

Partners in Progress: Advancing Cancer Research in Africa

PROGRAM (Stellenbosch University)

January 28-29, 2027

DAY 1: Thursday, January 28, 2027

07:30 – 08:00 **Registration and Coffee Reception**

OPENING
Chair: Prof Yoshan Moodley

08:00 – 08:15 **Welcome address**
- **Professor Ntobeko Ntusi**, South African Medical Research Council

08:15 – 08:30 **The CANCER BEEHIVE project: An institutional overview of Cancer Research at SU**
- **Dr Henriette Burger**, Stellenbosch University, Radiation Oncology

Segment 1: **Cancer Genomics and Precision Oncology**
Chair: Prof Catherine Kaschula

09:00 – 09:30 ***Genomic cancer risk (monogenic and polygenic; PRS) and the tumour-germline interface***
- **Professor Jeffrey N. Weitzel**, MD, FACMG, the Kansas University Comprehensive Cancer Center, Kansas City, Kansas, USA

09:30 – 9:50 ***Personalizing Cancer Therapy: Lessons from Bench-to-Bedside Research***
- **Professor Anna-Mart Engelbrecht**, Stellenbosch University, Physiological Sciences

9:50 – 10:05 ***Controlling cell death in glioblastoma - the role of autophagy, mitochondrial quality control and lysosomal function***
- **Prof Ben Loos US**, Stellenbosch University, Physiological Sciences

10:05 – 10:20	***Current and future management strategies for children, adolescents and young adults with high-grade sarcomas*** • **Dr Johann Riedemann**, Stellenbosch University, Research Fellow and Clinical Radiation & Molecular Oncologist, CancerCare
10:20 – 10:35	**Q&A**
10:35 – 11:00	**Coffee Break and Poster Exhibition**
Segment 2: *Chair: Prof Yoshan Moodley*	**Cancer, the Microbiome and Biomarker discovery**
11:00 – 11:30	***Diet and microbiome control of the anti-tumour immunity*** • **Assistant Professor Abigail E. Overacre-Delgoffe**, PhD, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Hillman Cancer Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.
11:30 – 11:50	***Beyond HPV: The Vaginal Microbiome, Mucosal Immunity and the Future of Cervical Cancer Prevention in Africa*** • **Professor Jo-Ann Passmore,** Stellenbosch University, Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation
11:50 – 12:05	***11-Oxygenated androgens: overlooked drivers of castration resistant prostate cancer?*** • **Professor Karl-Heinz Storbeck**, Stellenbosch University, Biochemistry
12:05 – 12: 20	***Beyond contraception and menopausal hormone therapy: Unravelling the complex actions of progestins in breast cancer*** • **Professor Donita Africander**, Stellenbosch University, Biochemistry)
12:20 – 12:35	**Q&A**
12:35 – 13:20	**Networking Lunch - "Meet the Experts"**
Segment 3: *Chair: Dr Henriette Burger*	**Cancer Immunology and Therapeutics**
13:20 – 13:50	**[Title TBC]** • **Professor Jedd D. Wolchok,** MD, PhD, the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, New York, USA.
13:50 – 14:10	***Every Gap an Opportunity: Haematological Malignancies in South Africa*** • **Professor Vernon Louw**, Stellenbosch University, Clinical Haematology

14:10 – 14:25	***From Patient Selection to Treatment Sensitisation: Integrating Clinical Frameworks and Systems Biology to Optimise Cancer Therapy*** • **Dr Atarah Rass,** Stellenbosch University, Physiological Sciences
14:25 – 14:40	**[Title TBC]** • **Professor Anel Van Zyl**, Stellenbosch University, Paediatric Oncology
14:40 – 14:55	**Q&A**
14:55 – 15:20	**Coffee Break and Poster Exhibition**
Segment 4: *Chair: Dr Moleen Dzikiti*	**Infection-associated Cancers: Biology, Prevention and Population Health**
15:20 – 15:50	***Challenges and opportunities in population health approaches to prevention of infection-associated cancers: lessons learned from the study of Burkitt lymphoma*** • **Professor Rosemary Rochford,** PhD, Professor of Immunology & Microbiology, University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine, Aurora, Colorado, USA.
15:50 – 16:10	***Not Just Bad Luck: The Infectious Origins of Cancer in South Africa*** • **Professor Hennie Botha,** Stellenbosch University, Obstetrics & Gynaecology
16:10 – 16:25	***From Modelling to Policy: Advancing Cervical Cancer Elimination in South Africa*** • **Dr Cari van Schalkwyk**, Stellenbosch University, South African Centre for Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis
16:25 – 16:40	***10 years of Kaposi Sarcoma research: From Clinical Observation to Collaborative Trials and Molecular Discovery*** • **Dr Henriette Burger**, Stellenbosch University, Radiation Oncology
16:40 – 16:55	**Q&A**
16:55 – 17:00	**Closing Remarks for Day 1** • **Professor Yoshan Moodley**, Stellenbosch University, Global Health

DAY 2: Friday, January 29, 2027

08:30 – 09:00	**Check-in and Coffee Reception**
09:00 – 09:30	***Integrative Oncology: A Collaborative Approach to Whole-Person Cancer Care*** • **Karen Popkin**, Music therapist, Department of Integrative Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, New York City, New York, USA

9:30 – 10:15	**Abstract Writing and Scholarly Publishing Scientific Articles** • **Dr Karen Honey**, PhD, Executive Editor, Cancer Immunology Research, AACR
10:15 – 10:30	**Q&A**
10:30 – 11:15	**Panel Discussion 1: Responsible Conduct in Cancer Research** • **Panelists: TBC** • **Moderator:** Dr Robyn Adams, Stellenbosch University, Obstetrics & Gynaecology
11:15 – 11:45	**Coffee Break and Poster Exhibition**
11:45 – 12:30	**Successful Grantsmanship and Grants Administration** • **Dr Garima Singh**, PhD, *Assistant Director, Research and Grants Administration, AACR*
12:30 – 12:45	**Q&A**
12:45 – 13:30	**Panel Discussion 2: Becoming a PI and Forming Collaborations** • **Panelists: TBC** • **Moderator:** Prof Anna-Mart Engelbrecht, Stellenbosch University, Physiological Sciences
13:30 – 14:15	**Networking Lunch - "Meet the Experts"**
14:15 – 15:15	**Poster Finalists Presentations** *Chair: Prof Catherine Kaschula*
15:15 – 15:45	**Concluding Session and Award Ceremony** • Professor Yoshan Moodley