



NOMINATIONS FOR SASVEPM EXCO, 2023-2025

The new ExCo members will be elected during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the Annual Congress on 24 August 2023 at Avani Gaborone Resort & Casino in Botswana. No new nominations will be accepted during the AGM meeting. All SASVEPM members can join the meeting and vote online if needed.

The standing committee for 2023-2025 is:

- Dr Mohamed Sirdar
- Dr Wonderful Shumba

All SASVEPM members are encouraged to participate in the voting – you can choose 4 candidates.

SASVEPM AGM – Download Agenda and documents for meeting <click here>

Online Link: ZOOM - Passcode: 774900

Nominations received for the following candidates:

Itumeleng Matle

Dr. Itumeleng Matle graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy in Agriculture from the University of South Africa in 2020. He also graduated from the Tshwane University of Technology with a B-Tech degree in Veterinary Technology and an M-Tech in Environmental Health. He is currently a senior researcher and head of laboratory at the Agricultural Research Council: Onderstepoort Veterinary Research. Dr. Matle has over 14 years of experience in the fields of veterinary diagnostics and laboratory science. Dr. Matle's experience cuts across various fields of veterinary diagnostics pertaining to veterinary bacteriology, food microbiology, genomic epidemiology of foodborne bacterial pathogens, and laboratory management. He is an NRF Y-rated researcher who has supervised several honours, and MSc students and a PhD student. Dr. Matle has published (authored and co-authored) 22 peer-reviewed articles in accredited journals (local and international). At present, Dr. Matle serves as a reviewer for several journals, including *Frontiers in Microbiology*, *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research*, *Infection*, *Genetics*, and *Evolution Journal*, and *MDPI-Pathogens*. He also serves on various national committees, such as the SAVC paraveterinary specialization committees; South African Veterinary Laboratory Scientific Forum, and the Brucellosis Working Group, just to mention a few. As a researcher, the career goal is to conduct research and knowledge dissemination in veterinary bacteriology and food microbiology through the integration of phenotypic and microbial genomic techniques to make proposals for the detection of infectious disease pathogens.

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Keleabetswe Selina Malepe

CAREER HISTORY University of South Africa-Veterinarian and Lecturer-2017/05 to date Key Performance Areas Teaching and learning- Compiles tutorial material by incorporating current trends in the discipline into tutorial material, Quality assures tutorial material by adhering to quality standards regarding the design, content and publishing requirements for UNISA's tutorial material, Teaches undergraduate courses, Sets assignments and examination papers (formative, as well as summative assessment), Acts as module leader or course coordinator, Conducts discussion classes, group visits, lectures and practicals. Community Engagement- Participates in curriculum related community engagement and/or research-related community engagement. Academic citizenship- Participates voluntarily in University structures/committees on various levels, Is involved with professional, national and international bodies/boards that are related to his/her discipline expertise Agricultural Research Council - Research Veterinarian – 2015/11 to 2017/04 Key Performance Areas Research on Rabies control. Head of the Lab in the Rabies and BSE diagnostic laboratories Diagnostic services and Quality Management System (QMS): Monitor the activities in both diagnostic labs. Diagnostic testing of routine sample in the Rabies lab Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries – State Veterinarian – 2014/02 to 2015/10 Key Performance Areas Evaluating recommendations for approval of import/export establishments in accordance with the Meat Safety Act and applicable legislation/standards. Evaluation/completion of questionnaires. Assist in National Monitoring Programs (Residues and Microbiology). Assist in coordination of drafting concepts of legislation and other matters concerned therewith.

Munyaradzi Christopher Marufu

Prof. Munyaradzi Christopher Marufu qualified as a veterinarian at the University of Zimbabwe in 2006, obtained an MSc in 2009 from the University of Fort Hare and a PhD in 2014 from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He worked as a Chief State Veterinarian in the Eastern Cape Province from 2008 until 2012 and then in Gauteng Province from 2013 until 2016. Chris was appointed a Senior Lecturer: Farm Animal Veterinarian and Head of the Production Animal Clinical Section at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital in 2016, a position he held until his appointment as a Senior Lecturer: Veterinary Parasitology in the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases in the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria in 2019. He was subsequently promoted to the position of Associate Professor in the same department in 2023 as a recognition of his exceptional research and teaching work on the epidemiology of parasitic diseases. Chris has been a regular contributor to the SASVEPM and ISVEE through his own presentations at congresses and symposia as well as through his students' participation at these fora. He envisions his contribution to the SASVEPM ExCo to be increasing the Society's footprint and assisting to establish branches of the society in different Southern African countries.

Oonagh Pretorius

Dr. Oonagh Pretorius (BSc., BVSc., MSc.) earned her BSc in Veterinary Biology and Bachelor of Veterinary Science from the University of Pretoria, in 2011 and 2015, respectively. In 2020, she completed her master's degree in Tropical Animal Health from the Institute for Tropical Medicine, Antwerp and the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases at Onderstepoort, University of Pretoria. From 2016 to 2021, she worked as a State Veterinarian, providing animal health services in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga, where agronomic development is consistently constrained and threatened by livestock diseases. In 2021, she was the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship and an International Peace Scholarship to pursue her PhD in epidemiology at the University of California, Davis. She is currently making her way back to South Africa to begin her third year of research. Oonagh is committed to the improvement of rural livelihoods in southern Africa through a One Health approach to infectious disease control at the wildlife-livestock-human interface. Her research interests include infectious and wildlife disease epidemiology and modelling, currently focusing on surveillance and control of African Swine Fever in South Africa.

Tandile Nwabisa Ndobeni

Dr Ndobeni did her compulsory community service at Tsolo Agriculture and Rural Development Institute; she thereafter was appointed as a state veterinarian at Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform in the Eastern Cape province. Currently, she is a state veterinarian at the Gauteng Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Environment under the primary animal health directorate. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Animal Production) from the University of Fort Hare, Bachelor of Veterinary Science from the University of Pretoria, and Master of Science in Paraclinical Science from the University of Pretoria. While she was in the Eastern Cape, she co-authored a paper titled "Exploratory study on relationship among body weight, body condition score and some blood biochemical parameters of non-descriptive goats in Mzimvubu local municipality: a case of Santombe village". She has started building collaboration with other research groups including ARC-OVI on the epidemiology of diseases of national importance.

Tlou Simon Phukubye

Phukubye Tlou Simon is a Veterinarian for Aquatic Organisms at the National Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment (DFFE) in South Africa. He holds an MSc in Aquatic Veterinary Studies from the University of Stirling, Scotland, United Kingdom and a Bachelors of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya. Phukubye Tlou Simon has extensive knowledge of veterinary and para-veterinary professions, animal protection, animal identification, and animal diseases acts. He is familiar with WOAHO/OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code and OIE WAHIS portal usage and is proficient in laboratory management and ISO17025 for laboratory accreditation and approval. Phukubye Tlou Simon is fluent in English, Sepedi, Tswana, and Swahili.