

20TH
**Annual African
Vaccinology Course**



2025



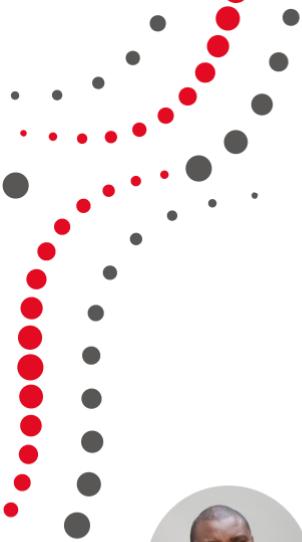
**20th Annual African Vaccinology
Course (AAVC)**

"Building Vaccinology Expertise in Africa"



VACFA
vaccines
for africa





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Message from the conveners

The Annual African Vaccinology Course (AAVC) is organized by the Vaccines for Africa Initiative (VACFA) and convened by A/Prof Benjamin Kagina, Prof Rudzani Muloiwa, & Dr Edina Amponsah-Dacosta, with Prof Gregory Hussey as Senior Advisor. The AAVC is a popular training program for diverse individuals working in the field of vaccines and immunisation services across Africa. Cumulatively, over 1000 participants have attended this course since its inception in 2005. It is a pleasure to welcome you all to the 20th AAVC in 2025.

Welcome to Cape Town, and welcome to South Africa!

Day 1: Immunization Systems in Africa – Past, Present, & the Path Forward

Time	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator	Chairperson
0800-0830	Registrations (in person & virtual)	Xolie Ndlela, University of Cape Town, SA	Benjamin Kagina, University of Cape Town, SA
0830-0930	Opening remarks & introductions	Benjamin Kagina, University of Cape Town, SA	
0930-1000	History of the AAVC & course objectives for 2025	Edina Amponsah-Dacosta, University of Cape Town, SA	
1000-1030	Coffee/Tea Break		
1030-1110	An immunization agenda for Africa: Past, present, & the path forward	Gregory Hussey, University of Cape Town, SA	Tshepiso Mbangiwa, University of Cape Town, SA
1110-1120	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1120-1200	Introduction of new vaccines: Progress, public health impact & policy considerations	Jason Muenda, University of Cape Town, SA	
1200-1210	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1210-1250	Regional priorities for immunization in Africa: Advancing self-sufficiency in a changing global landscape	*Nicaise Ndembu, IVI Africa Regional Office, Rwanda	
1250-1300	Q&A/Discussions	All	
1300-1400	Lunch		
1400-1430	Warm up/energizer		Anthony Hawkrige, University of Cape Town, SA
1430-1510	Immunisation during crises: Navigating humanitarian, conflict, and climate challenges	*Muhammad Farid, World Health Organization, Somalia	
1510-1520	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1520-1600	Resilience & innovation: Building stronger immunisation programs in Africa's dynamic landscape	Edina Amponsah-Dacosta, University of Cape Town, SA	
1610-1630	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1610-1630	Daily evaluation & reflections on the future of immunization in Africa	Petronella Neube, University of Cape Town, SA	
1630-1700	Introduction to the "Think Tank" Session	Liza Rossi, University of Cape Town, SA	
17:00	Close of Day 1		

*Remote Speaker

Day 2 : Essentials of Vaccinology – Scientific Underpinnings & Programmatic Considerations

Time	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator	Chairperson
0800-0840	Basic principles of immunology & applications in vaccinology	Elisa Nemes, South African TB Vaccine Initiative, UCT, SA	Bronte Davies, University of Cape Town, SA
0840-0900	Q&A / Discussions	All	
0900-0940	Introduction to Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)	Mike Gold, University of Adelaide, Australia	
0940-1000	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1000-1030	Coffee/Tea Break		
1030-1110	Leveraging health systems strengthening to enhance immunization programs in Africa	Dudzile Ndwandwe, South African Medical Research Council, SA	Rudzani Muloiwa, University of Cape Town, SA
1110-1120	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1120-1200	GAVI funding models: Supporting sustainable immunization programs in Africa	*Michelle Jimenez, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, Switzerland	
1200-1210	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1210-1250	Vaccine equity: Addressing gaps & challenges in vaccine access and implementation	Rudzani Muloiwa, University of Cape Town, SA	
1250-1300	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1300-1400	Lunch		
1400-1430	Warm up/energizer		Edina Amponsah-Dacosta, University of Cape Town, SA
1430-1510	Vaccines as tools to combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): Relevance for Immunization programs in Africa	Elloise Du Toit, University of Cape Town, SA	
1510-1540	Panel Discussion: Advancing AMR control in the African immunization agenda	Elloise Du Toit (UCT, SA), Andrew Musyoki (SMU, SA), Benjamin Kagina (UCT, SA)	
1540-1620	Responding to emerging vaccine preventable disease outbreaks: Lessons learned from Mpox and strategies for future preparedness	*Melvin Sanicas, Bavarian Nordic, USA	
1620-1640	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1640-1700	Daily evaluation & reflections on leveraging vaccines to safeguard Africa's future	Bronte Davies, University of Cape Town, SA	
1700-1730	Close of Day 2		

*Remote Speaker

Day 3 : Manufacturing & Delivering New and Underutilised Vaccines in Africa

Time	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator	Chairperson
0800-0840	The 100 Day Mission: Is Africa prepared for the next pandemic?	*Shingai Machingaidze, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, SA	Ramonde Patientia, University of Cape Town, SA
0840-0920	Advances in local vaccine manufacturing capacity: Experiences from the mRNA Hub, Afrigen	Pia Steigler, Afrigen Biologics & Vaccines, SA	
0920-1000	Vaccine production in Africa: Charting a sustainable way forward	Morena Makhoana, The Biovac Institute, SA	
1000-1030	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1030-1100	Coffee/Tea Break		
1100-1140	TB vaccines in Africa: Progress, promise, and pathways to significant public health impact	Thomas Scriba, South African TB Vaccine Initiative, UCT, SA	Gregory Hussey, University of Cape Town, SA
1140-1150	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1150-1230	HIV vaccines: 40 years on, where are we now? Strengthening efforts towards a breakthrough	Erica Andersen-Nissen, HIV Vaccine Trials Network, SA	
1230-1240	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1240-1320	Intersections between clinical trials, regulation and evidence-based practice in advancing immunization policies	Carine Dochez, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium	
1320-1330	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1330-1430	Lunch		
1430-1510	Redefining the fight against malaria: Lessons from subnational introduction of the RTS,S/AS01 in Africa	*Rose Jalang'o, National Vaccines and Immunization Programme, Kenya	Elizabeth O. Oduwole, University of Cape Town, SA
1510-1520	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1520-1600	Meningococcal vaccines: Progress, innovation, and the path forward for Africa	Lawrence Akunga, Sanofi, Kenya	
1600-1610	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1610-1630	Daily evaluation & reflections on Africa's potential for vaccine self-sufficiency	Petronella Ncube, University of Cape Town, SA	
1630	Close of Day 3		
1700-1830	AEFI surveillance and pharmacovigilance workshop: Enhancing safety & confidence in immunization programs	Mike Gold (University of Adelaide, Australia) & Hannelie Meyer (Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, SA)	

*Remote Speaker

Day 4 : The Missing Link – Vaccinating Under-Served and Unreached Populations in Africa

Time	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator	Chairperson
0800-0840	Zero-dose children and missed communities: Ensuring that no one is left behind in the African immunization agenda	Anthony Hawkrigde, University of Cape Town, SA	Christine Ritchie, University of Cape Town, SA
0840-0850	Q&A / Discussions	All	
0850-0930	Cholera outbreaks in Africa: Protecting underserved populations through vaccination and public health action	Beverley Cowper, The Biovac Institute, SA	
0930-0940	Q&A / Discussions	All	
0940-1020	Life-course immunization: Expanding protection beyond infancy	Sipho Dlamini, University of Cape Town, SA	
1020-1030	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1030-1100	Coffee/Tea Break		
1100-1140	HPV vaccination in Africa: Advancing equity for adolescent girls	Fumane Lekoala, Future Evidence Foundation, Lesotho	Imen Ayouni, University of Cape Town, SA
1140-1150	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1150-1230	Strengthening maternal immunization in Africa: A critical link in life-course vaccination	Clare Cutland, University of Witwatersrand, SA	
1230-1240	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1240-1320	Targeted vaccination: Travellers	Albie de Frey, South African Society of Travel Medicine, SA	
1320-1330	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1330-1430	Lunch & Photography Session		
1430-1530	Think-tank on a topical vaccinology issue relevant to Africa	All	Liza Rossi, University of Cape Town, SA
1530-1600	Reflections on the think-tank session	All	
1600-1615	AAVC 2025 e-learning offering: Experiences and lessons learnt	Saleem Satardien, University of Cape Town, SA	
1615-1630	Daily evaluations and reflections on innovating African immunization systems	Bronte Davies, University of Cape Town, SA	
1600-1630	Close of Day 4		

*Remote Speaker

Day 5 : Vaccine decision-making & communicTransforming Evidence-Informed Vaccine Decision-Making & Demand Generation in Africa

Time	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator	Chairperson
0800-0840	NITAG Support Hub (NISH): Strengthening evidence-based decision-making in Africa	Benjamin Kagina, University of Cape Town, SA	Jason Mwenda, University of Cape Town, SA
0840-0850	Q&A / Discussions	All	
0850-0910	Case study 1: A critical systems heuristics approach exploring new TB vaccine implementation in a high-burden African context	Julia Ruokomäki, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands	
0910-0930	Case study 2: Examining the vaccine decision-making ecosystem in Southern Africa	Adelaide Ngina Masu, University of Cape Town, SA	
0930-0950	Case study 3: Measles-containing vaccine presentation switches in Africa: Exploring impact, experiences, cost-effectiveness, & lessons learned	Elizabeth O. Oduwale, University of Cape Town, SA	
0950-1000	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1000-1030	Coffee/Tea Break & Photography Session		
1030-1110	Vaccine confidence: Strategies to improve vaccine decision-making and demand generation in Africa	Hannelie Meyer, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, SA	Penka Marthe, University of Cape Town, SA
1110-1120	Q&A / Discussions	All	
1120-1200	Vaccine communication strategies & media engagement for vaccinologists	Adele Baleta, Freelance Journalist, SA	
1200-1210	Discussions	All	
1210-1230	Daily evaluations and reflections on improving vaccine demand in Africa	Petronella Ncube, University of Cape Town, SA	
1230-1300	Closure & issuance of certificates	Edina Amponsah-Dacosta, University of Cape Town, SA	
1300	Lunch & Close of Day 5		

*Remote Speaker



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