

African Microbiomes in Health and Disease Symposium Agenda

Day 1: 1st October 2024

Time	Presenter	Affiliation	Title
9:00 - 9:15	Chair: Jo-Ann Passmore	IDM, UCT/NHLS, ZA	Welcome - Shaping the Future of Microbiome Research in Africa
9:15 - 9:30	Elizabeth Bukusi	KEMRI, KE	Balancing the Scales: Gender, Equity, and Ecology in African Health Research
9:30 - 9:45	Sharon Achilles	BMGF, USA	Seeding Innovative Approaches to Reproductive Health
9:45 - 10:00	Linda-Gail Bekker	DTHF, IDM, UCT, ZA	Cultivating Change: Women Leading the Way in the Ecology of HIV Prevention Research
10:00 - 10:30	Discussion		
10:30 - 11:00	Short break		
11:00 - 11:10	Chair: Lenine Liebenberg	CERI, SUN, ZA	Integrating African Microbial Potential into Global Research and Innovation
11:10 - 11:30	Moses Alogo	SFAF, KE	African to the Core: Pioneering Global Health by Harnessing Diversity
11:30 - 11:50	Ntobeko Ntusi	SAMRC, ZA	Empowering Partnerships in Women's Health Research Ecosystems
11:50 - 12:10	Tulio de Oliveira	CERI, SUN, ZA	Cultivating Connections: Importance of Building Partnerships
12:10 - 12:40	Discussion		
12:40 - 13:40	Lunch break		
13:40 - 13:50	Chair: Anna Happel	IDM, UCT, ZA	Exploring Africa's Ecological Richness Through its Diversity
13:50 - 14:05	Scott Hazelhurst	WITS, ZA	Roots of Health: Applying the Ecological Wisdom in African Human Genomes
14:05 - 14:20	Marla Trindade	UWC, ZA	Ecosystems of Life: The Untapped Potential of African Microbial Diversity
14:20 - 14:35	Doug Kwon	MGH, USA	The Ecological Value of African Microbiome Data for the World
14:35 - 15:00	Discussion		
15:00 - 15:30	Short break		
15:30 - 15:40	Chair: Nicki Tiffin	SANBI, UWC, ZA	Creating Robust Ecosystems for Microbiome on the Continent
15:40 - 15:55	Ovokeraye Oduaran	WITS, ZA	Rethinking Microbiome Research in Africa: Unpacking the Five Pillars for More Equitable Partnerships
15:55 - 16:10	Thulani Makhalanyane	CERI, SUN, ZA	African Microbiomes Matter
16:10 - 16:25	Jacques Ravel	UMB, US	Strength in Diversity: Building Equitable Microbiome Ecosystems Through Collaboration
16:25 - 17:00	Discussion		

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Day 2: 2nd October 2024

Time	Presenter	Affiliation	Title
9:00 - 9:15	Chair: Heather Jaspan	IDM, UCT, ZA	Ecology of Reproductive Wellness: Exploring Vaginal Microbiomes for Women's Health
9:15 - 9:30	Sarah Lebeer	UAnt, BE	Citizen Science in Action: Leading Women's Health Through Vaginal Microbiome Ecology
9:30 - 9:45	Janneke van der Wijert	UMC, NE	Crossing Borders: Exploring Vaginal Microbiomes for Women's Health in Africa
9:45 - 10:00	Indriati Hood-Pishchany	UNC, US	Gut Feeling, Down There: How Vaginal Microbiomes Nourish Women's Health
10:00 - 10:30	Panel Discussion		
10:30 - 11:00	Short break		
11:00 - 11:10	Chair: Serah Gitome	KEMRI, KE	Shaping Ecosystems: The Art and Science of Microbiome Manipulation
11:10 - 11:25	Caroline Mitchell	MGH, US	Restoring Balance: The Ecological Promise of Vaginal Microbiome Transplantation
11:25 - 11:40	Sinaye Ngcapu	CAPRISA, ZA	Harnessing Nature: PM774 and Phage Therapy in the Ecological Battle Against BV
11:40 - 11:55	Disebo Potloane	CAPRISA, ZA	Ecological Innovations: The VIBRANT Study and the Promise of Live Biotherapeutics
11:55 - 12:30	Panel Discussion		
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break		
13:30 - 13:40	Chair: Musalula Sinkala	IDM, UCT, ZA	Unearthing Hidden Ecosystems: AI and Informatics in Microbiome Data Mining
13:40 - 13:55	Moses Obimbo	UN, KE	AI Missed the Memo: Unlocking Africa's Indigenous Data for Precision Medicine
13:55 - 14:10	Sean Gibbons	ISB, US	Gut Instincts: What Can Gut Microbiomes Teach Us About Building Smarter Data Ecosystems
14:10 - 14:25	Karl Burgess	U. Ed, UK	Teaching Machines to Digest Metabolomics Data
14:25 - 14:40	Caitriona Brennan	UCSD, US	Optimised High-throughput Metagenomics and Metabolomics Laboratory Pipelines for Advancing Microbiome Research
14:40 - 15:00	Rob Knight	UCSD, US	Addressing the Missing African Microbiomes
15:00 - 15:30	Discussion		
15:30 - 15:50	Jo-Ann Passmore	UCT, ZA	Closing and Thanks