



ORAL PROGRAMME

Sunday 30 August 2026

15h00	Registration Opens
15h00	Poster applications
17h00	Drinks, light snacks and networking at the Waterfall Lapa

Monday 31 August 2026

Time	Abstract #	Description	Speaker
Session 1 – Diversity, taxonomy and host-parasite interactions in African Fish			
Chair: Prof. Wilmien Luus-Powell, University of Limpopo			
08h00	Registration & Industry Networking		
08h30	Welcome and Opening		Dr Iva Přikrylova, University of Limpopo & Prof. Kgomotso Sibeko-Matjila, University of Pretoria
08h45	Keynote 1- Fish host immunity, pathogens and microbiota in the OMICS era		Prof. Andrea Vetešníková Šimková, Masaryk University and University of South Bohemia
09h30	49	Revisiting and reviewing fish parasitology in the Okavango Delta, Botswana – a preliminary report	Prof. Maxwell Barson, University of Botswana
09h45	26	Detection and characterisation of GIT associated Apicomplexan parasites in tilapia (<i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i> and <i>O. niloticus</i>) in South Africa	Ms Joy Davids, University of Cape Town- Presented by Dr Kevin W. Christison, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
10h00	55	Taxonomic resolution reveals cryptic diversity and reframes host–parasite associations in <i>Myxobolus</i> spp. infecting African cichlids	Dr Kevin W. Christison, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
10h15	Mid-morning refreshments		
Session 2- Aquatic Parasite Diversity, Ecology and Disease Dynamics			
Chair: Prof. Maxwell Barson, University of Botswana			
10h45	07	Scratching the surface: unravelling the diversity of freshwater fish blood flukes in Europe	Dr James Omondi Outa, State Scientific Research Institute Nature Research Center
11h00	36	Invasion dynamics and host range expansion of the alien copepod <i>Neoergasilus japonicus</i> in South African freshwater systems	Dr Willem Smit, University of Limpopo
11h15	62	Diversity of snail-borne trematode infections in the Okavango Delta: Integrating morphological and molecular approaches	Ms Florah G. Gaongalelwe, University of Botswana
11h30	20	Invasive snails and trematode transmission: the case of <i>Pseudosuccinea columella</i> and an African buffalo (<i>Syncerus caffer</i>)	Ms Emilie Goossens, Hasselt University
11h45	46	Integrative morphological and molecular characterisation of <i>Contracaecum</i> spp. and host-linked genetic diversity	Ms Ketumile H. Thobejane, University of Limpopo

Time	Abstract #	Description	Speaker
12h00	Poster Session 1		
12h30	Lunch		
Session 3 – Diverse Parasitology			
Chair: Dr Luther van der Mescht, University of the Free State			
13h30	Presentation by Gold Sponsor		Mr Ernest Mokoena, Inqaba
13h45	08	Hidden in plain sight: first report and descriptions of blood flukes from South African cyprinids	Dr James Omondi Outa, State Scientific Research Institute Nature Research Center
14h00	17	Seasonal prevalence of gastrointestinal nematodes infecting horses in the Potchefstroom area, South Africa	Ms Roney Yssel, North-West University
14h15	53	Epidemiology of gastrointestinal nematodes infection in indigenous and crossbreed goats in St. Kitts, West Indies	Prof. Samson Mukaratirwa, Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine
14h30	29	A can of worms: anthelmintic (in)efficacy in Northern KwaZulu-Natal communal goats	Prof. Chris Marufu, University of Pretoria
14h45	11	Parasites and Practice: Longitudinal Insights into FAMACHA®-Guided Endoparasite Management in Smallholder Goats	Dr Andrea Spickett, ARC-OVR
15h00	48	Livestock, companion animals, and wildlife schistosomiasis in Africa: a scoping review on existing research and knowledge gaps	Ms Bongekile Lungile Khoza, University of Pretoria
15h15	Mid-afternoon refreshments		
Session 4- Vectors and Vector-Borne Pathogens			
Chair: Dr Danisile Tembe, University of KwaZulu-Natal			
15h45	19	Preliminary results of <i>Simulium</i> species associated with streams in Gauteng, South Africa	Dr Karien Labuschagne, ARC-OVR
16h00	41	Evaluating the efficiency of baited BioFlyTrap P38T, H-trap, Nzi and Vavoua traps towards biting flies of Glossinidae, Tabanidae and Muscidae (Stomoxyni) families in north-eastern KwaZulu-Natal	Dr Moeti Taioe, ARC-Onderstepoort Veterinary Research
16h15	35	Occurrence and molecular detection of tick-borne pathogens in dogs from selected households at Ben Farm, Phalaborwa, Limpopo Province	Ms Pontsho Tshabalala, University of Pretoria, Clinvet International
16h30	52	Molecular characterization of <i>Theileria</i> parasites in horses and zebras: Comparative analysis of the 18S rRNA, ema and cox-1 genes for species discrimination	Ms Caelan Sue McKenzie, University of Pretoria
16h45	Close of Day 1		
17h00	PARSA AGM- MEMBERS ONLY		
18h30	Optional Dinner at the Restaurant (pre-booking required)		

19h00	Quiz Night for all Students in the Restaurant
-------	--



Tuesday 01 September 2026

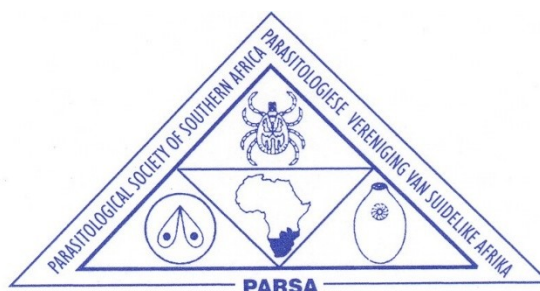
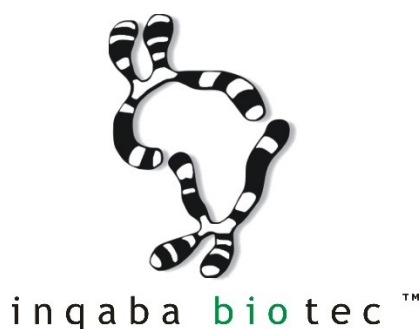
Time	Abstract #	Description	Speaker
Session 5 – OMICS approaches to Anaplasma			
Chair: Dr S. Marcus Makgabo, Agricultural Research Council			
08h30	Keynote 2- An <i>Anaplasma</i> adventure in South Africa: Exploring strain diversity, wildlife reservoirs and the quest for a better bovine anaplasmosis vaccine		Dr Nicola E. Collins, University of Pretoria
09h15	42	More than meets the eye: OMICs-driven insights into the hidden epidemiology of <i>Anaplasma</i> in South African cattle	Dr Zamantungwa T.H. Mnisi, University of Limpopo
09h30	63	Diversity of ticks and circulating tick-borne pathogens in selected farm at Namakgale Village, Limpopo Province, South Africa	Mr Fhulufhelo Mulaudzi, University of Pretoria
09h45	18	Genetic diversity of <i>Anaplasma marginale</i> in African buffalo (<i>Syncerus caffer</i>) from the Kruger National Park suggests host-specific divergence from cattle-associated strains	Ms Marche Duarte, University of Pretoria
10h00	Mid-morning refreshments		
Session 6 – Ticks and tick-borne diseases			
Chair: Dr Zamantungwa Mnisi, University of Limpopo			
10h30	43	Patterns of <i>Rhipicephalus</i> tick infestation in commercial cattle herds of the Free State, South Africa	Ms Elizna Molony, University of the Free State
10h45	10	Battle for dominance: Invasion dynamics between the invasive Asiatic (<i>Rhipicephalus microplus</i>) and native African (<i>Rhipicephalus decoloratus</i>) blue tick in the Eastern Cape province, South Africa	Dr Luther van der Mescht, University of the Free State
11h00	15	Modelling the potential suitable habitats for blue ticks in the Free State Province, South Africa	Ms Leah L. Blayi, University of the Free State
11h15	47	Analytical validation of novel xMAP assays for the detection of tick-borne haemoparasites in dogs	Ms Nokuzola Faith Nkosi, University of Pretoria
11h30	Poster Session 2		
12h00	Lunch & Networking		
Session 7- Host–Parasite Interactions			
Chair: Prof. Samson Mukaratirwa, Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine			
13h00	02	Phylogenetic and functional niche breadth in two taxa of arthropod ectoparasites: correlations with ecomorphological traits are scale-dependent	Prof. Boris Krasnov, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
13h15	44	Blood parasites in Muridae from the Nama and Succulent Karoo, Fynbos, and Grassland biomes of South Africa	Mr Divan de Koker, University of the Free State
13h30	40	Human and Climate Drivers of Helminth Communities in Wild Canids: Lessons for Zoonotic Surveillance in Southern African Interfaces	Dr Sibusiso Moloj, University of Pretoria
13h45	57	Prevalence and first molecular characterization of <i>Gongylonema ingluvicola</i> in free-range chickens from eight localities in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces of South Africa	Ms Irene Walter, University of KwaZulu-Natal
14h00	06	Prevalence and distribution of chewing lice in free-range chickens from selected rural localities of KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces, South Africa	Ms Silindokuhle Mlondo, University of KwaZulu-Natal (Westville Campus)
14h15	Mid-afternoon refreshments		

Time	Abstract #	Description	Speaker
Session 8 – Molecular characterization of Pathogens <i>Chair: Dr Andrea Spickett, ARC-OVR</i>			
14h45	56	Unravelling the occurrence of <i>Sarcocystis</i> species in South African meat-producing animals: A multi-provincial molecular approach	Ms Okuhle N. Sekujka, University of Pretoria
15h00	30	Digenean parasites and their influence on shaping the pullet carpet shell clams <i>Venerupis corrugata</i> aquaculture in Republic of South Africa	Ms Hlengiwe Mbanjwa, University of Free State
15h15	38	Impala (<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>) as a potential reservoir host of a novel <i>Anaplasma</i> species in Mpumalanga Province, South Africa	Dr S. Marcus Makgabo, ARC-Onderstepoort Veterinary Research
15h30	45	The South Africa <i>Theileria parva</i> population is unique	Dr Boitumelo Maboko, ARC-Onderstepoort Veterinary Research
15h45	13	Subtype distribution of <i>Blastocystis</i> among animals in Vhembe District, Limpopo South Africa	Prof. Samie Amidou, University of Venda
16h00	Close of Conference & Words of Thanks		
19h00	Conference dinner & awards at the Waterfall Lapa (Theme: Denim & Diamonds)		

Wednesday 02 September 2026

10h00	Breakfast & Departure
-------	-----------------------

With appreciation to our sponsors



Programme - Posters

Monday 31 August 2026 – Poster Session 1: 12h00-12h30

Abstract #	Description	Speaker
04	Haemoparasite infections in free-range chickens from rural communities of KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces of South Africa	Danisile Tembe, University of KwaZulu-Natal
23	Molecular characterization of <i>Taenia solium</i> and <i>Taenia saginata</i> infecting domestic animals collected from different abattoirs in of Zimbabwe	Dr Vimbai T. Mucheka, University of Pretoria
27	Parasite diversity of <i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i> and <i>Clarias gariepinus</i> in the water bodies within the Mankweng rural area, Limpopo province	Dr Iva Přikrylova, University of Limpopo
33	Hidden <i>Rickettsia</i> diversity at the human-animal-environment interface in rural Mpumalanga	Ms Magen Brits, University of Pretoria
34	Assessment of parasite diversity in fish species occurring in selected dams around Gauteng and North West Provinces of South Africa	Dr Khethiwe Mtshali, Tshwane University of Technology
37	Gut microbes of <i>Stomoxys</i> flies from different ecological settings northeastern KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa	Mr Percy Moyaba ARC-OVR
39	Hidden germ of the University of Limpopo: <i>Cichlidogyrus</i> spp. (Monopisthocotyla: Dactylogyridae) from <i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i> (Peters) in the artificial pond on the Turfloop campus	Dr Modibe Raphahlelo, University of Limpopo
50	Molecular characterization of <i>Echinococcus granulosus</i> of cattle from the Matabeleland region, Zimbabwe	Dr Madeline S. Sibula, National University of Science and Technology
54	First insights into the parasite diversity of the critically endangered cichlid <i>Chetia brevis</i> from the Mlumati River, Eswatini	Prof. Wilmien Luus-Powell, University of Limpopo

Tuesday 01 September 2026 – Poster Session 2: 12h00-12h30

Abstract #	Description	Speaker
60	Assessing ecosystem health in Loskop Dam using fish health and parasite diversity of <i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i>	Mr Sabelo M. Mdaka, University of Limpopo
61	Exploring the microbial communities of <i>Rhipicephalus</i> tick species parasitizing domestic animals in South Africa	Ms Asiashu Matshotshi, University of South Africa
64	Monopisthocotylan diversity of threatened Anabantidae and Cyprinidae, and an invasive cichlid, from the Cape Fold Ecoregion	Dr Marliese Truter, North-West University
65	Who lives inside the parasite? A first look at the microbiome of the temporary fish parasitic isopod <i>Gnathia pantherina</i> (Isopoda: Gnathiidae)	Dr Linda de Klerk, North-West University
66	Repurposing Drugs as Acetylcholinesterase Inhibitors Against the Malaria Vector <i>Anopheles</i> : An Integrated In Vitro and In Silico Study	Mr Jabu S. Mahlangu, University of the Witwatersrand
67	An Integrated Computational and Experimental Framework for Investigating Atovaquone Resistance and Discovering Novel Antimalarial Leads	Dr Priyanka Agarwal, University of the Witwatersrand
68	Evaluation of Phenylhydrazone Quinoline Hybrids as Selective Inhibitors of <i>Anopheles</i> Acetylcholinesterase	Mr Sahil Lala, University of the Witwatersrand
69	Assessing community knowledge and preventative practices for <i>Plasmodium</i> infections in the Vaal Triangle, Gauteng, South Africa	Prof. Robyn L. van Zyl, University of the Witwatersrand
70	Global phylogeny of <i>Gyrodactylus</i> (Monogenea) revealing origin and diversification of Nearctic species	Prof. Andrea Vetešníková Šimková, Faculty of Science of Masaryk University