

18 – 20 March 2026 | Durban, South Africa

# Translational Virology of Oncogenic Viruses: From Epidemiology to Intervention In Sub-Saharan Africa

## PROGRAMME

### 18 MARCH 2026

08:30 – 09:00	<b>Registration</b>	
09:00 – 09:20	<b>Welcome address</b>	<b>Dr Nokukhanya Msomi &amp; Dr Yanga Mdleleni</b> , UKZN Scientific Organisers
		<b>Professor Busi Ncama</b> , UKZN Deputy Vice Chancellor-College of Health Science
		<b>Prof Refiloe Masekela</b> , Dean and Head: UKZN School of Medicine

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#### SESSION 1: EPIDEMIOLOGY OF KEY ONCOGENIC VIRUSES

Session Chair: Dr Nokukhanya Msomi

09:20 – 09:50	<b>Invited speaker</b> <b>DR MAZVITA MUCHENGETI</b> , Director National Cancer Registry, South Africa	<b>Epidemiology of virus-driven cancers in SSA</b>
09:50 – 10:20	<b>Invited speaker</b> <b>PROF JOHN DOORBAR</b> , Professor of Viral Pathogenesis & Fellow of Hughes Hall, Department of Pathology, University of Cambridge	<b>HPV Oncogenesis and insights</b>
10:20 – 10:50	<b>Tea Break</b>	
10:50 – 11:00	Yanga Mdleleni	The prevalence of HPV infection and incidence of HPV-related disease in Men who have sex with men
11:00 – 11:10	Kerri-Lee Francois	Correlation of high-risk HPV genotypes with cervical cytopathology in a high HIV prevalence setting
11:10 – 11:20	Nontokozo Matume	Genetic diversity of selected high-risk HPV types prevalent in Africa and not covered by current vaccines

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11:20 – 11:30	Tseganesh Yifru	Determinants of HPV associated cervical cancer screening among HIV positive women in Lesotho
11:30 – 11:40	Bontle Sibiya	Translating epidemiology into intervention, urethral high-risk HPV burden and HIV-associated immunosuppression among MSM in South Africa
11:40 – 12:05	Q&A for Session 1	
12:05 – 12:50	Lunch Break	

**SESSION 2: HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS-RELATED NEOPLASMS**

Session Chair: Dr Yanga Mdleleni

12:50 – 13:20	<b>Keynote speaker</b> <b>DR LAWRENCE BANKS</b> , Director: ICGEB	<b>Viral Oncogenesis: Mechanisms of Pathogenesis</b>
13:20 – 13:30	Dalia Ahmed	Association of HPV proteins E6 & E7 with prostate PSA and prostate cancer among Sudanese population
13:30 – 13:40	Excellent Maleka	Comparison of Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) and Immunohistochemistry (IHC) in Detecting HPV Infection in Oesophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma (OSCC) Tissues
13:40 – 13:50	Linda Ratjama	Molecular role of HPV association with HNSC in Namibia
13:50 – 14:00	Carly Burmeister	HPV E6/E7 underpins the molecular mechanisms by which TBX3 contributes to cervical cancer
14:00 – 14:10	Michael Goldschagg	Exploring the functional significance of the interaction between the HPV capsid protein L2 and the oncogenic transcription Factors TBX2 and TBX3 in the HPV life Cycle
14:10 – 14:35	Q&A for Session 2	

**SESSION 3: POSTER VIEWING AND COCKTAILS****19 MARCH 2026****SESSION 4: IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH**

Session 3: Dr Andile Sibiya

08:30 – 09:00	<b>Invited speaker</b> <b>PROF MARY KAWONGA</b> , Public Health Medicine Specialist and Associate Professor, Gauteng Department of Health and WITS School of Public Health.	<b>Implementation science of cancer prevention and control strategies</b>
09:00 – 09:10	Thobile Malinga	Introduction and coverage of HPV vaccination programmes in Africa: A systematic review

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09:10 – 09:20	Nivashnee Naicker	Diagnostic accuracy of the Xpert HPV assay in women living with HIV at antiretroviral treatment initiation
09:20 – 9:30	Lemoupa Makajio	Home vs hospital-based HPV self-sampling for cervical cancer screening in the rural west region of Cameroon (cluster RCT)
09:30 – 09:40	Tchouptang Njiyip	Detection of HCV using a gold nanoparticle-based colorimetric kit: A rapid and low-cost approach
09:40 – 10:00	Q&A for Session 4	
10:00 – 10:30	Tea Break	

## SESSION 5: VIRAL HEPATITIS

Session Chair: Dr Lawrence Banks

10:30 – 11:00	<b>Keynote speaker</b> <b>PROF WENDY SPEARMAN</b> , University of Cape Town, Head of Division of Hepatology: MBChB MMed PhD FCP(SA) FRCP(London)	<b>Viral Hepatitis and Cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa: Emerging Trends towards Elimination</b>
11:00 – 11:10	Yassir Hamadalnil	Targeting HBx-Driven HBV Replication: Inhibitory Effects of Punicalagin, SC75741 in Cell Culture Models
11:10 – 11:20	Thembelihle Tombo	Evaluation of a single assay for the surveillance of multiple viral pathogens using Next Generation Sequencing
11:20 – 11:30	Doha El-Sayed Ellakwa	Identifying of HBV DNA in liver tissues of chronic hepatitis and hepatocellular carcinoma to study the Hepatitis B virus silent infection in Egyptian patients
11:30 – 11:40	Lulama Mthethwa	Association of HBV HBx mutations with clinical outcomes in chronic HBV/HIV coinfecting patients
11:40 – 12:00	Q&A for Session 5	
12:00 – 12:45	Lunch Break	

## SESSION 6: GAMMA-HERPESVIRUSES AND RELATED CANCERS

Session Chair: Dr Aabida Khan

12:45 – 13:15	<b>Invited speaker</b> <b>DR OWEN NGALAMIKA</b> , Dermatologist and Senior Lecturer, University of Zambia	<b>Gamma herpes virus associated cancers in SSA: emerging trends</b>
13:15 – 13:45	<b>Invited speaker</b> <b>DR GUGU JALI</b> , Haematology pathologist and Clinical Haematologist	<b>Virus-driven haematological malignancies</b>

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13:45 – 14:15	<b>Invited Speaker</b> <b>PROF GEORGIA SCHAFFER</b> , ICGEB Group Leader , Honorary Professor, University of Cape Town	The infection dynamics of gamma herpesviruses in South Africa
14:15 – 14:25	Pearl Segwagwa	Molecular Characterisation of Kaposi Sarcoma in Visceral Organs at a Tertiary Laboratory in Northern Tshwane: A Study of Two Decades
14:25 – 14:35	Lucia Naddy Mhlongo	Immunohistochemical analysis of Kaposi Sarcoma Herpesvirus in Paediatric Kaposi Sarcomas: A 21-year study at a Tertiary Laboratory in Tshwane
14:35 – 14:45	Yiqiang Wang	The Role and Implication of MXRA7 in Viral Infection-mediated Inflammatory Carcinogenesis
14:45 – 15:00	Q&A for Session 6	
15:00 – 16h00	<b>PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY</b> <b>INDUSTRY EXHIBITIONS AND COCKTAILS</b>	

## PRACTICAL WORKSHOP

Venue: Department of Virology, Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital

Level 5 Laboratory Building

09:00 – 09:30	<b>DR JENIFFER GIANDHARI</b> , Head of the KwaZulu Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform, University of KwaZulu-Natal	Seminar on sequencing approaches and their clinical utility for cancer diagnosis and prognostication
09:30 – 10:00	Inqaba Biotec	TBC
10h00 – 10h30	Tea Break	
11h00 – 12h30	NATIONAL HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital	DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY VISIT
12h30	<b>END OF SYMPOSIUM LUNCH</b>	

*We look forward to hosting you!*

