



## **Annual General Meeting**

### **Fundisa African Academy of Medicines Development**

**20 January 2025**

#### **President Report**

Dear members of the General Board,

This official President report delivered to General Board covers the activities of the Fundisa Academy from March 2023 to February 2024. This report also addresses relevant activities which took place since March 2024.

I am glad to report that our Fundisa Academy has remained an active and strong driver of capacity strengthening projects in medicines development and regulation. The training programme for African Medicines Regulatory Agencies, under the leadership of Colin Pillai, has been extremely successful, with further expansion of the participating Agencies. The fourth, 13-week module is currently being offered to staff of 9 African Agencies, as well as a small group of private delegates. In contrast to the regulators, these participants pay a registration fee.

The Second Edition of the South African Covid-19 Country Report commissioned by the South African Presidency is finalised, but still awaits to be officially launched this year.

Haylene Nell organised her CLIC Courses at the usual venue, Nitida Wine Farm in Cape Town, on 24 - 28 April 2023 and on 9 - 13 September 2024, both as face-to-face events. The courses were highly appreciated by more than 30 delegates from various institutions.

In my last report, I have already addressed our Cross-Disciplinary Mathematical Modelling Symposium on 9 December 2023. This was organised together with the School for Data Science and Computational Thinking and the Division of Clinical Pharmacology, both at Stellenbosch University, and Pharmacometrics Africa. A report has been published in British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, mainly written by Tirhani Maluleke (Maluleke T, Benecke R, Oladejo S, Feulner, G., Kern, S., Lister, J., McClelland, G., Njoki, M., Noack, P., Petruccione, F., Rajaratnam, K., Waitt, C., Rosenkranz, B., Pillai, C.: Cross-disciplinary mathematical modelling to benefit healthcare - could clinical pharmacology play an enabling role? Br J Clin Pharmacol. (2024) 90: 2509-2516, 1 - 8).

I have received invitations to present keynote lectures at the Annual Congress of the South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (SASBCP) in Pretoria in September 2024 and the Jack Brock Lecture at

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the UCT Department of Medicine Research Symposium in October 2024. Both presentations addressed the concepts of “Cross-disciplinary mathematical modelling to benefit healthcare in Africa”, as discussed at our CMMS-2023 Symposium.

Our Digital Health Africa DHA-2024 Conference was held at the BMRI as hybrid event on 23 – 24 February 2024. This Conference provided an overview on digital health, telemedicine, artificial intelligence and personalised medicine within the African context. Expert speakers included Prof Nicholas Crisp, the Deputy Director General of the South African National Department of Health, Prof Koleka Mlisana, the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS), Noluthando Nematswerani, Discovery Health Insurance, Karin Steinecke, coordinator of the Tele-ICU at Charité Berlin, and her partners in South Africa, Francesco Petruccione, the Interim Director of the South African National Institute for Theoretical and Computational Sciences, Darlington Akogo, minoHealth AI Labs (Ghana), Marietjie Botes, and Salomé Meyer as patient representative. A report of this event has been published in *Fachzeitschrift für Pharmazeutische Medizin und Qualitätsmanagement* by Rohan Benecke, Colin Pillai and myself (R. Benecke, B. Rosenkranz, C. Pillai: Digital Health Africa 2024: The Future of Healthcare on the Continent. *Fachzeitschrift für Pharmazeutische Medizin und Qualitätsmanagement* (2024) 26: 28-33).

Because of the success of this event, we are now planning the second Digital Health Africa Conference in September 2025, in cooperation with the Charité, Pharmacometrics Africa and others. The main theme of this hybrid event will be maternal and neonatal health.

In 2024, I have accepted the invitation as Specialty Chief Editor of *Frontiers in Pharmacology*, Section Drugs Outcome Research and Policies. This can be an opportunity to showcase recent developments in Africa, for example in form of Research Topics. An editorial on the themes of the section has recently been published in the journal (Rosenkranz B: Drug outcomes research and policies – trends and challenges. *Front. Pharmacol.* (2024) 15:1476849).

All relevant information about the Fundisa Academy activities, including publications by its Directors, is published on our regularly updated website ([www.fundisa-academy.com](http://www.fundisa-academy.com)).

In 2024, Fundisa has been active for 10 years since its foundation in May 2014. A few of us could celebrate this at a joint dinner at Nitida at the occasion of the CLIC 2024 course. It would be excellent if we could arrange a more formal – scientific – event this year to celebrate our successes in capability enhancement and in supporting of young scientists across Africa. All this would not have been possible without the contributions and engagement of our Directors, including Tirhani Malueke, our Postdoctoral Research



Fellow, as well as our partners, especially Pharmacometrics Africa, CP+ Associates, Stellenbosch University, and Tiervlei Trial Centre.

I would like to thank all of you for the wonderful cooperation in the past year and am very much looking forward to our future cooperation.

Cape Town, 20 January 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. K. K.".

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