



19TH ANNUAL SASVEPM CONGRESS 2022

Buffalo City, East London ICC (Eastern Cape), 24-26 August 2022



Figure 1. The round table discussion with Dr Pamela Woods, Mr Tennyson Williams, Dr Tenzin Tenzin and Prof Brian Perry (left to right).

The Southern African Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (SASVEPM) had a successful 19th annual congress in Buffalo City. Once again, the event was presented as a hybrid event to allow members who could not physically attend to participate online. A tailored mobile application was used to help participants to follow the program, interact and access the congress materials (on-demand) in keeping efforts with sustainability and protecting the environment.

The main theme of the congress was ***One Africa, One Health, One Welfare***. Three invited keynote speakers attended the congress.

- **Prof Brian Perry** warmed up the first session with a quest for one health and one welfare in contrasting global livestock systems and market demands.
- **Dr Tenzin Tenzin** delivered a fantastic talk about regional rabies control, with various practical approaches.
- **Mr Tennyson Williams** had a thought-provoking session about integrating animal welfare into the World of Welfare.
- The program included a round table discussion which allowed participants to ask questions and participate in stimulating discussions with our honoured Guest Speakers on relevant issues across the disciplines.



Figure 2. Keynote speakers at SASVEPM Annual Congress 2022, Buffalo City. Prof Brian Perry, Dr Tenzin Tenzin and Mr Tennyson Williams (left to right).



In total, 482 people registered for the congress and SASVEPM welcomed 288 participants at the event (194 attended online). We were thrilled to receive participants from countries outside of South Africa, including Botswana, Kenya, Nigeria, Qatar, Sudan, Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom. The program included 39 oral presentations (5 were given online) and 29 posters. The program included a welcome reception, a gala dinner with the awards ceremony, and the AGM meeting. The proceedings can be accessed on the SASVEPM website.

AWARDS

- The Willie Ungerer Award was presented to **Dr Mpho Maja** for her incredible commitment to advance epidemiology in the veterinary field. SASVEPM appreciates her huge efforts which are often behind the scenes.
- The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to **Dr Lubabalo Mrwebi** to honour his contribution to South Africa's veterinary science and disease control.
- The Prof Gavin Thompson Award for the best overall oral presenter was awarded to **Dr John Grewar** for his talk: Post-outbreak African horse sickness surveillance: a scenario tree evaluation in South Africa's controlled area.
- The Animal Health Technician Award was given to **Gerbrand van der Zel** for his presentation entitled "Surveillance of Avian Influenza Virus in environmental faecal samples from wild birds in Gauteng Province".
- The postgraduate student award went to **Kgaogelo Mogano** for the talk entitled "Spatio-temporal epidemiology of animal and human rabies in northern South Africa in 1998-2017".
- The best poster was awarded to **Thabiso Nxumalo** for the poster entitled "Investigating microbiological quality of broiler chicken carcass slaughtered informally and in registered abattoir from emerging small-scale farms in the Gauteng province, South Africa".

SASVEPM congratulates these recipients for these well-deserved acknowledgements.

PRE CONGRESS WORKSHOP

The Pre-Congress Workshop on Rabies was held on 22-23 August at the East London ICC. A total of 36 veterinary and para-veterinarians were brought together to take part in this workshop. The participants included officials from all provincial veterinary services as well as national veterinary services (DALRRD), experts from the ARC-OVI laboratory and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases. We also had the honour to host WOAHS Sub-Regional Representation technical officer Dr Tenzin Tenzin who delivered a talk about rabies control and elimination strategies for our region. It was an important opportunity to share and learn from the experience of colleagues working in the field in areas with active outbreaks.



Figure 3. Group photo of the Pre-Congress workshop on Rabies, Buffalo City, SASVEPM 2022.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The SASVEPM ExCo reported back to the Members about the successful bid to host ISVEE18 in South Africa. We are planning this international symposium in Cape Town in 2027. The bid was presented by five of the ExCo Members at ISVEE16 in Halifax, Canada, in August (2022). The Society sourced sponsorship and co-funded 12 SASVEPM Members with accepted abstracts to attend the ISVEE16 congress to present their work (*details about sponsorship funds are available in the financial report*).

The AGM decided that the next SASVEPM Annual Congress should be held outside of South Africa. The majority voted for Botswana. The members also voted for the event to continue as a hybrid event to accommodate remote members who wish to participate online.

THANK-YOU

SASVEPM is very grateful to all the participants in the congress, both online and in person. Your contributions created a truly special and valuable experience.

SASVEPM extends a big thank-you to our partners who sponsored the event: the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA–APHIS) and US Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA–BTRP), and Onderstepoort Biological Products.





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