

SASVEPM NEWSLETTER

April 2025

UPCOMING
22nd Annual SASVEPM
Congress 20 to 22
August 2025 in White
River Mpumalanga

SASVEPM is pleased to share a highlight reel from our recent series of impactful online sessions, a collaborative endeavour between the South African Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (SASVEPM) and the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA). These engaging virtual engagements, facilitated by the esteemed expertise of Dr. John Grewar, Dr. Mohamed Sirdar, Dr. Oonagh Pretorius, Dr. Elizabeth Chimera, successfully empowered over 117 veterinary professionals from provincial government and academic institutions in South Africa. The sessions provided invaluable insights and practical skills across critical domains of veterinary science.

Empowering Data Management and Spatial Analysis for Enhanced Practice

- ❖ **Veterinary Data Management in Laboratory and Field Settings (3-5 March 2025):** Dr. John Grewar guided this intensive program which equipped attendees with foundational and advanced skills in effective veterinary data management. The curriculum emphasized practical application, including rigorous data cleaning methodologies and hands-on experience with EpiConnect. Participants successfully applied EpiConnect to design customized data collection forms tailored for diverse laboratory and field scenarios across various provinces. Furthermore, the session introduced the powerful statistical software R, opening new avenues for data analysis.
- ❖ **Use of Geographical Information Systems in Disease Control and Surveillance (10-12 March 2025):** Recognizing the pivotal role of spatial intelligence in contemporary disease management, this session guided by Dr. John Grewar focused on harnessing data to generate actionable visual insights. Participants gained practical proficiency in utilizing Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to enhance their disease control and surveillance strategies, enabling more targeted and effective interventions.
- ❖ **Veterinary Outbreak Investigations in Developing Economies (24-26 March 2025):** addressed a crucial aspect of veterinary practice in our context. Introduced by Dr. Elizabeth Chimera, the session featured compelling and highly relevant real-life case studies expertly presented and analyzed by Dr. Mohamed Sirdar and Dr. Oonagh Pretorius. These practical examples resonated with the target audience, providing invaluable guidance for navigating the complexities of outbreak investigations within developing economies.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. John Grewar, Dr. Mohamed Sirdar, Dr. Oonagh Pretorius and Dr. Elizabeth Chimera for their exceptional expertise, engaging facilitation, and commitment to advancing veterinary knowledge and skills within our community. The overwhelmingly positive feedback received from participants unequivocally underscores the significant value and tangible impact of these online learning opportunities.

Stay connected for upcoming announcements regarding future sessions and initiatives designed to further empower professionals.



Dr John Grewar



Dr Elizabeth Chimera



Dr Mohamed Sirdar



Dr Oonagh Pretorius

