

30TH

MARCH 2026

14h00-15h30

Susser and Stein Lecture Theatre,
K-RITH Tower Building,
Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine.

WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY COMMEMORATION

Yes! We Can End TB.

UKZN's College of Health Sciences in partnership with the Centre for the Aids Programme of Research in South Africa and the Africa Health Research Institute invite you to commemorate WORLD TB DAY with a panel discussion as follows:

SESSION 1: The lived experiences of people living with TB

SESSION 2: Is the current research into novel diagnostics, clinical trials of new treatment drugs and the management of patients aligning to the realities on the ground?





Special Guest Speaker: Dr Norbet Njeka
Chief Director: TB Control & Management, National Department of Health.

Under Professor Norbert Ndjeka's leadership, there has been a major increase in the number of TB tests conducted, a significant improvement in TB treatment coverage, a decline in the number of TB, DR-TB cases and a remarkable improvement in proportion of patients successfully treated, particularly among the DR-TB patients. His qualifications include a medical degree from the University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, a Masters' degree in Family Medicine from Medical University of Southern Africa known as Medunsa (Now Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University), a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Services Management from Wits, a Diploma in HIV Management for the College of Medicine of South Africa and a PhD (public Health) from UKZN. He is the Chair of the SADC (Southern African Development Community) END TB Committee, a CAPRISA Fellow and a Member of the Scientific Board of CAPRISA. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Cape Town in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the fight against drug-resistant tuberculosis locally and globally. He also serves as Honorary Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Cape Town (South Africa).



Professor Kogie Naidoo:
Deputy Director & Clinical Research Site Leader
of the CAPRISA eThekweni Research Site (ECRS).

Professor Kogie Naidoo is a leading TB expert and eminent research scientist. She serves as Deputy Director of CAPRISA and is an Honorary Associate Professor in the College of Health Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Her research focuses on optimizing treatment strategies for TB-HIV co-infected individuals, improving outcomes in drug-resistant TB (DR-TB), and advancing TB prevention through large-scale, multi-country clinical trials. A Fellow of the prestigious Royal Society of South Africa for her seminal research over three decades in TB HIV co-infection and multidrug resistant TB, Professor Naidoo has led numerous Phase II and III clinical trials that have shaped global policy and clinical practice. She was a lead investigator of the landmark CAPRISA SAPiT trial, which provided the scientific foundation for integrating TB and HIV treatment—guidance now incorporated into international treatment guidelines. Prof Naidoo contributes extensively to global health policy and scientific leadership. She serves as Vice Chair of the NIH Advancing Clinical Therapeutics Globally (ACTG) Tuberculosis Transformative Science Group and is a member of the World Health Organization (WHO) HIV Clinical Guidelines Development Committee. Regionally, she contributes to TB strategy through roles on the TB Vaccine Technical Working Group under the National Advisory Group on Immunization, the National Drug-Resistant TB Clinical Advisory Committee, and the National TB Think Tank.



Professor Yunus Moosa:
Chief Specialist and Head of Infectious Diseases at UKZN.

Professor Yunus Moosa obtained his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at the University of Natal. He trained in Clinical Infectious Diseases and obtained his PhD in Immunology and Microbiology at Wayne State University in the USA. His work focuses on the care of in patients and out patients with complex infectious diseases. He is involved in clinical training at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. His research interests includes Immune Reconstitution, Inflammatory Syndrome, Smear negative Tuberculosis and anti-retroviral drug resistance.



**Professor Limakatso Lebina:****Director of Science and Faculty member at the Africa Health Research Institute.**

Professor Limakatso Lebina has managed multiple clinical trials and implementation science research studies on HIV, TB and Covid-19 prevention and management. She recently received funding for a project to investigate asymptomatic TB transmission in Indonesia and South Africa. Limakatso is coordinating the South African Novel TB Vaccines Preparedness Consortium and is a member of the SAMRC Board. She is also a Calestous Juma Science Leadership Fellow, supported by the Gates Foundation. Limakatso has co-authored over 100 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals and has presented at local and international conferences.

**Professor Rubeshan Perumal:****Head of TB Treatment at CAPRISA and Professor of Pulmonology at UKZN.**

A pulmonologist and clinician-scientist with an impressive academic history, Professor Rubeshan Perumal is the head of TB Treatment at CAPRISA. He holds multiple degrees, including an MBChB, MMed (Internal Medicine), MPhil (Pulmonology), MPH (Public Health), and a PhD in Medicine, alongside specialised certifications in Pulmonology and Critical Care. Perumal was one of the only students to be granted permission to undertake an MPH concurrently with his medical degree. His doctoral research, which focused on pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic optimisation of TB treatment, underscores his dedication to advancing patient outcomes through scientific rigor. Perumal has published more than 70 high-impact peer-reviewed articles in prestigious journals such as The Lancet, The New England Journal of Medicine, and Lancet Infectious Diseases. As a principal investigator or co-investigator on more 10 clinical trials, his efforts continue to shape the future of TB and HIV treatment and care. In 2024, he received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence at UKZN. Last year, he received the SAMRC Bronze Award from the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the fields of tuberculosis (TB) and HIV research.

**Dr Richard Lessells:****Group Leader: KRISP - KwaZulu-Natal Research and Innovation Sequencing Platform, UKZN.**

Dr Richard Lessells is an Infectious Diseases clinician scientist at KRISP in the School of Medicine at UKZN, and an honorary research associate at CAPRISA. He did his clinical specialist training in Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine in the UK, and his PhD at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He has been actively involved in TB clinical work, research, and training in South Africa for almost 20 years.

**Mr Patrick Mdletshe:****Head of Community Programmes at CAPRISA and the Deputy General Secretary of the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC).**

Mr Mdletshe has worked as a field researcher - conducting community research whilst at the TAC and Section27. He has successfully led several major community projects and has extensive practical experience and knowledge of health systems in South Africa. He currently also serves as co-chair in the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Council on Aids, and is Chairperson of the KZN Civil Society Forum.

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