

We invite you to a Mini-Symposium on the Sinergia Project:

The Food-Medicine Continuum in Vervet Monkeys: Investigations on the Interplay between Diet Quality, Stress Coping, and the Endocannabinoid System

Date: Tuesday, 09 September 2025

Place: Tea room (208A), 2nd floor, John Bews Building B, Carbis Road
Campus, Carbis Rd, Scottsville, PMB

Contact: Prof Colleen T. Downs downs@ukzn.ac.za; 082 920 2026

Registration and coffee: 08h15-08h55

Welcome, Presentations and Discussion: 09h00-13h00

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

08h15 - 08h55	Registration	Meet and greet coffee
09h00	Prof Colleen T. Downs	Introduction and welcome
09h10	Prof Jürg Gertsch	TBC
09h50	Prof Erica van de Waal	Exploring cultural inheritance in wild vervet monkeys
10h30	Prof Claire Bertelli Lombardo	TBC
11h00	Tea and coffee break	Comfort break and networking
11h30	Prof Yossi Tam	Cannabinoid-based drug development for metabolic disorders
12h10	Prof Sofia Forss	The Urban Vervet Project: Findings so far and future directions
12h40	Prof Colleen T. Downs	General discussion and thanks

If you are interested in attending, please complete and submit this form for catering purposes (<https://forms.gle/gYmVkirtzTGcCdC5A>). Sign up closes 03 September 2025.

Lead applicants

Prof Jürg Gertsch, Institut für Biochemie und Molekulare Medizin Universität Bern, Switzerland

Prof Claire Bertelli Lombardo, Institut de Microbiologie Faculté de Biologie et Médecine CHUV/Université de Lausanne, Switzerland

Prof Joseph (Yossi) Tam, Obesity and Metabolism Laboratory Pharmacology/Institute for Drug Research, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Prof Erica van de Waal, Département d'Ecologie et d'Evolution Faculté de Biologie et de Médecine Université de Lausanne, Switzerland

Project partners

Prof Colleen T. Downs, School of Agriculture and Science, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Prof Sofia Forss, Department of Evolutionary Biology and Envir University of Zurich, Switzerland

Prof Luca Fumagalli, Département d'Ecologie et d'Evolution Faculté de Biologie et de Médecine Université de Lausanne, Switzerland

Prof Vassily Hatzimanikatis, Laboratoire de biotechnologie computationnelle des systèmes EPFL - SB - ISIC - LCSB, Switzerland

Prof Jean-Luc Wolfender, Section des Sciences Pharmaceutiques Biopharmacie Université de Genève, Switzerland

