



MEDIA RELEASE

The Public Health Association of South Africa's (PHASA) annual conference is back in Durban (eThekweni)

Johannesburg, 5 September 2022 - The Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) will be hosting its 17th annual conference in Durban (eThekweni) from 11 – 14 September 2022 with the theme: “Building Back Better: Public Health Resilience and Recovery.” In the past two and a half years, South Africa has boldly faced multiple COVID-19 waves and this year’s conference aims to focus discussions on our post COVID-19 realities as we rebuild our society and health system to deliver universal health care and improved health outcomes for all.

“Public health principles have an integral role to play in addressing these complex issues, and the PHASA 2022 conference will provide an ideal setting to stimulate robust discussions on progress made, critical reflections on the challenges encountered, and vibrant dialogue on how to shape a post-COVID-19 pandemic health system and the world, where all people can attain a state of health that enables them to lead socially and economically productive lives,” said PHASA president Dr Harsha Somaroo.

The conference will tackle critical health issues on current health priorities, including those related to health systems and policy, health promotion and prevention, communicable and non-communicable diseases, rural and mental health, women, adolescent and child health, occupational and environmental health, and the national health insurance (NHI). To access the conference programme: <https://phasa.samrc.ac.za/programme.html>

The conference will be opened by Professor Glenda Gray on Sunday, 11 September. Professor Salim S. Abdool Karim who will deliver the Susser and Stein keynote lecture on Monday 12 September. On Tuesday, 13 September, Professor Rajen Naidoo, Dr Bobby Peek, Dr Imtiaz Ismail Sooliman, Dr Caradee Wright and Dr Thulie Khumalo will talk about the issue of public health preparedness in managing climate-related disasters. On Wednesday, 14 September Prof Lilian Diana Dudley will be giving the inaugural Pholela Lecture, hosted by the College of Public Health Medicine. Also on Wednesday, we will have Dr Nicolas Crisp, Mr Mark Heywood, Dr Mvuyisi Mzukwa, Dr Zandile Matyo, and Prof Asha George will tackle the issue of the National Health Insurance and our Future Health System. To know more about the plenary and keynote speakers: <https://phasa.samrc.ac.za/speakers.html>

“We are so happy that we can once again gather as public health professionals, researchers, policy-makers, academics, students, and civil society activists as we look at the state of our health systems, and being prepared for the next pandemic or health crisis,” said Dr Somaroo.

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For more information on the conference or speakers, please contact Mandy Salomo on 082 451 2686.

Information on PHASA:

PHASA is a South African national, voluntary, Section 21- Not for Profit Organization, which was established in 2000. PHASA is dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of all South Africans and provides a unique forum to develop professional and academic networks. Our members include a broad range of public health practitioners in South Africa, Southern Africa, and further afield; including academics, researchers, epidemiologists, public health medicine specialists, as well as public sector employees at national, provincial and local levels.

PHASA Objectives are:

To advocate for the conditions for a healthy society. To build an effective organisation. To create a multi-disciplinary environment of professional exchange and debate, study and activity through meetings, conferences and workshops for interested people. To promote teaching and research on public health issues. To support the publication of relevant materials. To network with other public health organisations and related organisations. To encourage and facilitate measures for disease prevention and health promotion