

Programme

1st Cancer Genomics Conference 2025

Harnessing Functional Genomics in Cancer Research: Opportunities for Diagnosis and Treatment



Tuesday, 23 September - Friday, 26 September 2025



Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Health & Social Services



International Centre for Genetic
Engineering and Biotechnology



Day 0: Pre-Conference			
Time	Event	Presenter	Venue
08:00	Pre-Conference 1: Bioinformatics Training	Dr Stefano Cacciatore <i>[ICGEB-Cape Town]</i>	High-Tech Transfer Plaza Select (HTTPS), NUST Lower Campus
14:00	Pre-Conference 2: Proteomics Training	Dr Ireshyn Govender	HTTPS
18:00	Pre-Conference 3: VC Public Lecture	Prof Christian Happi	Mining Auditorium, NUST Lower Campus
Topic: Genomic Surveillance and Characterisation of Microbial Threats Facilitates Early Detection and Containment of Disease Outbreaks in West Africa [CPD Accredited]			
Time	Event	Presenter	
Day 1: Wednesday, 24 September 2025			
Opening and Context in Cancer Genomics			
Moderator 1: Ms Kuda Brandt			
Venue: Hilton Hotel			
07:00	Registration		
08:00	Opening Prayer	Mr Valentine Nel	
08:10	Conference Opening Remarks	Prof Lamech Mwapagha <i>Chair Conference Scientific Committee</i>	
08:25	ICGEB Remarks	Dr Stefano Cacciatore <i>[ICGEB Cape Town]</i>	
08:40	NUST Remarks	Prof Erold Naomab <i>Vice-Chancellor</i>	
08:55	Keynote Address	Mr Penda Ithindi <i>Executive Director: Ministry of Health and Social Services</i>	
09:25	Group Photo		
09:35	Tea/Coffee Break: Posters and Exhibitions		



SESSION I

Theme: Current Trends in Cancer Genomics

Moderator 2: Dr Mutsa Takundwa and Dr John Abebrese

10:15	Keynote Address: Genomic Insights in African Ancestry	Prof Vanessa Hayes
10:55	Question and Answer Session	
11:05	Genomics of Hepatocellular Carcinoma with Focus on MYC	Prof Devanand Sarkar
11:25	Epidemiology of Cancers (Global, Regional, National Overview)	Dr Richard Banda
11:45	Strengthening Cancer Surveillance and Advocacy: Lessons from Namibia	Mr Rolf Hansen
12:05	Molecular Characterisation of Cancers in Sub-Saharan Africa	Dr Nixon Niyonzima
12:25	Advancing Personalised Cancer Therapy Through Genomics in Namibia	Dr Laina Iyambo
12:40	Question and Answer Session	
13:00	Lunch Break	

SESSION II

Theme: Translational Therapies and Innovation

Moderator 3: Dr Stefano Cacciatore

14:00	Unravelling the Dynamics of KSHV Infection: Genomic Insights into Disease Progression and Outcomes	Dr Georgia Schäfer
14:20	Advancing Cancer Care in Namibia:The Role and Challenges of Precision Oncology	Dr Mariëtte Rothman
14:40	Bridging the Gap: Understanding Genomic Drivers of Drug Response in Gynaecological Malignancies	Dr Mutsa M Takundwa
15:00	Emerging Technologies in Cancer Genomics	Dr Nambumba Amundaba
15:20	Question and Answer Session	
15:40	Tea/Coffee Break: Posters and Exhibitions	
18:00	NUST Oncotech Networking Dinner (Calabar Restaurant – Hilton Hotel)	



Day 2: Thursday, 25 September 2025

SESSION III

Theme: Genomics and Precision Medicine

Moderator 4: Dr Jerolen Naidoo and Dr Paulus Mungeyi

Venue: Hilton Hotel

Time	Event	Speaker
08:00	Keynote Address: Pan-African Genomic Initiatives and the Future of Precision Medicine in Cancer Care	Prof Christian Happi
08:40	Question and Answer Session	
08:50	Mutational Signatures and Precision Oncology: Mapping Tumour Evolution to Improve Cancer Care (Virtual Talk)	Prof David Wedge
09:10	Translating Genomic Discoveries into Clinical Practice	Dr Xavier Berthet
09:30	Biomarkers in Precision Oncology: Clinical Relevance and Applications	Dr Jean Hategekimana
09:50	Decoding Cancer Through Metabolomics: Functional Insights Beyond the Genome	Dr Stefano Cacciatore
10:10	Question and Answer Session	
10:25	Tea/Coffee Break: Posters and Exhibitions	

SESSION IV

Theme: Genomic Innovations and Translational Advances

Moderator 5: Dr Cara Mia Dunaiski and Dr Kaenda Rukira

10:45	Selected Poster Presentations	Linda Ratjama
		Eliud Buberwa
		Prishanta Chinna
11:00	Question and Answer Session	
11:10	From Genome to Therapy: Leveraging NGS to Guide Cancer Treatment	Ms Zhang Jiale
11:30	Microbiome, Oncogenic HPV, and Epigenetic Imprints in Penile Cancer Risk	Dr Harris Onywera
11:50	Advancing Cancer Therapeutics in Africa: Integrating Genomics, Innovation, and Translational Medicine	Prof Peter Nyarango



12:10	Experts Panel Discussion: The Power of Genomics in Revolutionising Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment Moderator: Prof Devanand Sarkar	Prof Christian Happi
		Prof Vanessa Hayes
		Prof Peter Nyarango
		Prof Anna Schuh
		Prof Devanand Sarkar
12:50	Question and Answer Session	
13:00	Lunch Break	
SESSION V		
Theme: AI Technology and Cancer Screening		
Moderator 6: Dr Xavier Berthet		
14:00	AI and Genomics in Africa: Harnessing Genetic Diversity to Transform Cancer Care	Prof Lamech Mwapagha
14:20	Machine Learning Models to Predict Cancer Risk Using African Genomic Data (Virtual Talk)	Dr Lameck Amugongo
14:40	AI-Driven Early Cancer Screening: Transforming Detection and Diagnosis in Africa	Dr Helena Musau
15:00	AI-Powered Imaging for Early Cancer Detection in Africa: Leveraging Ophthascan Technology	Mr Bren Sambunathan
15:20	Experts Panel Discussion: Role of AI Technology in Cancer Screening and Treatment Moderator: Prof Colin Stanley	Dr Helena Musau
		Mr Rolf Hansen
		Dr Harris Onywera
		Mr Bren Sambunathan
		Dr Taime Sylvester
16:00	Question and Answer Session	
16:20	Tea/Coffee Break: Posters and Exhibitions	



Day 3: The Future Cancer Genomics: Friday, 26 September 2025

SESSION VI

Moderator 7: Dr Laimi Ashipala and Dr Laina Iyambo

Venue: Hilton Hotel

Time	Event	Speaker
08:00	Keynote Address: Equitable Genomics: Bridging the Gap Between Innovation and Access in Cancer Treatment	Prof Anna Schuh
08:40	Question and Answer Session	
08:50	Equations to Equity: Fast-Tracking Access to Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment	Dr Xavier Berthet
09:10	Transforming Breast Cancer Research in Africa: Precision Medicine and Collaborative Genomics	Dr Evelyn Jiaage
09:30	A Collaborative Roadmap: Translation of Advances in Cancer Genomics	Dr John Abebrese
09:50	The African Clinical Multiome Atlas Platform	Dr Jerolen Naidoo
10:25	Tea/Coffee Break: Posters and Exhibitions	

SESSION VII

Theme: Data Security, Policy and Funding

Moderator 8: Dr Helena Musau and Dr Georgia Schäfer

10:45	Selected Poster Presentations	Justice Amofa
		Caroline Achola
		Therese Suzy
		Joyce Soulange
11:00	Question and Answer Session	
11:10	Building Africa's Cancer Genomics Workforce: Policy Frameworks for Sustainable Impact (Virtual Talk)	Dr Kgomotso Makhaola
11:30	Transforming Cancer Genomics Research: How Science Grant Councils Can Drive Innovation	Dr Paulus Mungeyi
11:50	From Imaging to Treatment: The Next Generation of Radiation Oncology in Africa	Dr George Jemu



12:10	Safeguarding Africa's Genomic Data: Challenges and Opportunities in Cancer Research	Dr Kaenda Rukira
12:30	Advancing Cancer Diagnosis Through Genomic Innovation: Illumina's Role in Precision Oncology for Africa	Mr Sahil Tuli
12:50	Question and Answer Session	
13:00	Lunch Break	
14:00	Strengthening Laboratory Medicine for Cancer Genomics in Africa: The Role of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM)	Dr Cara Mia Dunaiski
14:20	Experts Panel Discussion: Way Forward Advancing Cancer Genomics in Africa: Data Security, Policy, Funding and Equitable Health Systems Moderator: Prof Christian Happi	Prof Anna Schuh
		Prof Vanessa Hayes
		Mr Rolf Hansen
		Dr Richard Banda
		Dr Evelyn Jiaage
		Dr Xavier Berthet
15:00	Question and Answer Session	
15:20	Closing Remarks & Conference Wrap-Up	Dr Onesmus Shuungula
15:40	Closing Prayer	Mr Valentine Nel
15:50	Final Group Photo	
16:00	Tea/Coffee and Departure	



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OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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