



PHASA

Public Health Association
of South Africa

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NEWSLETTER

Message from the PHASA President- Harsha Somaroo



Dear PHASA members

I hope that you are well and keeping warm during this particularly chilly July, as the world confronts the increasing impact of climate change on weather and health patterns

Thus far, 2023 has been an eventful year for PHASA. As announced at last year's Annual General Meeting, PHASA bid to co-host the 18th World Congress on Public Health (WCPH) in association with the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA). I am pleased to announce that we were successful with this effort and am proud that PHASA will be co-hosting the first WCPH to be held in South Africa, at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, from the 7th to 12th September 2026. We believe that this event will be a great opportunity for PHASA members as well as our South African and African public health communities, to connect with our global counterparts, exchange knowledge and experiences, and forge new partnerships to advance public health locally, regionally, and globally. Additionally, given existing global health inequities, including those that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the existential threat of the climate crisis to the health of African citizens we are glad to be able to create a local space for related, critical public health conversations.

As part of the bidding process, we engaged with the South African National and Western Cape Convention Bureaus, the South African Medical Research Council, and individual and organizational partners. We are truly grateful for the incredible support that we received. We look forward to connecting more with our PHASA members and partners in the build up to 2026, as we work together to create an unprecedented space for the South African, African, and global public health communities to converge and engage on relevant public health research and deliberate on solutions for critical global health challenges that we face. Please find a brief introduction to 18th WCPH, and join our mailing list to be kept abreast of the latest congress developments, at <https://phasa.org.za/index.php/events/world-congress-on-public-health>

In the past few months, PHASA was pleased to approve three new special interest groups (SIGs), i.e. the Occupational and Environmental Health SIG, led by Sujatha Hariparsad, the Public Mental Health SIG, led by Saira Abdulla. We look forward to working with our new SIG chairs and members to develop these focused communities of practice, and to increasing the scope of PHASA's work support and advocacy for enhanced health outcomes in public health and societal spaces.

Tlamelo Mothudi's term of co-option to the PHASA board ended in April. She has been key to supporting PHASA's goal of strengthening governance processes and led the policy review process initiated last year, authored the PHASA POPI guideline, and has been an active and invaluable member of the board. Given this background, and to support continuity of this work, the PHASA board voted to retain Tlamelo as an ex-officio board member until the next election process for new board members later this year, and she kindly agreed.

I wish to congratulate our PHASA secretary, Lwando Maki, who was elected as co-chair of the WFPHA Environmental Health working group, and we look forward to increased collaboration between this group and PHASA, especially given the need to advocate for enhanced actions to address the diverse factors that influence individual and public health.

Finally, I wish to thank everyone who submitted abstracts for the 2023 PHASA conference. We received a record number of abstracts this year, and the conference scientific committee and reviewers had an arduous task judging the high-quantity and high-quality abstracts that were submitted. PHASA 2023 conference delegates can certainly look forward to exciting and important presentations and conversations. For more information on the conference, please visit the conference website at: <https://phasa.samrc.ac.za/>

We look forward to connecting with you during the build up to the conference, over the next two months, and in Gqeberha in September.

With warm wishes, Harsha

Message from PHASA Treasurer- Tiaan Eksteen



The 17th World Congress on Public Health (WCPH) took place from 02- 06 May 2023 in Rome, Italy. PHASA was well represented seeing four (4) board members attending the congress in person in support of co-hosting the 18th WCPH in South Africa (SA). The process was nerve-racking due to strong host countries. However, with perseverance and networking, PHASA was successful in the bid to co-host the 18th WCPH which will be hosted in Cape Town 2026. Congratulations to the PHASA President, Dr Harsha Somaroo and her team on this remarkable achievement. Co-hosting the 18th WCPH brings valuable information and financial resources to PHASA and the South African public health community at large.

Lastly, PHASA has been working tirelessly in finalising the outstanding tax debt with SARS. The directors are working closely with BGC and are in the final stages in submitting all outstanding reports for auditing purposes. Based on current timelines the matter should be resolved within the next 3 months and the board looks forward to reporting the findings to PHASA members in due course.

Updates from new Special Interest Groups

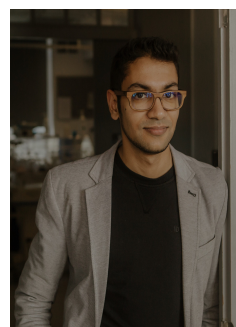
Dental Public Health SIG Chairperson- Khabiso Ramphoma



This Special Interest Group aims to collaboratively provide support and leadership to dental public health professionals through evidence-based research, skills and capacity building and knowledge sharing. Oral health is a fundamental human right and is inseparable and indivisible from overall health and well-being. The purpose of this group is to strengthen collaborations between dental public health the broader public health by creating and using opportunities to implement effective solutions to oral health of the population by:

- i. collaborative engagements through research, interprofessional, and transdisciplinary education, policy initiations, development, and implementation,
- ii. advocating for oral health through evidence-based research and innovative public health approaches, and
- iii. providing leadership to its members and various organizations with an interest in oral health of the population to make a positive impact on health inequalities at large.

Health Information and Technology SIG Chairperson- Muzzammil Ismail



In a time where intelligence has become artificial, and we look through a different window to access a different cloud it is important to step back and ask: Where does public health fit into it all? What are the opportunities and risks in bringing information and technology into the consulting room? Has there been sufficient maturation of technology to trust it with the health and wellbeing of our population? Do we build monolithic information systems, or do we open the market within a framework of interoperability? Are we overselling the benefits of this so-called silver bullet and getting caught in the shards of an exaggerated fad? Or is there truth to the utility of health information and technology in enabling public health quality, efficiency, and effectiveness?

These are some of the questions that keep the Health Information and Technology Special Interest Group (SIG) awake at night. Very much like its topic this SIG is still in its infancy and, over the next year, will be looking to build a community of public health practitioners interested in wrestling with these ideas. People are the foundation of all well-functioning communities and hence the SIG will initially be inviting individuals who are interested in the space to register as part of the community. Involvement would include the full spectrum from passive observers who would like to simply be informed of the on-going discussions to more active roles in terms of planning and organization.

As we build toward the PHASA 2023 Conference the SIG will be discussing how best to draw on different perspectives with the latest changes in the technology industry, how that links with both local and national strategic directions as well as discussing how we ensure that the ethical principles as it relates to data governance is respected. The SIG will also be planning an organized session at PHASA 2023 with the view of practically bringing the responsible use of technology and artificial intelligence into the hands of any and every public health practitioner **#watchthisspace**

If you are interested in the Health Information and Technology SIG please complete the short survey below and we will be in touch:

<https://forms.office.com/r/skimSxNPE8>

Occupational & Environmental Health SIG Chairperson- Sujatha Hariparsad

The Occupational and Environmental Health (OH/EH) special interest group is a new SIG that was formalised early this year. The need for the SIG was made abundantly clear following the PHASA Conference of 2022.

The 2022 Conference showcased Occupational and Environmental health in various sessions, an Occupational Medicine Panel session, Environmental Health (EH) and Occupational Health (OH) abstract sessions. The relevance of OH and EH nationally and globally was reaffirmed and so the establishment of the SIG was initiated. The SIG seeks to build and reinforce awareness of occupational and environmental health related diseases. It also serves to engage with various sectors to assist in policy development, interventions, and implementations around occupational and environmental health.

With these objectives in mind, the SIG is currently focusing on advocating for a re-evaluation of the national compensation systems. From as early as 1976, the Erasmus Commission of Inquiry into Occupational Health commented on inadequate notification and compensation of occupational diseases, poor training and the under-staffing of the factory inspectorate, occupational medicine and nursing departments. Following on from this, two historic commissions, the Nieuwenhuizen Commission of Inquiry into Compensation for Occupational Diseases (1981) and the Leon Commission of Inquiry into Safety and Health in the Mining Industry (1995) concurred that there still existed a need to review and draft legislation on compensation that provided a favourable dispensation to the workers, restructuring of information systems, uniformity of compensation and adequate training of various parties.

These Commissions were able to recognise the pitfalls in a fragmented system at an early stage. The current compensation systems are plagued with challenges, which are very much comparable to these earlier historical findings. There exists a need for a more coherent system that can address these challenges and deliver an efficient response to workers. Compensation systems emerging from ex-miner's legal class action, have provided examples of an effective and efficient compensation system. The one example of such a model, the Tshiamiso Trust, established to compensate ex-miners, recently announced that the first billion rands had been paid out to over 11 316 eligible silicosis and TB claimants, two years after the trust started processing claims.

The necessity to review the existing systems is evident. Workers' rights to compensation should not be compromised by a flawed system. The SIG together with experts in the field will create a platform for collaboration and discussions in an attempt to bring constructive changes to all facets of the compensation system.

Public Mental Health SIG Chairperson- Saira Abdulla

Prioritising Inclusion: The Public Mental Health SIG's Focus on Including People with Lived Experience in Decision Making and Policy Development

The Public Mental Health SIG is gearing up for the upcoming conference in September, and we are excited to share with our members and the wider mental health community our focus and plans for the year. We are committed to promoting the inclusion of people with mental illness in decision-making, research, policy, and advocacy efforts. We believe that people with lived experience of mental illness can provide valuable insights and experiences that can help others cope with this debilitating illness.

Despite endorsements from global organisations like the World Health Organization and existing national policies and legislation in South Africa, people with lived experience of mental illness are often excluded from decision-making processes, policy-making, and advocacy efforts. It is crucial to recognize their importance in these processes as they are the ones who are most affected by mental health care and support. We are committed to changing this narrative by ensuring that the voices of people with mental illness are heard and valued in all aspects of mental health care and support. To achieve this, we plan to conduct training sessions for researchers and policymakers to explore diverse ways of including people with mental illness, leveraging their valuable insights and combating persistent stigma.

We are organising advocacy campaigns to advance our goals. These campaigns will coincide with important awareness months, namely July's Psychosocial Disability Awareness Month and October's Mental Health Awareness Month. During these months, we will collaborate with various mental health organisations to amplify our message and promote meaningful change. We will host a workshop at the PHASA conference, featuring sessions on the experiences of people living with mental illnesses on health systems, a panel discussion, and opportunities for collaboration and generation of innovative ideas in mental health advocacy.

We are thrilled to announce that we are recruiting people with lived experiences to our board, walking the talk. We look forward to working with mental health professionals, policymakers, and the wider community to share our message and advocate for change towards a more inclusive and supportive mental health community. Keep an eye out on the PHASA platforms for further information on our campaigns and updates.



PHASA

Public Health Association
of South Africa

PHASA 2023

TRANSFORMING RESEARCH TRANSLATION- **REIMAGINING** PUBLIC HEALTH EVIDENCE, POLICIES, AND PRACTICE

10 – 13 September 2023,
The Boardwalk
Convention Centre,
Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth)

Don't miss out!

Register to
attend the
2023 PHASA
conference.

This year's theme '**Transforming research translation- reimagining public health evidence, policies, and practice**'

Public health practitioners, programmes, and systems work to create more effective and sustainable solutions to public health challenges, based on the best available evidence and focusing on equity, social justice, and community engagement. Recent experiences, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighted the need for a fundamental shift in how research evidence is generated and translated into public health policies and practice. This calls for new and innovative approaches to bridge the gap between research and action, and highlights the importance of partnerships between researchers, policymakers, and communities.

The 2023 Public Health Association of South Africa's (PHASA) Conference will provide an opportune setting for engaging with the most recent public health research and evidence, for rethinking current models of research translation, for identifying barriers and opportunities for change, and for exploring new strategies for knowledge exchange and dissemination.



SUB-THEMES

1. The physical, mental, and psycho-social dimensions of health
2. Reimagining the future for universal health care provision
3. There is only one Earth
4. Talking the talk, walking the walk

The PHASA Scientific Committee urges the delegates to take note of the abstract guidelines submissions

IMPORTANT DEADLINE DATES

Draft programme/
Notification of abstract
acceptance: 18– 22 July 2023

REGISTRATIONS

Early registration ends 15 August 2023



Group Registration

A **5%** discount will be given to a registration of **10 or more delegates** from the same organization

CPD Accreditation will be available



Join fellow public health experts, academics, researchers, students, non-governmental organisations, and civil society members at this year's annual PHASA Conference; as we transform the ways we think about and approach priority areas of public health research, policy, and practice, to ultimately improve health outcomes for all.



For more information please contact
Deon Salomo at deon.salomo@mrc.ac.za.



2023

PHILA is an acronym for **Public Health Innovation and Lifetime Achievement** and also reflects on the isiZulu word “phila,” meaning life. The PHASA PHILA Awards seek to honour excellence and commitment to public health in South Africa, and PHASA wishes to acknowledge exceptional individuals whose:

- activities have been consistent with PHASA’s founding values of equity, integrity, social responsibility, caring, compassion, empathy and partnership; and whose
- purpose is aligned with its mission to provide leadership and a collective voice to improve health and health equity.

The awards do not carry any monetary value but serves to recognise and celebrate extraordinary contributions to public health in South Africa.

Three PHILA awards are awarded annually:

- PHILA Annual Award
- PHILA Emerging Practitioner Award
- PHILA Lifetime Achievement Award

The PHILA Annual Award	The PHILA Emerging Practitioner Award	The PHILA Lifetime Achievement Award
<p>This award honours excellence and commitment to public health, in an individual with a specific and significant contribution to public health research, advocacy, education or service in South Africa during the past five (5) years.</p> <p>Specific criteria for this award include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The work nominated for should have been completed in South Africa in the last 5 years• The work must have been peer reviewed and/or translated (or in the process of this) into policy or practice and/or resulted in significant public discourse or action and/or received other recognition in the field• The individual should demonstrate leadership potential, or be a leader to whom colleagues in the field look up to as a role model• The individual should demonstrate a high standard of professionalism, integrity, and ethics	<p>This award honours excellence and commitment to public health in an emerging practitioner, not older than 35 years old.</p> <p>This award will be given to an individual in recognition of a specific and significant contribution to public health research, advocacy, education or service in South Africa during the past five (5) years.</p> <p>Specific criteria for this award include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The person should be younger than 35 years• The work nominated for should have been completed in South Africa in the last 5 years• The work must have been peer reviewed and/or translated (or in the process of) into policy or practice and/or resulted in significant public discourse or action and/or received other recognition in the field• The individual should demonstrate leadership potential or be a leader to whom colleagues in the field look up to as a role model• The individual should demonstrate high standard of professionalism, integrity and ethics	<p>This award will honour an individual for a lifetime of commitment to public health. The individual should have made an exceptional and significant contribution to public health research, education, and/or service in their lifetime.</p> <p>Individuals should have fundamentally advanced public health in South Africa and be acknowledged by their peers.</p> <p>Specific criteria for this award include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least 20 years’ experience in South Africa in public health• Exceptional and demonstrable accomplishments, beyond the requirements of their employment, as a public health practitioner• Outstanding leader in public health, whose quality of work continues to raise public health standards, and to whom colleagues in the field look up to as a role model• High standard of professionalism, integrity and ethics• A track record of building public health capacity of younger individuals• Influence of the individual’s work in health policy/ health services in South Africa or beyond

NOMINATION PROCESS

Deadline for applications: 31 July 2023
Forms can be downloaded from: <https://phasa.samrc.ac.za/>
Submissions must be e-mailed to: secretariat@phasa.org.za

SELECTION PROCESS

All nominations will be reviewed by the PHILA Awards Committee. The Committee reserves the right not to make any award if the nominees are not suitable.

The awards ceremony will take place during the **PHASA Annual Conference** from 10– 13 September 2022 in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape.

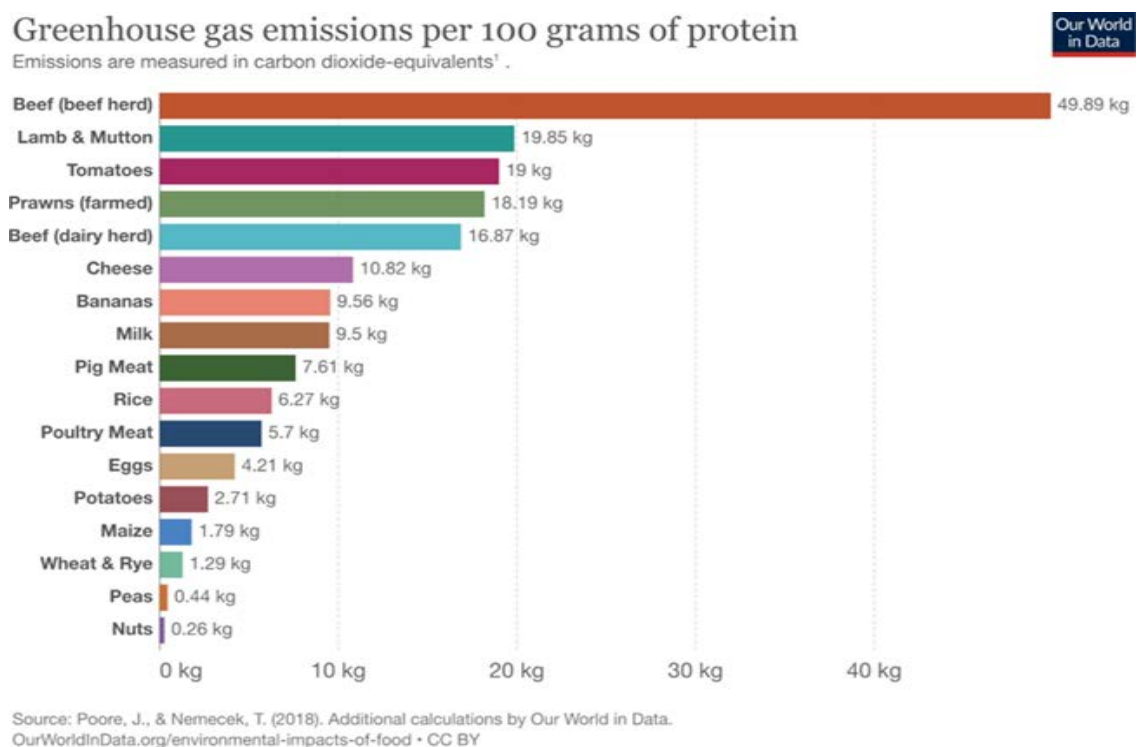


Spotlighting Plant-Based Nutrition at the PHASA Conference

Dr Nanine Wyma, Managing Director PAN

Food can be a powerful driver of both health and disease. This is true for more than just individual health, but planetary health too. Food systems, from farm to fork, are responsible for around one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions (GHGe).¹ Even if we could eliminate all fossil fuels from the planet, we would still require food system transformation to reach the targets of the Paris Agreement and keep global warming well below 1.5 degrees Celsius.²

Industrial animal agriculture practices are particularly damaging to the environment, responsible for about 60% of food-related emissions.³ This is demonstrated when looking at the GHGe of foods per 100g of protein, with emissions from beef soaring above all other food sources.⁴



The EAT-Lancet Commission concluded that transformation towards healthy and sustainable diets would require a 50% reduction in global red meat consumption and a 100% increase in plant-based food consumption, thus developing the planetary health diet.⁵ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has also demonstrated that reducing animal product consumption reduces food-related emissions in a stepwise pattern.⁶ Ultimately, removing all animal products from the diet can cut food-related emissions in half.⁷

Vegan diets are entirely void of animal products and are not necessarily healthy, as they may include processed plant-based products high in sugar, salt and fat. On the other hand, dietary patterns rich in whole plant foods, including a diversity of vegetables, fruits, legumes, whole grains, nuts and seeds, promote health and prevent disease. Health professionals are increasingly exploring whole food plant-based diets to prevent, manage and, in some cases, reverse chronic lifestyle diseases such as obesity, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers.⁸

The spectrum of plant-based diets, including vegetarian and vegan, are appropriate for all life cycle stages, including pregnancy and childhood 9, provided they are well-planned to cover nutritional requirements. Health professionals are responsible for guiding the adoption of plant-based diets in the most healthy way possible, paying close attention to protein, omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin B12, calcium, zinc and other essential nutrients. Unfortunately, education on balancing plant-based diets is rarely found in standard health professional education. A social media survey¹⁰ conducted by the Physicians Association for Nutrition (PAN) South Africa revealed that medical students do not feel they get enough nutrition information. Furthermore, dietetic students responded that they need more education on plant-based dietary patterns. Most students surveyed get information about plant-based nutrition from social media instead of university education.

To bridge this gap in education on sustainable nutrition, PAN South Africa is offering to collaborate with PHASA to spotlight plant-based nutrition at their annual conference in September 2023. Our proposal includes kitchen staff training, serving tasty plant-based food, calculating the carbon footprint of each meal, health education, media engagement and a case study report.

About PAN South Africa

The Physicians Association for Nutrition (PAN) South Africa is a national office of the non-profit organisation PAN International. We work with health science students, healthcare professionals, and policymakers to raise awareness of the power of whole-food, plant-based nutrition for health promotion and disease prevention.

Our mission is to educate, empower and engage. As of 2023, our major programmes include research, CPD-accredited education and university student engagement.

Visit our website: www.pan-sa.org

Contact PAN South Africa

Dr Nanine Wyma MBChB
Managing Director nanine.wyma@pan-sa.org

References:

- 1 Crippa, M., E. Solazzo, D. Guizzardi, et al. (2021): Food systems are responsible for a third of global anthropogenic GHG emissions. *Nature Food* 2(3), 198–209.
- 2 Clark, M. A., N. G. G. Domingo, K. Colgan, et al. (2020): Global food system emissions could preclude achieving the 1.5° and 2°C climate change targets. *Science* 370(6517), 705–708.
- 3 Xu, X., P. Sharma, S. Shu, et al. (2021): Global greenhouse gas emissions from animal-based foods are twice those of plant-based foods. *Nature Food* 2(9), 724–732.
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- 7 Kustar, A. & D. Patino-Echeverri (2021): A Review of Environmental Life Cycle Assessments of Diets: Plant-Based Solutions Are Truly Sustainable, even in the Form of Fast Foods. *Sustainability* 13(17), 9926. doi:10.3390/su13179926
- 8 Craig, W.J., Mangels, A.N., Fresan, U., Marsh, K., Miles, F.L., Saunders, A.V., ... Orlich, M. 2021. The Safe and Effective Use of Plant-Based Diets with Guidelines for Health Professionals. *Nutrients*. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34836399/>.
- 9 American Dietetic Association. 2009. Position of the American Dietetic Association: Vegetarian Diets. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jada.2009.05.027>
- 10 PAN South Africa. 2022. What do South African health science students know about plant-based Nutrition? <https://pan-int.org/wp-content/uploads/PAN-South-Africa-Student-Survey-Report-2022.pdf> Date of Access: April 2023

The Climate Crisis in Focus

Dr Amílcar Juggernath, Public Health Medicine Specialist, PHASA Board Member

The 17th World Congress on Public Health took place in Rome in May 2023. This is a 3-yearly event hosted by the World Federation of Public Health Associations that creates a space for public health practitioners from across the world to share research, brainstorm ideas and network towards improving population health.

Among the posters and oral presentations given by members of our organisation, a key event hosted by PHASA was the workshop entitled COP 27: An African Perspective. Through questions posed at our local panellists, key issues around the climate change crisis and health were explored with an emphasis on the effects, response and unique experiences on the African continent.

Despite contributing the least to greenhouse gas emissions and the global climate change crisis, Africa has been overwhelmed by the negative effects of climate change through worsening droughts and floods, and other extreme weather events that threaten the health and lives of our people.

Burning fossil fuels for energy is a major contributor to climate change. Much of Africa have economies based on mining fossil fuels. This was entrenched by colonial regimes that created a dependence of the continent on this industry. Moving away from these industries, and towards renewable energy sources, has challenges that are vast and complex. It is within this context that global initiatives to reverse climate change have often been without adequate representation of African people.

The example of the expectations and requirement of low-carbon economies was discussed. They touched on how these measures are often perceived and experienced negatively by African communities. Changes to economic drivers in vulnerable communities, such as the mining of fossil fuels, threatens generations of some form of job-security and economic stability. And despite our communities having intimate experiences of these extractive industries causing harmful environmental and health effects, the immediate threat to financial stability and livelihoods are not and should not be overlooked, and must be considered as part of transition strategies.

The challenges of underfunding and under-representation were highlighted. The developed world is dragging their feet on upholding their established financial commitments to combat climate change. They were further called out for perpetuating the brain-drain of highly-skilled Africans away from areas where they are needed most. Additional mention was made of some African countries, like South Africa, who also benefit from the migration of skills into these more developed areas on the continent. This limits the skills available to reduce the contributors of change, and to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

The World Federation was called on to improve inclusivity of their events. By repeatedly hosting events of this sort in the global north, African leaders in climate and health face restrictive visa requirements and high travel costs to attend these events. These barriers to attendance results in these forums being devoid of the value of African leaders knowledge and skills, and the representation needed for inclusive action.

The solutions to the climate change crisis are multi-sectoral and interdependent across the world. Different tools to address the drivers of climate change in Africa were described. Awareness and advocacy have built the support needed to place climate change on national agendas, and legal action has been used to persecute the perpetrators who continue to flout regulation. The required roles of different actors were noted, including knowledge generation by academics, use of this evidence-base for advocacy by civil society and public health associations, the responsibilities of governments to strategise and regulate, and that of the private sector to fulfil their commitments towards the envisioned reforms. Of great importance, is the critical mass of community members who must be empowered to drive the agenda on climate change forward.

In South Africa, using policy and taking cognisance of the catch-22 situation of decarbonisation at the cost of livelihoods, labour unions initiated the development of the Just Transition. This concept has been refined into government policy and is a people-centred framework aimed at creating a resilient economy through major reforms in developing energy systems, sustaining natural resources, and ensuring environmental integrity.

All-in-all, the ideas shared ignited passionate responses from the panellists and audience alike. The call to continue the momentum around the struggle of the climate crisis was made, with the strong message of inclusive dialogue that serves the needs of our people.



VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST

Health Systems Trust is an innovative non-profit organisation working to strengthen ongoing development of comprehensive health systems in southern Africa.

Health Systems Research Unit

DIRECTOR: RESEARCH & IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

PURPOSE:

The Health Systems Trust (HST) has a vacancy in the organisation for a passionate, motivated and committed individual to take up the position of Director: Research & Implementation Science.

The successful candidate will provide strategic leadership to HST's health systems research and implementation science (RIS) team. The incumbent will, through close cooperation with HST's other directorates and units, ensure that RIS projects are well managed to provide quality and value to HST's clients. The candidate will ensure responsiveness in pursuing HST's goal of contributing to building equitable, effective and efficient national health systems in South Africa and the region, through research implementation, capacity development and the generation of high quality evidence that supports and enhances policy implementation towards improved population health outcomes.

This senior management position reports to the Chief Executive Officer and is a two-year contract position, renewable based on performance and availability of funding.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Develop HST's research and implementation science agenda in line with priority health system issues in the South Africa, the southern African region and relevant global health priorities.
- Manage the Research and Implementation Science Unit ensuring the design and implementation of projects and activities to successfully achieve HST's strategic goals.

Qualifications

- Master's degree in Public Health, or related field qualification.

Experience includes

- A minimum of 15 years' relevant experience in public health and research with 5 years of that at senior level.
- Experience of working in the NGO environment will be an added advantage
- Experience in managing across different research types.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 27 July 2023, at 16H30. Read the full ad:

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Director-Research--Implementation-Science-.aspx>

Health and Community Engagement Post-doctoral Position
Working with people to reduce health risks from toxic exposure
Advert

An interdisciplinary team of researchers from four South African universities are looking for a highly skilled postdoctoral candidate to join our research project titled **“Health impacts on children living near an accidental release of pesticides near Durban, South Africa”**. This position focuses on supporting a community engagement platform integrated into the above health research. This engagement platform develops, with affected community members, a learning network around health and human rights. The platform ensures that members of the affected community are included in project knowledge sharing and empowered to take local action to reduce health and other associated risks with past and future toxic exposures. The post-doctoral position is based in the city of Durban and runs from January 2024 till December 2024, with the possibilities of renewal for a second year.

To be eligible to apply for this postdoctoral position candidates are required to:

- Hold a PhD in public health, medical anthropology, development studies, sociology, or related discipline that indicates a high level of expertise in Qualitative research.
- Hold prior experience working on community engagement projects.
- Hold prior experience working on health related research projects.

Candidates will be short-listed using the following criteria:

- Depth and breadth of prior experience working on community engagement projects.
- Depth and breadth of prior experience working on health-related research projects.
- The strength of two reference letters.
- Strength of your academic writing ability.
- Strength of your motivation.

Advantages:

- Fluency in isiZulu.
- Previous health project experience working with children and/or mothers.
- Previous experience of working on environmental health research.
- Previous project management experience.
- Previous experience or training in human rights and/or community activism.
- Valid driver's license.

Interested candidates should send the following to Dr. Kira Erwin at kirae@dut.ac.za with the subject line Health and Community Engagement Post-doctoral Position **before the 31st August 2023:**

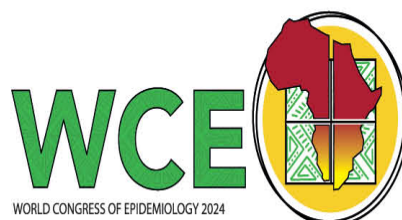
- A covering motivation letter, indicating what you bring to the project and what you plan to do with the postdoc to build your future career.
- Proof of completion of Doctoral Studies.
- A full CV.
- A copy of a published piece of work/ or chapter from your Phd thesis.
- Two reference letters from academics who know your research work.
- Proof of identity, and if needed work/study visa.

SAVE THE DATE

23RD WORLD CONGRESS OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

24 – 27 SEPTEMBER 2024



www.wce2024.org



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF
HEALTH



14th

**African
Rotavirus
Symposium**

2023 | NOV. 8 - 10 2023

Theme

Rotavirus Disease control in Africa: Vaccination and Surveillance as the basis of an Integrated approach



Exclusive Serene Hotel Abuja, Nigeria

SUB-THEMES

- Burden of Rotavirus Disease.
- Rotavirus and Diarrheal Disease Surveillance.
- Current Rotavirus Vaccines In Routine Immunization.
- Impact of Rotavirus Vaccination on other Diarrheal Diseases.
- Rotavirus Genomic Diversity.
- Advances In Rotavirus Immunology and Vaccination.
- Rotavirus Vaccine Economics and Financing In Africa.
- Human Resource Capacitation and Retention for Vaccination In Africa.
- Performance Monitoring and Programmatic Challenges for Rotavirus Vaccine Implementation In Africa.
- Strengthening Surveillance Networks and Collaboration In Africa.

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submissions

11th May 2023 – 31st July 2023

Review Of Abstracts

1st August 2023 – 31st August 2023

Notification On Abstract Acceptance

15th September-30th September 2023

Registration

Registrations are now open and will close on 30 September 2023.

Travel support

A limited number of grants are available to cover travel, accommodation, and meals.

For more information on the travel support, please visit our website

<https://afr-rn.samrc.ac.za/ars2023/support.html>

For more information, please visit our website

<https://afr-rn.samrc.ac.za/ars2023/index.html>

or

contact Ms Kefiloe Masemola

Kefiloe.Masemola@mrc.ac.za



PHASA

Public Health Association of
South Africa



"Health cannot be
a question of income;
it is a fundamental
human right"

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela