

	Session Chair, Prof Felicity Burt			
18:00	Welcoming and opening plenary	A vaccine platform for Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus	Ali Mirazimi	 
19:00	Welcome Cocktail in Exhibition Foyer			

DAY 2: 16 September 2026

08:00	Registration & arrival refreshments			
	Session Chair Prof Marietjie Venter			
09:00	Welcome address			
09:15	Plenaries 1.1 - From Forest to Global Spread: The Changing Ecology and Evolution of Mpox Virus		Alessandra Scagliarini	
09:45	Plenaries 1.2 - Change to Ebolavirus Bundibugyo in the DRC		Placid Mbala	
10:15	Tea/Coffee break			
	1.3 One Health: bridging human, animal and environmental health - Session chair Felicity Burt	1.4 Understanding plant viruses - Session Chair Sandiswe Mbewana	1.5 From gut to lung: enteric and respiratory viruses - Session Chair Florette Treurnicht	
10:45	Reframing the epidemiology of Rift Valley fever virus - THOMPSON, Peter	Profiling virus-host protein-protein interactions towards development of resistance to the Banana bunchy top virus in Banana MAHLANZA, Tendekai	Lineage turnover among G1P[8] and G2P[4] rotaviruses is associated with increased disease severity post vaccine introduction in Blantyre, Malawi - MHANGO, Chimwemwe	
11:00	Identification of insect-specific viruses in mosquitoes collected in north-eastern parts of South Africa using a metagenomic RNA sequencing approach - KACNIK, Sascha	Evolution of detection techniques in the identification of sweet potato viruses in South Africa MARAGENI, Midana	Decadal insights into genetic diversity and evolutionary dynamics of noroviruses circulating among children under five years in Gauteng, South Africa. - MOGOTSI, Milton	
11:15	Reemergence of chikungunya in Mauritius driven by a novel lineage with pandemic potential - RAMUTH, Magalutcheemee	Genetic Diversity of Cassava Mosaic Begomoviruses in South Africa and Its Implications on the Health of Planting Material - MULABISANA, Julia	Decade Long Genomic Surveillance of Enteric Adenovirus F40/41 in South Africa Reveals Persistent Lineages and Emerging Antigenic Variation - SHANGE, Nkosazana	
11:30	First Genomic Detection of Veterinary Viruses of Concern at Human–Animal Interfaces in Rural Ghana Using a One Health Metagenomics Framework - MAVIAN, Carla	Application of High-Throughput Sequencing to Detect Residual Virus and Viroid Infections in South African Nuclear Grapevine Material - MORGAN, Seamus	Assessment of Gastroenteritis Virus Diversity in Wastewater across South Africa using Long Read Next Generation Sequencing - MISTRY, Sneha	
11:45	Passive surveillance for zoonotic diseases in Australian bats - JANSEN VAN VUREN, Petrus	Tomato curly stunt virus – disease complex in South Africa overcoming resistance - MORGAN, Seamus	Modulation of Lipid Droplets and β-Oxidation Influences Rotavirus Replication in HEK293 cells - O'NEILL, Hester G.	
12:00	Molecular and metagenomic investigation identified emerging and re-emerging zoonotic pathogens in wild rodents in urban settings in Gauteng, South Africa. MACINTYRE, Caitlin	Development of diagnostic assays using recombinant reagents for the rapid detection of active Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus (CSSV) disease in Theobroma cacao - BARNETT, Jacqueline	Secreted Fungal Factors Inhibit Rotavirus Replication, While Viral Infection Promotes Candida Albicans Growth - BARRON, Nikita	
12:15	Industry Session			
13:45	Lunch			
	Session chair: Armanda Bastos			
14:45	Plenaries 2.1 - Veterinary vaccines:“Chasing the Last Virus: Lessons from Global Animal Disease Eradication”		Baptiste Dungu	
15:15	Plenaries 2.2 - Disease Surveillance Using Wastewater: From Piloting to Implementation and Integration into Clinical Case-Based Surveillance Systems in South		Mukhlid Yousif	
	2.3 One Health: bridging human, animal and environmental health - Session Chair Marietjie Venter	2.4 HIV and sexually transmitted diseases - Session Chair Jinal Bhiman	2.5 From gut to lung: enteric and respiratory viruses - Session Chair Nicole Wolter	
15:45	Under the radar: sandflies as neglected targets for arbovirus disease surveillance in Africa - TCHOUASSI, David	An Immunoinformatic-driven Multi-epitope Vaccine targeting HPV Types 16, 33, and 45 for HIV-positive Populations: In Silico Design and Validation - ONAJI, Enayi	Pre-vaccination enterovirus differential abundance strongly associates with ETVAX non-response in Zambian children aged 6 to 23 months - CHIBESA, Kennedy	
16:00	Molecular and metagenomic analysis of wastewater and surface water in Gauteng, South Africa, for the detection of emerging, zoonotic, and other viruses of public health significance - GOVINDASAMY, Lekita	Heterologous immunization with improved HIV-1 subtype C vaccines elicit autologous Tier 2 neutralizing antibodies with rapid viral replication control after SHIV challenge. - CHAPMAN, Rosamund	Respiratory virome in children presenting with acute respiratory tract infection - HOFSTRA, Marije	
16:15	Development of a lateral flow antigen test kit for Covid-19 diagnosis - WANDERA APONDI, Ernest	Viral Pathogens in Advanced HIV Disease: Insights from Minimally Invasive Tissue Sampling - Reddy, Denasha	A tightly coordinated interferon network at peak RSV disease reveals constrained immune programming - TAOFECK, Oluwaseun	
16:30	Emerging Arboviruses in Romagna (Italy): vector surveillance, human diagnostics and genomic insights. - Scagliarini, Alessandra	Cytomegalovirus Infection in HIV-exposed Preterm Infants - PRINS, Nicole	The in vitro effect of SARS coronavirus 2 co-infection on lytic reactivation of an oncogenic herpesvirus - ROMAN, Kayleigh	
16:45	Tea/Coffee break & Poster Presentation session			

	Session chair Nicola Page		
07:30	Registration & arrival refreshments		
08:00	Plenaries 3.1 - Advances and challenges in the prevention of RSV	Shabir Madhi	
08:30	Plenaries 3.2 - Can we improve the differential efficacy of oral rotavirus vaccines in Africa?	Duncan Steel	
09:00	Plenaries 3.3 - Transmission dynamics of foot and mouth disease virus, a highly infectious picornavirus at the wildlife-livestock interface in southern Africa	Francois Maree	
09:30	Tea/Coffee break		
	3.4 HIV and sexually transmitted viral diseases - Session Chair Carolyn Willimson	3.5 Viral diseases of animals - Session Chair Francois Maree	3.6 Vaccines for viruses - Session Chair Anna-Lise Williamson
10:00	Detection Of Human Papillomavirus In Wastewater Using The Seegene Allplex HPV 28 Assay - Mthombeni Mduduzi	Armanda Bastos (FMD invited speaker)	Recombinant Livestock Vaccines for Africa: Progressing the Subolesin-based Anti-Tick Vaccine in Uganda - KIGGUNDU, Andrew
10:15	Seroprevalence and Molecular detection of Herpes Simplex Virus type 2 among people living with HIV/AIDS attending Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Nigeria - MUHAMMAD Ibrahim Abubakar		Development of a genotype-matched Newcastle disease DNA vaccine candidate adjuvanted with IL-28b for the control of targeted velogenic strains of Newcastle disease virus in Africa - AMOIA, Charlie
10:30	125 - Performance of the in-house partial multiplex PCR for HIV-1 drug resistance testing – a cost saving strategy - VAN ECK Kiara	Transcriptomic Signatures of Resilience and Susceptibility in Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSDV) Infection - JANSEN VAN VUREN, Petrus	Combined WNV/TBEV inactivated Vaccine provides Protection from a wide Range of TBEV and WNV Strains in Vitro and in Vivo. - TUCHYNSKAYA, Ksenia
10:45	Assessing the impact of HIV exposure on T-cell responses to BCG vaccine in South African infants - MOSES, Blessing	Recombinant lumpy skin disease virus expressing foot and mouth disease antigens induces neutralising antibodies - CHINEKA, Nicole	Preclinical safety studies of the anti-rabies vaccine produced on Vero cell culture - LYCHEVA, Natalia
11:00	Dominant circulation of hepatitis C virus genotype 1 strains in Gauteng Province, South Africa, 2021 to 2024 - SEETHAL, Yuvadia	Prevalence of African swine fever virus in selected warthog (Phacochoerus africanus) tissues in South Africa - CRAIG, Anthony	Protective efficacy of an mRNA vaccine encoding the full-length rabies virus glycoprotein in mice - MALCHENKO, Maksim
11:15	Seroprevalence of HIV, HBV, HCV, and genotyping/mutational analysis of HBV and HCV among drug users in Pretoria, South Africa - RATSHISUSU, Lufuno	Establishment of in vitro persistent infection of the foot-and-mouth disease virus SAT 2 serotype and comparative viral genome analysis during acute and persistent infections - NOCAKA, Linda	The Potential Role of Non-Canonical Splicing Enzymes in Non-Replicative RNA Recombination - BATYUCHENKO, Alexey
11:30	Poster presentations		
11:45	Lunch		
	Session Chair: Ed Rybicki		
12:30	Plenaries 4.2 - A quest for the development of a universal influenza vaccine in plants.	Sandiswa Mbewana	
	Session Chair Anna-Lise Williamson		
13:00	Industry Session: Vaccine development and production in South Africa, setting the stage		
	4.3 Enteric and Respi - Session Chair: Janet Mans	4.4 Clinical and diagnostics - Session Chair: TBC	4.5 Emerging Viruses - Session Chair: Megan Shaw
13:45	Prevalence and Histo-Blood Group Antigen Blocking Activity of Antibodies against Predominant Norovirus Genotypes in South African Children - MANS, Janet	A comparative Analysis of Overt and Occult Hepatitis B Virus Infection among Blood Donors in the Western Cape Province, South Africa - JASI, Ruvimbo Lisa	Epidemiology and Zoonotic Transmission of Nipah Virus: An Emerging Epidemic Threat - SHAW, Megan (Invited speaker)
14:00	Seroincidence of influenza in South Africa in 2023 from population-based community serosurveys - WOLTER, Nicole	Metagenomic characterisation of microbial and resistome profiles in hospital wastewater from selected hospitals in the Free State province, South Africa. - MBELE, Angela	Arenavirus Transmission and Evolution in a Zoo, Germany - MEHL, Calvin
14:15	Diversity of Enteroviruses detected in Sewage Samples from Gauteng province, South Africa - VAN ZYL, Walda	The "Double Hit" of HBV Subgenotype A1: Mechanobiological Remodelling and Oncogenic β-catenin Translocation in HBV-transfected Cells. LAMOLA, Modisaotsile	Pandemic preparedness through platform innovation: AI powered and context sensitive mRNA vaccine design against Nipah virus - OLADIPO, Elijah Kolawole
14:30	Evaluation of South Africa’s 2025 acute flaccid paralysis surveillance and laboratory performance against national and international benchmarks - PADAYACHEE, Kerry Ann	Development of species-specific immunoreagents for the rapid diagnosis of different Ebola virus species. - CHEN, Chia-Yu	Molecular Epidemiology of the Clade 2.3.4.4 H5N1 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza Epidemic in South Africa, 2025-2026 - ABOLNIK, Celia
14:45	Identification and genomic characterisation of BA.3.2: a highly divergent BA.3-related SARS-CoV-2 lineage from southern Africa - DOR, Graeme	Translating gammaherpesvirus infection dynamics into novel diagnostics for clinical care in South Africa - SCHAFER, Georgia	Investigating the emergence and spread of European bat lyssavirus 1 in UK serotine bats through viral and host genetics - GOLDING, Megan
14:45	Tea/Coffee break		

NEXT

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DAY 3: 17 September 2026 (continued)

	4.6 HIV and sexually transmitted viral diseases - Session Chair Dr Nishi Prabdial-Sing	4.7 Viral diseases of animals - Session chair: Claude Sabetha	4.8 Vaccines for viruses - Session Chair Baptisete Dungu
15:15	A descriptive molecular analysis of HIV-1 Integrase strand transfer inhibitor associated mutations from South African genomes - KEKANA, Rosinah	Lung lesions associated with emerging gammaherpesviruses in horses and donkeys in South Africa - WILLIAMS, June	Impact of Age on Antibody Response Following FMD Vaccination in Cattle in Kenya. - MUGAMBI, Gloris
15:30	Changes in the HIV-1 reservoir in South African HIV+ to HIV+ kidney transplant recipients - MBHELE, Nokuzola	Immunometabolism at the intersection of immune and metabolic signalling against African horse sickness virus - MATHABELA, Nomfundo	Improving the Field Performance of Baculovirus Biopesticides for Citrus Pest Control by Nano- and Microvesicle Encapsulation - MANAMELA, Ralethoko
15:45	Reduced Sensitivity of Historical and Contemporary HIV-1 Strains to Primate-Derived Fusion Peptide-Directed and CD4-Binding Site Broadly Neutralizing Antibodies Highlights the Need for New bnAbs Discovery - KATO, Laban	Neutrophil myeloperoxidase index in juvenile dogs with parvoviral enteritis - LOUBSER, Louis	Evaluation of Plant-Expressed TMV Pseudovirions Encapsidating AHSV5-VP2 mRNA in Mice - TINARWO, Munyaradzi
16:00	Oncogenic Viral Marker (HHV8) and Tumour Proliferation (KI67) in Paediatric Kaposi Sarcoma: A 21-Year study at a Tertiary Laboratory in Ga-Rankuwa - MHLONGO, Lucia Naddy	Clinical Signs, Lesions and Viral Antigen Distribution in Alpacas (Vicugna pacos) Naturally Infected with Rift Valley Fever Virus - ODENDAAL, Lieza	Plant-Based Display of Influenza M2e on AP205 Virus-Like Particles as a Universal Vaccine Candidate - TSHIITAMUNE, Andani

19:00 Gala dinner

DAY 4: 18 September 2026

08:00	Arrival refreshments		
	Session Chair Wolfgang Preiser		
09:00	Plenaries 5.1 - Using salt (water) to treat viral infections. Science behind an ancient remedy		Sandeep Ramalingam
09:30	Plenaries 5.2 - Application of Epstein-Barr Virus proteome microarrays to characterize humoral immune response and define immune signatures for risk of EBV-associated cancers		Denise L Doolan
10:00	Plenaries 5.3 HIV transmission and the implications of minor viral populations		Carolyn Williamson
10:30	Tea/Coffee break		
	5.4 Clinical and diagnostic virology - SC:Kreshalen Govender	5.5 Antiviral and therapeutics -SC: Kerri-Lee Ann Francois	5.6 Emerging viruses and outbreaks - SC: Wolfgang Preiser
11:00	Establishing a Virology Biobank Linking Diagnostic and Research Laboratories - VON MOLLENDORFF, Tara-Lee	Targeting SARS-CoV-2 Main Protease to Address Variant Resistance and Pandemic Preparedness - SETSHEDI, Mpho	Diagnostics and emerging diseases - PREISER , Wolfgang
11:15	Investigating two agnostic metagenomic tools for viral discovery and characterisation - MAHLANGU, Tshegofatso Perseverance	Small Molecule Inhibition of the Mitochondrial Lipid Transfer Protein STARD7 Attenuates Influenza Viral Replication - SHAW, Megan	Lineage-Specific Transcriptional Response to Chikungunya ECSA and West African Lineages in Primary Human Chondrocytes - SIGAL, Alex
11:30	Dominance of cytomegalovirus glycoprotein B genotype 3 among patients in Johannesburg, South Africa, 2022–2023 - LETLONKANA, Pholenyana Petronela	Developing a High Throughput Screening Assay for the Discovery of SARS-CoV-2 Entry Inhibitors - ADAMS, Ethan	Genomic Characterization of the Monkeypox Outbreak in Kenya - KIMITA, Gathii
11:45	Chronic Hepatitis C Coinfection Prevalence in Adult Multicentre Urban HIV/ART Settings in South Africa - KHANYI, Bongani	Effects of crude extracts of fungal endophytes isolated from Artemisia afra on SARS-CoV-2 pseudovirus-induced hyper-inflammation - MAAKE, Tumiso Mmatsie	Rabies takes to Sea: Emergence of a marine maintenance Host, the Cape Fur Seal, in southern Africa - VAN HELDEN, Lesley
12:00	Artificial Intelligence for Antibody Quantification in Rabies Serological Assays - AMAYA-CUESTA, Joan	Biopharmed Mpox VLP candidate vaccines validated in a mice model - O'KENNEDY,Martha	Understanding the evolutionary history of mpox virus in Africa - SITHARAM, Nikita
12:15			Serological evidence of Henipa-like Paramyxovirus in seasonal synanthropic fruit bat populations in the Centre and North Regions of Cameroon - MBU'U MBANWI, Cyrille
12:30	Closing of Conference followed by Lunch		