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Motivation for Extension of Registration

Student Request

Student: Thabo Molefe (3847291)
Programme: PhD Computer Science
Current End: 31 December 2026
Requested End: 30 June 2027

Motivation:

I am writing to request a 6-month extension to my PhD registration. The extension is necessitated by unanticipated delays in obtaining data from partner hospitals. The ethics committee clearance renewal from Groote Schuur Hospital has been delayed by 4 months due to an institutional review board backlog stemming from COVID-era processes. Additionally, the MRI scanner replacement at Tygerberg Hospital resulted in a 2-month data collection gap. These delays are external to my research activities and I have continued making progress in other aspects of my thesis, including model development and conference publications.

I have discussed this matter with my supervisor, Prof. Sarah van der Berg, who supports this request. The revised timeline is realistic and I am confident of completing all requirements by June 2027.

Thabo Molefe

5 February 2026