



Welcome from the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa



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Director, CAPRISA
Special Advisor to the Director-General of the World Health Organization

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

I warmly welcome you to the captivating city of Durban for the Global Virus Network's Annual Scientific Meeting. Nestled along the picturesque coastline, Durban embodies a rich tapestry of golden beaches, cultural diversity, and warm hospitality, providing an inspiring backdrop as we convene to address pressing global challenges in virology and fortify our shared commitments to scientific innovation and pandemic preparedness.

As we gather in Durban, we are prepared to engage in pivotal discussions, addressing viral threats in the world, particularly the immediate threat of Mpox. Our unequivocal goal is to promote urgent global collaboration to effectively curb and manage its spread, particularly given the disproportionate impact of Mpox on children. Our collaborative efforts are poised to confront and mitigate the rapidly emerging threat of Mpox, driving us forward with collective expertise and innovative solutions.

We have much else to cover also. HIV remains a major concern, especially right here in Africa. Covid-19, Oropouche, Rift Valley Fever and several other viruses continue to spread in our midst. They are, in some instances, being aided by disinformation campaigns on social media. Our conversations will be tackling this critical threat to science and public health, navigating scientific misinformation and disinformation and enhancing our preparedness to respond to future pandemics.

I am profoundly hopeful that our interactive exchange of ideas and insights will play a pivotal role in shaping a resilient global response to these multifaceted challenges. I am honoured to welcome you to the beautiful city of Durban for scientific deliberations, impactful collaborations, and thought-provoking conversations on the challenges we see ahead.

With great anticipation and warm regards.

CAPRISA was established in 2002 as a multi-institutional collaboration, incorporated as an independent non-profit AIDS Research Organisation. The five major partner institutions are: University of KwaZuluNatal, University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, and Columbia University in New York. CAPRISA has diverse expertise including epidemiology, biostatistics, virology, immunology, diagnostics, infectious disease medicine, pharmacy, vaccinology, health communication, and health policy. CAPRISA is an official research institute of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and Columbia University. CAPRISA goals are to undertake globally relevant and locally responsive research that contributes to understanding HIV and TB epidemiology, pathogenesis, prevention and treatment, as well as contributing to pandemic intelligence, preparedness and response.

For more information, please visit www.caprisa.org