



SAAVT 2026 CONGRESS

United in Veterinary Excellence

30 September - 01 October 2026 | Krystal Beach Hotel, Gordon's Bay



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Programme

Wednesday 30 September, 2026

Time	Title	Speaker
Session 1 – Opening Plenary Session Chair: Dr Itumeleng Matle		
07:30	Registration Open Arrival coffee/tea Poster viewing and networking	
08:30	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Dr Itumeleng Matle Congress Chairperson
08:45	Guest Speaker 1 - Beyond the laboratory bench: The expanding role of Veterinary Technologists in advancing animal health, biosecurity and One Health in South Africa	Dr Nolvuyo Magadla The Director: Animal Health for the Western Cape Department of Agriculture
09:15	Keynote Speaker 1 - Beyond Professional Boundaries: Advancing together to shape the future of veterinary services	Dr Oseke Ngobeni Gauteng Department of Agriculture Land Reform & Rural Development
10:00	Mid-morning refreshments	
Session 2 – From Sample to Solution: Strengthening Veterinary Diagnostic in South Africa Session Chair: Mr Jabulani Magagula		
10:30	Veterinary & Animal Health Laboratory Infrastructure	Mr Awie van Rensburg AFMS Sponsored Talk
10:45	[01] Development of a method to extract high molecular weight DNA from a putative novel <i>Anaplasma</i> species identified in impala (<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>) in, South Africa	Karabo A. Aphane University of Pretoria
11:00	[13] Detection and identification of mastitic pathogens from cows’ milk using metagenomics method	Fulufhelo A. Doboro North-West University
11:15	 [31] <i>Babesia lengau</i> and a <i>Hepatozoon</i> -like parasite, reported in blood collected from captive Cheetahs	Tshwane University of Technology: - Malebo J. Mokwena - Dimpho M. Malesa - Palesa S.H. Marakalala - Thabiso L. Monyai
11:20	 [32] Molecular detection of blood bacteria in ticks collected from captive cheetahs (<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>) and pastures close to cheetah enclosures	Tshwane University of Technology: - Ntsebeng N Masemola - Neo A Monyane - Kgabo G Mmonwa - Vhutshilo V Musekwa - Promise M Tsikelele - Siphesihle S Shandu
Session 3 – Surveillance-Driven Diagnostics Session Chair: Ms Nomsa Letsoalo		
11:25	[02] <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> in cattle from Limpopo Province, South Africa: Prevalence, risk factors, and molecular characterization	Lesego L. Mashiane North-West University
11:40	[04] Mapping the burden of mastitis in South Africa: provincial trends and seasonal variation from 2000–2025	Puseletso Masemola North-West University
11:55	Poster Session	
12:25	Lunch	

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Session 4 – Surveillance-Driven Diagnostics <i>Session Chair: Mr Leften Mokami</i>		
13:15	 [11] Shifting Genomes, Rising Threats: Adaptive Evolution and Antimicrobial Resistance of E. coli ST10 across African Ecologies	Refiloe Malesa <i>Agricultural research council</i>
13:30	[29] Transition from live sentinel monitoring to environmental PCR-based surveillance in an SPF rodent facility: A South African case study	Jabulani Magagula University of Cape Town
13:45	 [33] Integrating Morphological and PCR-RFLP approaches for identification and assessment of <i>Rhipicephalus</i> resistance profiles	<i>Tshwane University of Technology:</i> - Kgothatso A. Moobi - Despour Mashego - Madelein Dry - Lindiwe P. Mkhwanazi - Karabo E. Machaka - Cornelius J. Muller
13:50	[25] Efficacy of common medicinal plants for “veterinary textile” application against bacteria affecting “furbabies”	Gantshe G. Molaba Tshwane University of Technology
14:05	[26] Characterization of Environmental Bacterial Communities in Aquaponic Systems in Gauteng Province, South Africa	Prisca K. Thethe <i>Tshwane University of Technology</i>
14:20	Round Table Discussion	Sphamandla Qwabe
15:20	Mid-afternoon refreshments	
15:30	SAAVT AGM (Members Only). Zoom link will be sent to SAAVT Members who cannot physically attend.	
18:30	Congress Social Dinner: Theme “Coastal Chic”	



Thursday 01 October, 2026

Time	Title	Speaker
Session 5 – Opening Plenary Session Chair: Ms Nomkhosi Mathebula		
07:30	Registration Open Arrival coffee/tea Poster viewing and networking	
08:30	Welcome	Dr Itumeleng Matle Congress Chairperson
08:35	Guest Speaker 2 - SAVC strategic overview and key developments	Dr Nomsa Mnisi President of the South African Veterinary Council
09:05	Keynote Speaker 2 - A century of <i>Babesia</i> research: From Genesis to Genetics	Prof. Tshepo Matjila University of Cape Town
09:50	 [34] Molecular characterization of blood bacteria in ticks collected from cattle at a private farm in Madibeng Municipality, North West Province	Tshwane University of Technology: - Surprise Makhumisane - Naledi O H. Maphoto - Boichoko M. Phokontsi - Musa C. Kabine - Eva M. Motswiane
09:55	Mid-morning refreshments	
Session 6 – One Health Session Chair: Ms Gantshe Molaba		
10:30	Agilent BioTek solutions for veterinary testing	Mr Nick Desmond-Smith Chemetrix Sponsored Talk
10:45	[03] Whole-genome sequencing reveals the genomic epidemiology of <i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i> in South African meat and global populations	Itumeleng Matle University of South Africa
11:00	[08] Assessment of parasite diversity in fish species occurring in selected dams around Gauteng and North West Provinces of South Africa	Obakeng Boshielo Tshwane University of Technology
11:15	 [35] Molecular detection of <i>Babesia</i> species in ticks collected from cattle from a farm in the North West Province, South Africa	Tshwane University of Technology: - Diala Nakedi - Sthandwa Shabalala
Session 7 – Transforming veterinary laboratories for emerging and endemic diseases threats Session Chair: Ms Obakeng Boshielo		
11:20	[19] Seroprevalence and risk factors of <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> in sheep and goats of North West Province, South Africa	Mthokozisi Masombuka University of South Africa
11:35	 [12] Assessment of diagnostic methods for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Virus (FMDV) in African Buffalo from cross-sectional sampling	Keneiloe Montsu Agricultural Research Council
11:50	Poster Session	
12:25	Lunch	
Session 8 – Success stories (non-technical) Session Chair: Mr Sphamandla Qwabe		
13:15	 Keynote Speaker 3 - Be Serious about <i>B. cereus</i> : the <i>Bacillus cereus</i> group in the genomic era	Dr Laura Carroll Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden
14:00	[05] Ownership of dogs and cats, knowledge of rabies, and predictors of vaccination of dogs against rabies: A community survey	Bertha Nchabeleng University of South Africa
14:15	[14] The role of culture and leadership in organisational readiness for quality 4.0 adoption in a diagnostic laboratory	Yoanda Alice Marageni Dept. of Agriculture
14:30	[22] Economic impact of malignant catarrhal fever on cattle production in Lephalale Municipality, Limpopo Province, South Africa	Emmanuel Seakamela ARC-OVR
14:45	[27] How to math when you can't math, how to make Excel your new best friend	Minyon Basson WCPVL
15:00	Mid-afternoon refreshments	
15:15	Awards - Presentation Awards	
15:30	Closing of Congress	



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Poster Programme

Wednesday 30 September, 2026

POSTER SESSION: 11h55 – 12h25

Title	Speaker
[06] The decline of provincial veterinary laboratories in South Africa: consequences for animal health, disease surveillance, food safety and veterinary public health	Itumeleng Matle University of South Africa
[07] The implementation of Quality Management System to enhance the One Health approach	Masabata Annah Motaung ARC-OVR
[10] Seroprevalence and molecular characterization of <i>Brucella</i> species in cattle and sheep in the Free State province of South Africa	Joshua Sizwe Mahlangu <i>Agricultural Research Council</i>
[18] Quality assurance investigation and optimization of the <i>Brucella ovis</i> complement fixation test following persistent anticomplementary reactions	Boitumelo Mathabatha ARC-OVR (Poster will be presented by Bertha Marumo)
[25] Efficacy of common medicinal plants for “veterinary textile” application against bacteria affecting “furbabies”	Gantshe G. Molaba Tshwane University of Technology

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