



SAAVT 2026 CONGRESS

United in Veterinary Excellence

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

Preliminary Programme Outline

Wednesday 30 September, 2026

.Time	Title	Speaker
Session 1 – Opening Plenary Session Chair:		
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 Noluvuyo 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:		
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:		
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 1	
12:25	Lunch	

Wednesday 30 September, 2026

Time	Title	Speaker
Session 4 – Surveillance-Driven Diagnostics <i>Session Chair:</i>		
13:15	[08] Assessment of parasite diversity in fish species occurring in selected dams around Gauteng and North West Provinces of South Africa	Obakeng Boshielo <i>Tshwane University of Technology</i>
13:30	[10] Seroprevalence and molecular characterization of Brucella species in cattle and sheep in the Free State province of South Africa	Joshua Sizwe Mahlangu <i>Agricultural Research Council</i>
13:45	 [33] Integrating Morphological and PCR-RFLP approaches for identification and assessment of Rhipicephalus 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	[16] Surveillance, virulence profiling and molecular characterization of antibiotic-resistant Campylobacter species isolated from chicken carcasses in informal broiler farms in Gauteng Province, South Africa	Thabiso Nxumalo <i>ARC-OVR</i>
14:05	[26] Assessing Microbial Diversity in Tilapia and Catfish Aquaponic Systems in Gauteng Province	Prisca K. Thethe <i>Tshwane University of Technology</i>
14:20	Round Table Discussion	
15:15	Mid-afternoon refreshments	
15:30	SAAVT AGM (Members Only)	
18:30	Congress Social Dinner	

Thursday 01 October, 2026

Time	Title	Speaker
Session 5 – Opening Plenary <i>Session Chair:</i>		
07:30	Registration Open Arrival coffee/tea Poster viewing and networking	
08:30	Welcome	Dr Itumeleng Matle <i>Congress Chairperson</i>
08:45	Guest Speaker 2 - SAVC Strategic Overview and Key Developments	Dr Nomsa Mnisi <i>President of the South African Veterinary Council</i>
09:15	Keynote Speaker 2	Prof. Tshepo Matjila <i>University of Cape Town</i>
10:00	Mid-morning refreshments	
Session 6 – One Health <i>Session Chair:</i>		
10:30	Agilent BioTek solutions for Veterinary Testing Mr Nick Desmond Smith Cell Analysis & Microplate Automation	Mr Nick Desmond-Smith <i>Chemetrix Sponsored Talk</i>
10:45	[03] Whole-genome sequencing reveals the genomic epidemiology of Yersinia enterocolitica in South African meat and global populations	Itumeleng Matle <i>University of South Africa</i>
11:00	 [11] Shifting Genomes, Rising Threats: Adaptive Evolution and Antimicrobial Resistance of E. coli ST10 across African Ecologies	Refiloe Malesa <i>Agricultural research council</i>
11:15	 [34] Molecular characterization of blood bacteria in ticks collected from cattle at a private farm in Madibeng Municipality, North West Province	<i>Tshwane University of Technology:</i> - Surprise Makhumisane - Naledi O H. Maphoto - Boichoko M. Phokontsi - Musa C. Kabine - Eva M. Motswane
11:20	 [35] Molecular detection of Babesia species in ticks collected from cattle from a farm in the North West Province, South Africa	<i>Tshwane University of Technology:</i> - Diala Nakedi - Sthandwa Shabalala

Thursday 01 October, 2026

Time	Title	Speaker
Session 7 – Transforming veterinary laboratories for emerging and endemic diseases threats		
<i>Session Chair:</i>		
11:25	 [12] Assessment of Diagnostic Methods for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Virus (FMDV) in African Buffalo from Cross-Sectional Sampling	Keneiloe Montsu <i>Agricultural Research Council</i>
11:40	[19] Seroprevalence and risk factors of Toxoplasma gondii in sheep and goats of North West Province, South Africa	Mthokozisi Masombuka <i>University of South Africa</i>
11:55	Poster Session 2	
12:25	Lunch	
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 <i>Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden</i>
Session 8 – Success stories (non-technical)		
<i>Session Chair:</i>		
14:00	[05] Ownership of dogs and cats, knowledge of rabies, and predictors of vaccination of dogs against rabies: A community survey.	Bertha Nchabeleng <i>University of South Africa</i>
14:15	[14] The Role of Culture and Leadership in Organisational Readiness for Quality 4.0 Adoption in a Diagnostic Laboratory	Yoanda Alice Marageni <i>Dept. of Agriculture</i>
14:30	[22] Economic Impact of Malignant Catarrhal Fever on Cattle Production in Lephalale Municipality, Limpopo Province, South Africa	Emmanuel Seakamela <i>ARC-OVR</i>
14:45	[27] How to math when you can't math, how to make Excel your new best friend	Minyon Basson <i>WCPVL</i>
15:00	Mid-afternoon refreshments	
15:15	Awards and closing of congress	

Poster Programme

Wednesday 30 September, 2026

POSTER SESSION 1: 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 <i>University of South Africa</i>
[07] The implementation of Quality Management System to enhance the One Health approach	Masabata Annah Motaung <i>ARC-OVR</i>
[09] How to correctly interpret antibiotic resistance in a diagnostic laboratory	Leften Mokami <i>Vetdiagnostix Pathology services</i>
[15] An Inter-Laboratory Assessment to Evaluate the Rabies Diagnosis Capability in the Southern African Development Community.	Debrah Mohale <i>ARC-OVR</i>
[18] Quality Assurance Investigation and Optimization of the Brucella ovis Complement Fixation Test Following Persistent Anticomplementary Reactions	Boitumelo Mathabatha <i>ARC-OVR</i> (Poster will be presented by Bertha Marumo)

Thursday 01 October, 2026

POSTER SESSION 2: 11h55 – 12h25

Title	Speaker
[21] Genomic Characterisation of Rabies Viruses from the Eastern Cape Outbreak Using Whole-Genome Sequencing	Mmantshuruge J. Miyen <i>ARC-OVR</i>
[24] Brucellosis detected in Bovines using Milk Ring Test at the ARC-OVR Bacterial Serology between 2024-2025	Kgothatso Rakhutla <i>Agricultural Research Council</i>
[25] Efficacy of common medicinal plants for “veterinary textile” application against bacteria affecting “furbabies”	Gantshe G. Molaba <i>Tshwane University of Technology</i>
[28] Molecular serotyping of Salmonella enterica subsp. enterica isolates from South Africa using multiplex PCR assays	Masenyabu Aletta Mathole <i>Agricultural Research Council</i>
[29] Transition from Live Sentinel Monitoring to Environmental PCR-Based Surveillance in an SPF Rodent Facility: A South African Case Study	Jabulani Magagula <i>University of Cape Town</i>

With appreciation to our sponsors



SAAVT 2026 CONGRESS

United in Veterinary Excellence

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

