



University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders



Collaborative Care for Healthier Futures

UNIVEN-SAMRC Health Sciences Conference 2026

Conference Programme

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Day 1: 22 April 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
14:00 – 16:00	Arrival & Registration	All Committee members

Day 2: 23 April 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	All Committee members
Session 1: Chair – Prof. T. Malwela		
09:00 – 09:10	Housekeeping	Prof. T. Malwela Research Professor (UNIVEN)
09:10 – 09:40	Welcome and Opening Address	Prof. F Netswera (Deputy Vice-Chancellor For Research and Postgraduate Studies - UNIVEN)
09:40 – 10:10	Keynote Address: The importance of Preconception Care in Improving Global Pregnancy	Prof. V. Berggren (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden)
10:10 – 10:30	Tea/Coffee Break	

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
Parallel Session 2A: Chair – Dr. M. Zulu		
10:30 – 10:45	Risk Factors Associated with High Prevalence of Stillbirths in Capricorn District, Limpopo	P. Nekhumbe (University of Venda)
10:45 – 11:00	Impact of seasonal ambient temperature on infant birth weight in a selected hospital in Vhembe district	Ms. R.S.M Mudau (University of Venda)
11:00 – 11:15	Pregnancy and birth outcomes in Vhembe District, South Africa & its relation to cord blood microbial isolates and antibiotic resistance	Prof. A. Samie (University of Venda)
11:15 – 11:30	Impact of maternal obesity and Dolutegravir on CD8+ T cell differentiation in peripheral blood of pregnant women with HIV	Dr. K. Peta (University of Cape Town) <i>Online</i>
11:30 – 11:45	Phenotypic and Functional Profiling of Maternal and Placental myeloid cells during pre-eclampsia	Ms. Lebogang Magoro (University of the Witwatersrand)
11:45 – 12:00	Guest Speaker: Mental Health and Pregnancy Outcomes	Prof Maphula A (University of Venda)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
Parallel Session 2B: Chair – Ms. Dipolelo R. Malema		
10:30 – 10:45	Barriers of Antenatal Exercise among pregnant women and Healthcare Professional in rural South Africa: A Scoping Review	Mr. T.S. Hashona (University of Venda)
10:45 – 11:00	Body mass index and performance-related physical fitness in South Africa children and adolescents: A cross-sectional study	Dr. V. K. Moselakgomo (University of Venda)
11:00 – 11:15	Integrating Community-Based Physical Activity into Multidisciplinary Preconception Care: A Collaborative Approach to Strengthening Pregnancy Outcomes in Rural Southern Africa	Ms. M.Z. Makamu (University of Venda)
11:15 – 11:30	Strengthening Pregnancy Outcomes through Multidisciplinary preconception care in SA	Mr. M. Nedzungani (University of Venda)
11:30 – 11:45	Implementation of PCC recommendations in the health facilities in the selected districts of Limpopo Province and the associated factors	Dr. N.P. Ndou (University of Venda)
11:45 – 12:15	Guest speaker: Mental Health and Pregnancy Outcomes	Prof Maphula A (University of Venda)
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch	

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
Session 3: Chair – Prof. A. Samie		
13:15– 13:30	Elderly women’s influence on obstetric outcomes: voices of pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers in South Africa	Dr. L.C. Makhado (University of Venda)
13:30 – 13:45	Household food security and associated factors among mothers/caregivers with infants aged 6–23 months in Collins Chabane Local municipality in Limpopo, South Africa	Dr. T.A. Masia (University of Venda)
13:45 – 14:00	Reimagining Preconception Care: The role of indigenous knowledge in improving women’s Health in South Africa	Mr. T. Kobola (University of Venda)
13:45 – 14:00	Experiences of pregnant women regarding the use of traditional medicine (isihlambezo) at King Cetshwayo District in KZN	Mr. M. Shange/ Prof. T. Madlala (University of Zululand) <i>Online</i>
14:00 – 14:15	When affordability, seasons and cultural authority shape the plate: photovoice insights into maternal nutrition in Limpopo, South Africa	Prof. L. Muthelo (University of Limpopo)
14:15 – 14:30	Facilitated Discussions	Dr. A. Samie (University of Venda)
14:30 – 15:00	POSTER SESSION 1	

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Poster Presentations

NAME AND SURNAME	TOPIC	AFFILIATION
Siphiwe T. Madlala	Experiences of mental healthcare providers regarding integration of mental healthcare into primary healthcare at the iLembe health district in KwaZulu-Natal province	University of Zululand
Lekgothoane Khutso, Selekane Ananias Motadi, Munyangane Osia Livhuwani	The systematic review on the role of recreational activities and dietary to management of Hypertension and hyperglycaemia in adults in low- and middle-income countries	Student
Ms. Negota T. D.	Developing a programme to enhance the Psycho-Social Well-Being for Educators at the Faculty of Health	University of Venda
Tharaga E	Insights into Staff and Student Perspectives on Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination at a Rural Higher Education Institution, South Africa	Student
Tshiovhe Shonisani	Strengthening Maternal Cardiovascular Health through Improved Guideline Adherence in Primary Healthcare: Implications for Preconception and Pregnancy Outcomes	Student

NAME AND SURNAME	TOPIC	AFFILIATION
Lekgothoane Khutso Mnyangane, Osia Livhuwani	Sexual Intercourse as an Alternative Therapeutic Recreational Interventional Strategies for Management of the Non-Communicable Diseases: A Therapeutic Perspective	Student
Given Shilaluke, Dr. Mushwana Mercy D.	Masculinity and Silence: A Qualitative Study on Men's Non-disclosure of Gender-Based Violence at Munghonghoma village, Mopani District	Student and staff member University of Venda
Mutshidzi Nedzungani	Strengthening Pregnancy Outcomes through Multidisciplinary Preconception Care in Southern Africa	Student University of Venda
Ndadza M.W., Ms. Matshovhana K.	Active Ageing: Perceptions of Elderly People regarding Psychological Benefits of Physical Activity	Student and Staff member University of Venda
Dr. Violet Kankane Moselakgomo	Body mass index and performance- related physical fitness in South African children and adolescents: A cross-sectional study	Staff University of Venda
Ms. Violet, VM Chewe (MD), Mathibeneke Johanna, JM (PhD)	The impact of antenatal care hardships on holistic care in Limpopo Province, South Africa	Staff members University of Venda
Maumela Rudzani, Prof. Thivhulawi Malwela, Prof. Maria Sonto Maputle, Khathutshelo Grace Netshisahulu, Vanja Berggren	Do rural women in the Vhembe district understand the effect of anaemia on pregnancy outcomes? A cross-sectional survey	Staff members University of Venda
Mokoena Irene Modiko	Technology as a transformative teaching and learning Tool in midwifery education: perspectives of nurses	Staff University of Venda

Day 3: 24 April 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
Session 1: Chair – Prof. S. Maputle		
09:00 – 09:15	Housekeeping	Prof. S. Maputle (University of Venda)
09:15 – 09:45	Keynote Address: Public Health Strategies for Preventing Maternal and Child Health Risks	Prof. T.G. Tshitangano (University of Limpopo)
09:45 – 10:00	Thematic Facilitated Discussions	Prof. Maputle & Prof. Malwela (University of Venda)
10:00 – 10:15	Collaboration & Future Conference themes	Organizing Committee Members
10:15 – 10:30	Tea/Coffee Break	

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
Session 2A: Chair – Dr. L. Mabasa		
10:30 – 10:45	Investigating Macrophage heterogeneity at the Maternal-fetal	Dr. M. Zulu (University of the Witwatersrand)
10:45 – 11:00	Predictors of postpartum depressive symptoms among young mother	Ms. M.T. Sodi (University of Limpopo)
11:00 – 11:15	Determinants of prenatal and postnatal depression	Dr. M. Muchemwa (University of Limpopo)
11:15 – 11:30	The complexities of Maternal Non-adherence to ART and its impact on MTC transmission of HIV , Capricorn	Ms. E.P. Mkhondo (University of Venda)
11:30 – 12:00	Guest Speaker: Creating effective Health Care Models for Multidisciplinary Pre-conception care: Policy integration	Dr. Ndwamato N (University of Venda)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
Session 2B: Chair – Dr. T.A. Masia		
10:30 – 10:45	Mismatch at the Interface: Barriers to mHealth Nutrition messaging among pregnant women in rural South Africa	Ms. S.M. Makunyane (University of Limpopo) <i>Online</i>
10:45 – 11:00	Integrating Health Behaviour and Technology Acceptance Models to Understand Adoption of Digital Health Interventions to manage depression among pregnant adolescents in DIMAMO, Limpopo province	Ms. P.N. Ntshayintshayi (University of Limpopo)
11:00 – 11:15	Development of educational programme to improve supervision of nursing care by registered professional nurses in selected hospitals in Limpopo province	Dr. M.R. Raliphaswa (University of Venda)
11:15 – 11:30	Evaluating the implementation of adolescent and youth	Dr. M. Rammela (University of Pretoria) <i>Online</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Guest Speaker: Creating effective Health Care Models for Multidisciplinary Pre-conception care: Policy integration	Dr. Ndwamato N (University of Venda)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
Session 3: Chair – Dr. T. Luhlima		
13:00 – 13:15	Mental Health Burden, Comorbidities, and Psychosocial Support Among Adults with Diabetes in Limpopo Province	S.E. Serakalala (University of Limpopo)
13:15 – 13:30	Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Infant Feeding Practices as Determinants of Growth Status in the First Six Months of Life in Dzimauli Rural Communities	Ms. A.K. Ramalepe (University of Venda)
13:30 – 13:45	The role of professional nurses in mentoring students during clinical practice	Dr. J. L. Mafumo (University of Venda)
13:45 – 14:00	A Model for Professional Nurses to Facilitate Culturally Sensitive Caring Practices for Children	Ms. C. Mngomezulu/C. Downing (University of Johannesburg)
14:00 – 14:15	Isa Mathivha Foundation Presentation	Mrs. P Mathivha
14:15 – 15:00	POSTER SESSION 2	
15:00 – 17:00	BREAK	
17:00 – 20:30	TRADITIONAL DANCE PERFORMERS & COCKTAIL RECEPTION	Prof. T Malwela (Closing Remarks)

Day 4: 25 April 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY
09:00 – 11:00	STERRING COMMITTEE INTERACTIONS AND CHECK-OUT
END OF CONFERENCE	



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