



Annual General Meeting

Fundisa African Academy of Medicines Development

14 May 2025

President Report

Dear members of the General Board,

This official President report delivered to the General Board covers the activities of the Fundisa Academy from March 2024 to February 2025. Since most activities have already been addressed in my previous Report in January, I will just give a brief summary.

Our Fundisa Academy has remained an active and strong driver of capacity strengthening projects in medicines development and regulation. The fourth intake of the 14-week training programme for African Medicines Regulatory Agencies, under the leadership of Colin Pillai, has been successfully concluded. The most recent cohort included participants from National Regulatory Authorities in Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, as well as private delegates. The graduation ceremony was held on 20 March 2025 by our partner, Wits University. A publication to be submitted to the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology is in preparation.

I have been the convenor of the chapter on “Leadership, governance and institutional arrangements” of the South African Covid-19 Country Report commissioned by the South African Presidency. The Second Edition has been officially released, and the official launch is still planned.

Haylene Nell organised her CLIC Courses at the usual venue, Nitida Wine Farm in Cape Town, on 9 - 13 September 2024, as usual as face-to-face event. The course was highly appreciated by more than 30 delegates from various institutions. A minor net surplus of R 3,810 was achieved.

I have presented 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 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”, the topic of our CMMS-2023 Symposium in December 2023.

Last year, I have accepted the invitation as Specialty Chief Editor of Frontiers in Pharmacology, Section Drugs Outcome Research and Policies. This is an opportunity to showcase recent developments in Africa, for example in form of Research Topics. An editorial on the themes of the section has been published in

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the journal (Rosenkranz B: Drug outcomes research and policies – trends and challenges. Front. Pharmacol. (2024) 15:1476849).

Two major initiatives are currently planned. The first is Haylene's CLIC Refresher Course 2025 which will take place this week. The second is the Digital Health Africa Conference (DHA-2025) which builds on the success of our DHA-2024 Conference in February last year. DHA-2025 will take place on 3-5 September 2025. The Conference is hosted by Fundisa together with the Charité Center for Global Health in Berlin, the Infectious Diseases Institute at Makerere University College of Health Sciences in Kampala, Pharmacometrics Africa, and The Innovation Hub in Pretoria. This hybrid multi-site event will be held simultaneously in Pretoria, Kampala and Berlin, including the option of virtual participation. The theme is maternal and child health. One of our main goals is to act as "incubator" for novel ideas and to facilitate the establishment of long-term cross-disciplinary cooperative projects. Registration is open via the website (<https://digitalhealthafrica.org/>).

All relevant information about the Fundisa Academy activities, including publications by its Board members, is published on our regularly updated website (www.fundisa-academy.com).

The Audited Financial Statement for Year End February 2025 is in preparation by our auditor, Tafseeq Maker from Visionary Accounting. Once finalised, this will be distributed and signed off by the Board of Directors. The amount in the ABSA bank account on 28 February 2025 was R 55,890, the current amount on 7 May 2025 is R 71,749. The projected budget plan for the current financial year (YE February 2026) which has been distributed before this meeting gives an income of R 127,130 and expenses of R 67,700 resulting in a surplus of R 59,430. Income and expenses will need careful monitoring, as in previous years. Any suggestions for improvement of the income stream, including sponsorship, are highly welcome.

In May 2024, we have celebrated our 10-year anniversary. It would be excellent if we could arrange a formal – scientific – event this year to celebrate our successes in capability enhancement and in supporting of young scientists across Africa.

All our achievements would not have been possible without the contributions and engagement of our Directors, including Tirhani Maluke, our new Secretary General who has been providing excellent logistic support. Many thanks also go to our partners, especially Pharmacometrics Africa, CP+ Associates, and Tiervlei Trial Centre with whom we have been working together for many years now.

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, 14 May 2025

A. K. K.