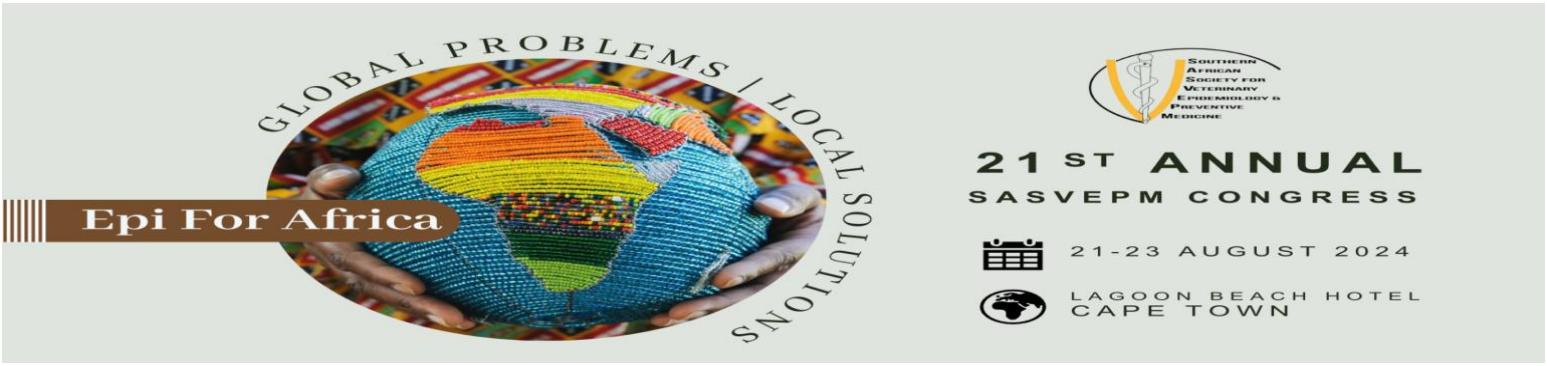


21st Annual SASVEPM Congress - Event Summary

The 21st Annual SASVEPM Congress was held from 21-23 August 2024 at the Lagoon Beach Hotel in Cape Town a hybrid event.

Executive Committee

Dr Mohamed Sirdar
President

Prof Chris Marufu
Vice President

Dr Oonagh Pretorius
Secretary

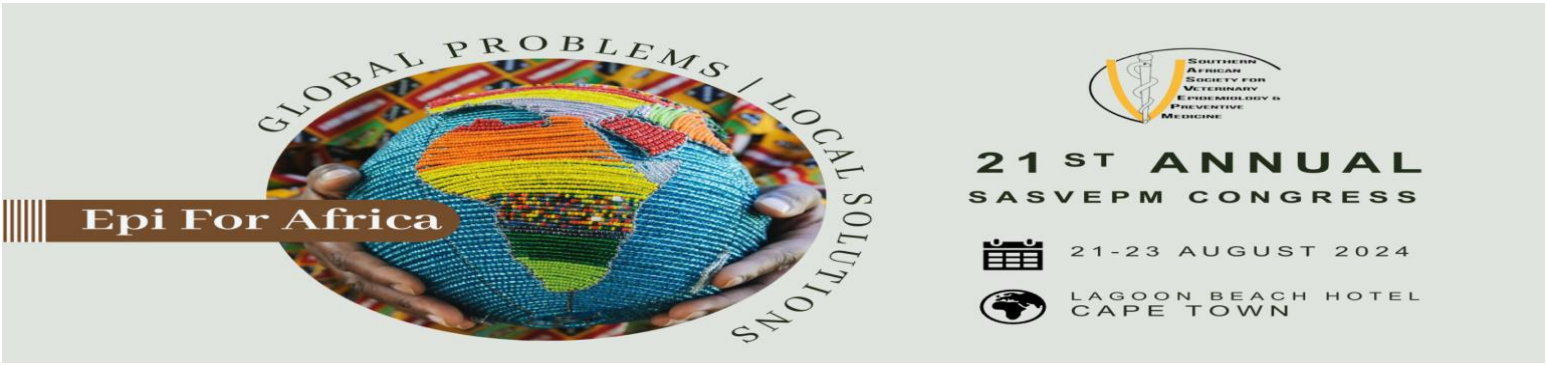
Dr Itumeleng Matle
Treasurer

Dr Wonderful Shumba
Training and Capacity building

Dr Tandile Ndobeni
Communication Officer

Pre-congress

The SASVEPMhosted a pivotal two-day pre-congress workshop on 19th to 20th of August 2024 at the LagoonBeach Hotel, Cape Town, focusing on critical aspects of veterinary biosafety principles andmethod validation. The workshop, facilitated by esteemed Laboratory experts Dr. PaidamwoyoMutowembwa and Dr. Alison Lubisi both from the Agricultural Research Council, together with 28 officials from various provinces within South Africa, including the SASVEPM Executive Committee.



Keynote speakers

Dr Locksley Messam(University College Dublin):The (un)Common Sense of Epidemiologic Inference: Why Training is A Must

Dr Anne Conan(French Agricultural Research and International Cooperation Organization): One Health: Is Conceptualisation a Barrier to its Operationalisation?

Dr Nenene Qekwana (University of Pretoria): Antimicrobial Stewardship: understanding the African context

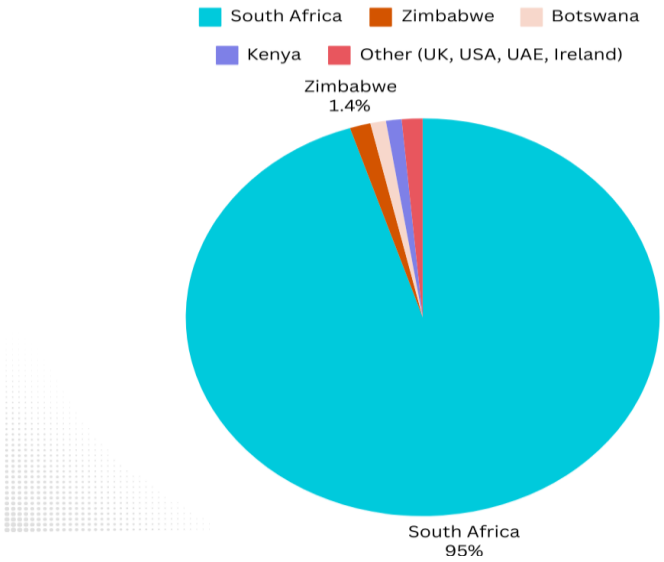
Virtual Access

The event was streamed live. Recordings were made available to delegates post-event for convenience and further engagement - https://eventee.com/e/21st-sasvepm-congress-22433

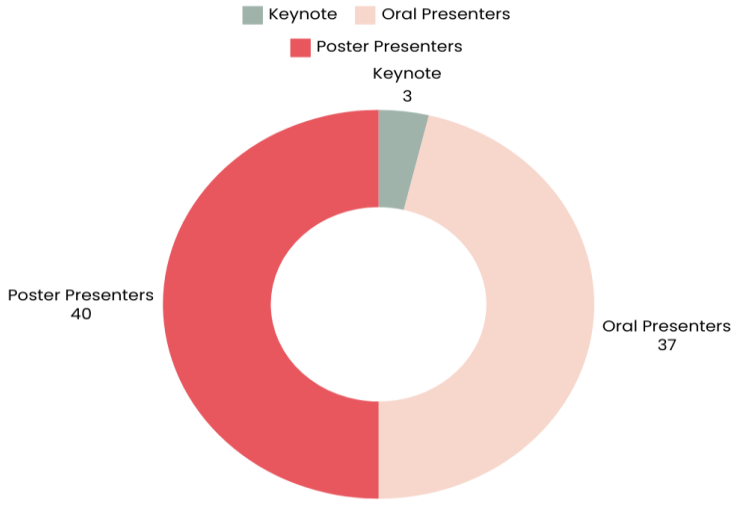
Congress

The event welcomed 176 in-person attendees and 161 online participants from 10 countries, with the majority (95%) coming from South Africa and a smaller group from Zimbabwe, USA, UK, Botswana, and others.

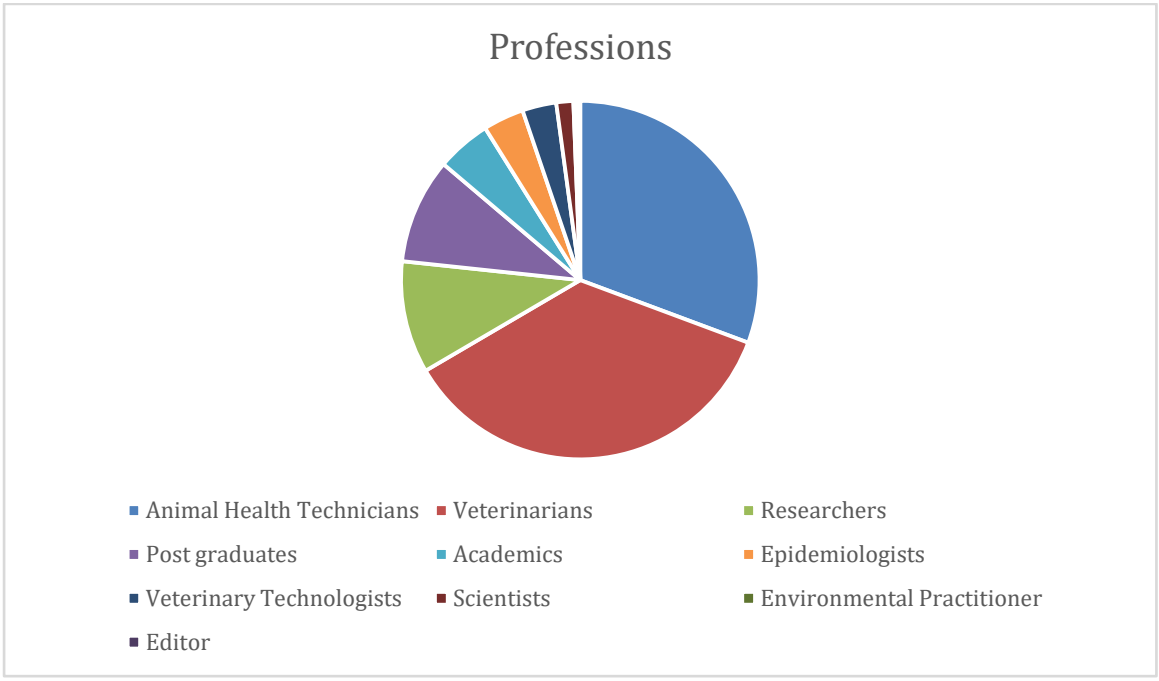
- Attendees by country - SA 95% | Zimbabwe 1.4% (5 attendees) | Botswana & Kenya 1.1% (3 attendees each) | Other countries (UK, USA, Ireland & UAE) 1.4% (1 attendee per country).



- Speakers:3 Keynote speakers (Dr Locksley Messam, Dr. Anne Conan &Dr.NeneneQekwana,), 37 Oral and 40 Poster Presenters.



- Professions of the attendees



Awards

Best Postgraduate Oral: Dr Joshua Ngwisha (Attended online)

Lifetime Achievement: Dr Sewellyn DaveyWillie Ungerer Memorial: Dr MoetapeleLetshwenyo

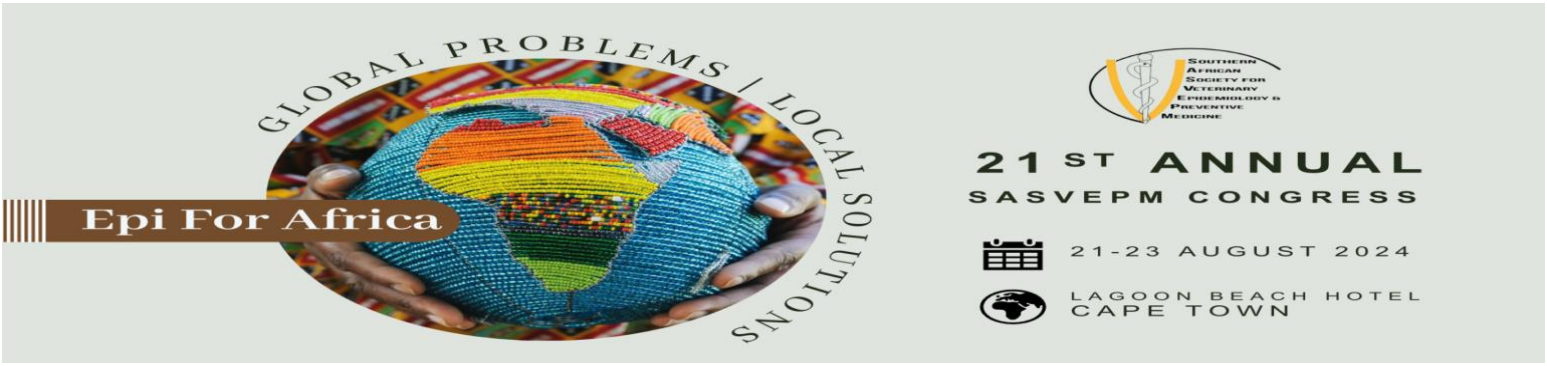
Prof Gavin Thompson: Dr Kgaugelo LekotaBest Poster presentation: Ms TsheneloMbaba

OBP Best Oral AHT presentation: NoziphoMaphori

Annual general meeting summary

During the meeting, a proposal wasmade to change the banking account to better align with the society non-profit organisation(NPO) registration status.Dr Noluvuyo Magadla, the Chair of the 2027 ISVEE18 Local Organizing Committee provided anupdate on the planning and progress for hosting the 2027 ISVEE18 conference in Cape Town,including venue changes, timelineadjustments, and ongoing efforts to engage the broaderAfrican continent.A proposed amendment to the SASVEPM Sponsorship Policy was discussed, which wouldallow the society to hold sponsored delegates financially responsible if they fail to meet theirresponsibilities without valid cause.A vote was held to determine the location of the 2025 SASVEPM Congress, with Mpumalangaprovince selected as the host.

Vote of thanks



As we have reached the end of this amazing congress, the SASVEPM ExCo is filled with overflowing gratitude towards its members that participated through attendance and presentations, keynote speakers, and events manager, VetLink. The incrediblesuccess of the congress journey would not have been possible without the dedication andpassion of so many individuals and organisations. The organising committee would like to extend a sincere appreciationto our incrediblesponsors; HWSETA (Platinum),OBP (Gold), Inqaba Biotech (Silver), ARC (Bronze), and Deltamune(Exhibitor). Theirgenerous support made this event truly special. Thank you for believing in our missionand helping us create this vibrant platform for learning and connection.