoria.	**Oral Session 1 — Track 3** Assessor: Daniela Goeieman Assessor: Olga Maphasha Chair: Aviwe Mgobozi **C. Egenasi.** Knowledge, attitudes and practices on diabetic foot care among nurses in Kimberley. **U. Rauter.** Developing a model for pressure ulcer prevention among learners with paraplegia in a special school. **M. Heystek.** Demographic and laboratory features of pregnant women with anaemia referred to a district hospital in Tshwane.	**Oral Session 1 — Track 4** Assessor: Deidre Pretorius Assessor: Ntokozo Zulu Chair: Undine Rauter **A. Antony.** Undiagnosed HIV and syphilis and associated characteristics of people who use drugs in Tshwane. **A. Asghar.** Preparing final-year medical students to support emergency obstetric care in rural district hospitals: an ESMOE module in a longitudinal integrated clerkship. **J. Moolman.** A consensus-based framework for minor surgical services at	**Oral Session 1 — Track 5 (Narrative / On the Ground)** Assessor: Sihle Mlambo Assessor: Madeleine Muller Chair: Mxolisi Xulu **T. Jwara.** Climate change and water insecurity: emerging health burdens and rural health risks in South Africa. **R. Maboee.** Mapping barriers and facilitators to integrating traditional health practitioners into rural primary health care for NCD management. **L. Siwisa.** What we owe each other: transforming student perspectives of rural healthcare responsibility.

Time	Arches Hall (Main Plenary) — Track 1: Health Systems, Policy and Climate-Resilient Care	Chestnut Room — Track 2: Artificial Intelligence, Technology and Digital Health	Terrace — Track 3: Clinical Practice and Preventative Care	Ivory Hall — Track 4: Multidisciplinary Practice and Community-Oriented Primary Care	Amber Room — Track 5: Narrative, ePosters / SFPP Stream
	South African family medicine postgraduate training.			primary care level: a modified Delphi study.	
13h00–14h00	Lunch, exhibition and late registration [Tent on the Greens] **Chair:** **Russel Rensburg. A New Approach: Putting the district at the centre of healthcare** RHAP Sponsored Lunch Symposium [Chestnut Hall — 150 delegates]. **Chair: Thabisa Mbuwako**				
14h10–15h30	**Oral Session 2 — Track 1** Assessor: Richard Cooke Assessor: Chris Visser Chair: Asafika Mbangata **B. Mash.** Evaluation of the family medicine intern rotation in South Africa: cross-sectional survey. **A. Amodu.** Why is there violence in our workplace? Perceptions of primary health care workers and managers in Gauteng. **N. Mofolo.** Glocalizing AfriMEDS: an AIHS integration framework for epistemic transformation in South African medical education. **S. Parker.** Learning to cut: an ethnographic exploration of medical officers learning to operate as surgeons at a township district hospital **K. von Pressentin.** Learning Circles as catalysts for multidisciplinary, community-oriented primary care within a district Learning Health System, Western Cape.	**Oral Session 2 — Track 2 (Point-of-Care Technologies)** Assessor: Mergan Naidoo Assessor: Tasleem Ras Chair: Murray Louw **J. Porter.** Evaluating a longitudinal point-of-care ultrasound mentorship programme in a rural South African district hospital. **M. Habimana.** Decentralising diagnostic care: point-of-care ultrasound by clinical associates to strengthen rural primary healthcare systems. **M. de Wit.** West Coast Hopscotch: more than a motor skills intervention programme. **A. Fourie.** Regional anaesthesia in the emergency centre: knowledge, attitudes and practices of doctors in the Western Cape. **O. van Hecke.** Balancing the risks of rheumatic heart disease and antimicrobial resistance in South Africa .	**Oral Session 2 — Track 3** Assessor: Daniela Goeieman Assessor: Olga Maphasha Chair: Vuyelwa Radebe **E. de Vries.** Rapid review of gender-affirming healthcare for children and adolescents: evidence synthesis (2021–2025) and recommendations for South Africa. **D. Nzaumvila.** Risk factors associated with the use of, and dependency on, nyaope in the Tshwane district: a case-control study. **K.D. Dele-Ijagbulu.** Quality of life and determinants of chronic pain among patients attending a primary healthcare clinic in Gqeberha. **R. Kleintjies.** See the child, not the waiting list: 24-hour postural care and inclusion. **R. Ortel.** Is the health system's ideology congruent with the health-seeking behaviour and health literacy of the general population? Reflective practice using TikTok Live health talks.	**Oral Session 2 — Track 4** Assessor: Ts'epo Motsohi Assessor: Undine Rauter Chair: Tesha Pillay **O. Eales.** A conducive clinical learning environment in primary care as a wicked problem: a scoping review. **L. Profit.** Applying a community change process to achieve sustainable community health change in Saldanha Bay Sub-district. **O. Silaule.** Strengthening equitable rural mental health care through health and community partnerships to support informal caregivers. **M. de Jong.** The profile of child sexual abuse in the Helderberg Basin, Western Cape.	**ePoster Session 2** Assessor: Hanneke Brits Chair: Marthinus Heystek **A. O'Brien.** Whole blood — future or fad? The use of whole blood in traumatic major haemorrhage **M. Jose.** Patient and health service factors associated with initiation of treatment for people living with diabetes in the Western Cape. **K. Naidoo.** An audit of first antenatal care visits at a rural midwife-run obstetric unit. **R.F. Segooa.** A quality standards model for optometric clinical training and practice within the public sector. **A. Rapulana.** Does internship training adequately prepare South African medical graduates for community service? **T. Mnisi.** Patients' views of healthcare services during power outages in Pretoria primary healthcare. **A. Hartwig.** Developing public sector life support training in the Eastern Cape. **K.T. Suthiram.** Developing Entrustable Professional Activities-based learning resources for the Learn@CMSA platform in family medicine.
15h30–16h00	Tea break and exhibition [Tent on the Greens].				
16h00–18h00	Annual General Meetings of the respective associations, followed by networking.				

Time	Arches Hall (Main Plenary) — Track 1: Health Systems, Policy and Climate-Resilient Care	Chestnut Room — Track 2: Artificial Intelligence, Technology and Digital Health	Terrace — Track 3: Clinical Practice and Preventative Care	Ivory Hall — Track 4: Multidisciplinary Practice and Community-Oriented Primary Care	Amber Room — Track 5: Narrative, ePosters / SFPP Stream
19h00–22h00	**Discovery Sponsored Dinner and Keynote [Chestnut Hall]** **Dr Thabane Vicent Maphai** Chair: Tesha Pillay				