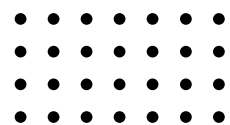


2025



Congress Report



<https://sasvepm.org/22nd-annual-sasvepm-congress-2025/>

Event Report

The 22nd Annual SASVEPM Congress demonstrated significant growth compared to the previous year. A total of **421 delegates** registered for the 2025 Congress - 296 in-person delegates, with 125 attending virtually.

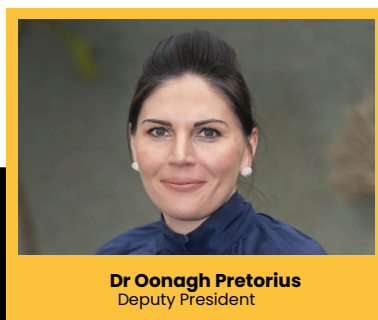
In contrast, the 21st Annual Congress (held from 21–23 August 2024 at the Lagoon Beach Hotel in Cape Town and online) hosted **337 delegates**, 176 in-person attendees and 161 online attendees

This year's Congress received 107 abstract submissions, of which 89 were presented, 19 withdrawn, and 2 rejected. There were 38 oral presentations (including 2 local success stories) and 48 poster presentations, alongside 4 keynote presentations. By comparison, the 2024 Congress featured 37 oral presentations, 40 posters, and 3 keynote presentations.

Overall, the 2025 Congress reflected a clear increase in participation and scientific output, with expanded keynote engagement and a strong balance of oral and poster presentations



Prof Chris Marufu
President



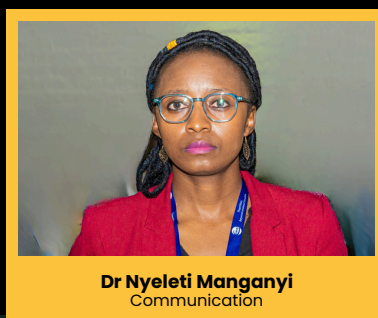
Dr Oonagh Pretorius
Deputy President



Dr Tandile Ndobeni
Secretary



Dr Itumeleng Matle
Treasurer



Dr Nyeleti Manganyi
Communication



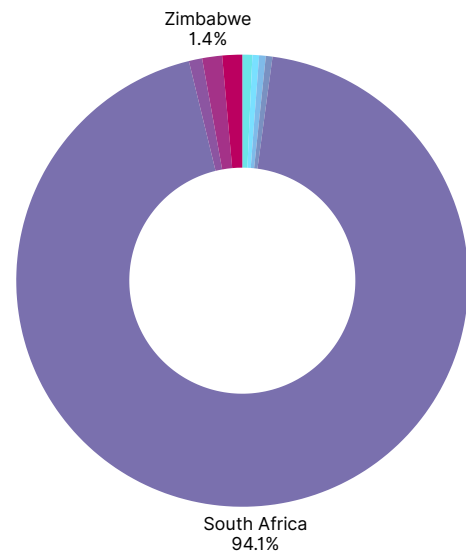
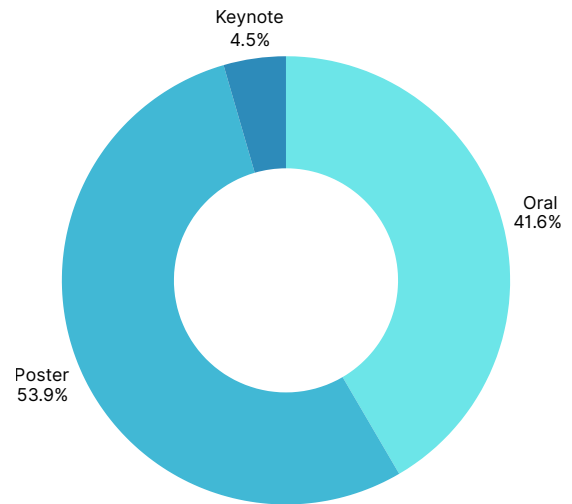
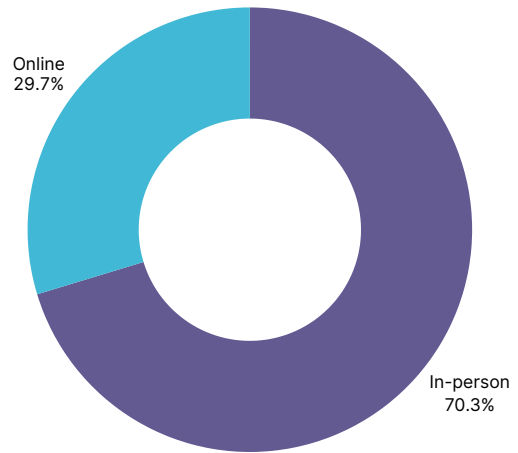
Prof Nkululeko Nyangiwe
Capacity Training

Exco Members

PARTICIPANTS

STATS

Countries	Participants
Australia	1
Botswana	1
Ethiopia	1
Kenya	3
Lesotho	2
Mozambique	1
Namibia	2
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1
Saudi Arabia	2
South Africa	396
United Kingdom	4
Zambia	1
Zimbabwe	6



CONGRESS THEME & SUB- THEMES



Epidemiology at the Edge: Tackling disease threats at Southern Africa's Interfaces

Disease surveillance and control at the interface

The impact of interfaces in Africa:
Challenges and opportunities

Preventing spillover

Averting interspecific pathogen transmission

Wild spaces

Tailoring epidemiological methods to wildlife:
surveillance, diagnostics and geospatial
approaches

Epidemiological Methods

Choosing and using the right tool for the job

One Health Approaches: Integrating Human, Animal, and Environmental Health

Interdisciplinary strategies for addressing health
challenges holistically

Animal Welfare

Promoting animal health and well-being

Antimicrobial Resistance

New information and strategies to combat AMR

Host Spotlight: Mpumalanga

Research, preventive medicine & epidemiology
in Mpumalanga

Local Success Stories

Successful epidemiological interventions or
unique insights and learning-experiences in a
real-world setting

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. Hung Nguyen-Viet

Dr Nguyen is the Interim Leader of Health Program at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Kenya and the leader of the CGIAR initiative on One Health. His research focuses on the link between agriculture and health, food safety, and infectious and zoonotic diseases with an emphasis on risk assessment and intervention of food safety in informal and traditional markets with using a One Health approach.

He is a member of the WHO Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens (SAGO) and of the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP 2). He is from Vietnam and holds a PhD in Life and Environmental Sciences from France.



Dr. Alaster Samkange

Dr. Samkange is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Department at the University of Namibia's School of Veterinary Medicine. He earned his BVSc degree from the University of Zimbabwe, followed by an MSc and PhD in Veterinary Tropical Diseases from the University of Pretoria.

Over a distinguished 19-year career with the Namibian Directorate of Veterinary Services, he contributed significantly to animal health in the country as a state veterinarian and later as Chief Veterinarian. Since his return to academia in 2016, he has continued to make meaningful contributions to veterinary education and infectious diseases research.



Dr. Louis van Schalkwyk

Dr van Schalkwyk is a state veterinarian with the National Department of Agriculture, based in the Kruger National Park, South Africa. His interests include wildlife disease surveillance, spatial epidemiology, animal tracking, and the integration of information systems to support veterinary decision-making and conservation.

He has been involved in research and response efforts at the wildlife–livestock interface, disease monitoring, outbreak investigations, vaccination strategy development, animal-landscape interaction studies, and conservation technology development.



Dr. Ben du Plessis

Dr du Plessis is a Deputy Director for Animal Health Services in the Ehlanzeni district of Mpumalanga province. A state veterinarian with more than forty years of disease-control experience, Dr du Plessis is responsible for coordination of foot-and-mouth disease, rabies, and buffalo matters in the province.

From 2006 to 2021 he also served as an expert member on the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) ad-hoc group meetings on epidemiology, vaccination, compartmentalisation, containment zone and foot and mouth disease country status.

2025 SCIENTIFIC AWARDS



Asive Luningo
Best Poster Presentation



Mbali Sithole
Animal Health Technician



Melanie Chitray
Prof. Gavin Thompson Award



Louis Maartens
Best Post-graduate Oral

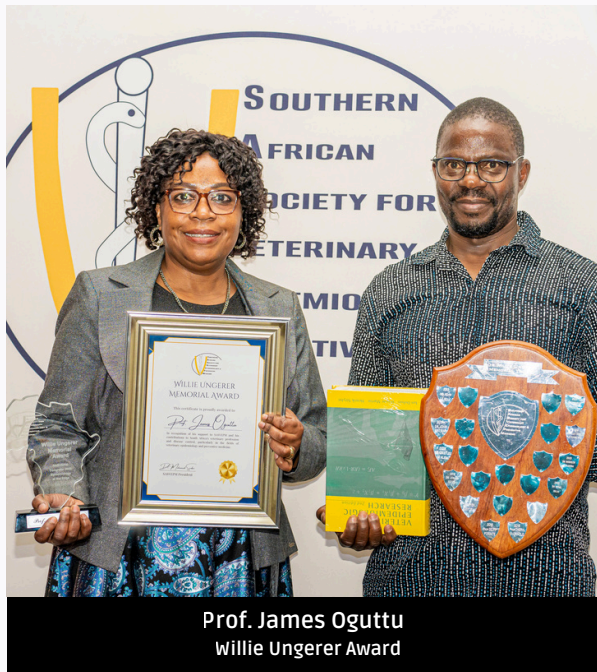
22ND ANNUAL GALA DINNER

The 22nd Annual SASVEPM Gala Dinner took place on 21 August 2025, marking a memorable highlight of the congress. This year's theme, "SASVEPM on Safari," brought a vibrant and adventurous atmosphere to the evening, celebrating excellence among veterinary professionals.

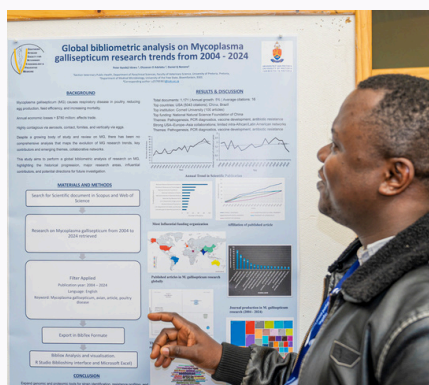
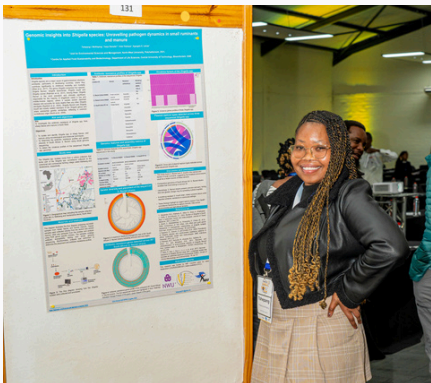
The event was attended by 300 guests, who enjoyed an elegant evening of networking, fine dining, and recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of veterinary epidemiology and preventive medicine.

Two prestigious awards were presented during the evening:

- **Willie Ungerer Award** – Prof. James Oguttu
- **Lifetime Achievement Award** – Dr. Ben du Plessis



POSTER PRESENTATIONS





OUR SPONSORS



Summary

Overall Feedback

The SASVEPM 2025 Congress received very positive evaluations, with most delegates rating the event between 4 and 5 (out of 5) across all key areas - quality of talks, value of the conference, hotel experience, and organisers' service.

Scientific Programme

- **Talk Quality:** Majority rated 4–5, describing the presentations as engaging, informative, and diverse.
- **Popular Presenters:** Frequently mentioned names included Prof. Anita Michel, Dr. Ben du Plessis, Bosco Chinkonda, Nozipho Khumalo, Prof. James Oguttu, and Dr. Helena Rampf.
- **Key Learnings:**
 - Importance of One Health and collaboration in disease control.
 - FMD and Rabies control as central discussion topics.
 - Growth in epidemiological research and data-driven approaches.

Suggestions for Improvement

Participants suggested:

- Better time management and stricter session timing.
- More practical sessions and case studies.
- Extending the congress by one more day to allow more networking and discussion.
- More focus on animal welfare and inclusion of industry players (farmers, abattoirs, retailers).

Venue & Logistics

- **Hotel and catering:** Mixed feedback - while the venue was appreciated, several noted that lunch variety and quality could improve.
- **Streaming and Audio-Visual:** Rated highly (mostly 4–5), with smooth hybrid participation and good technical support.
- **Organisers' Service:** Consistently praised, with many commenting on excellent communication, smooth registration, and professionalism.

General Impression

The congress was described as well-organised, inspiring, and scientifically enriching. Attendees appreciated the diversity of topics, networking opportunities, and dedicated efforts of the organisers.

Thank you

