

59th Annual Conference of the South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (SASBCP) 7 – 9 SEPTEMBER 2026

Hosted by the Pharmacology Department, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Free State

Confirmed Presenters and Speakers



Dr Quincy Olasumbo Ayodele is a leading traditional medicine practitioner, integrative medicine advocate, and global health leader with more than 30 years of experience in advancing African traditional medicine. She is the founder of the Quincy Wellness & Naturopathic Centre, Nigeria's first fully integrated traditional and conventional wellness centre, and a pioneer of the country's first dedicated weight-loss centre. A champion of evidence-based traditional medicine, she has held key leadership roles, including as the pioneering Secretary General of the National Association of Nigerian Traditional Medicine Practitioners (NANTMP), and has served on the WHO expert committees for African Traditional Medicine and COVID-19 Response. Beyond healthcare, she promotes women's economic empowerment through the SEWA women's empowerment initiative. Her work has earned national and international recognition for advancing integrative healthcare, public health, and equitable access to safe, high-quality traditional medicine.



Elisa Baldini is a specialist in European Union (EU) and international advocacy and civil society engagement. She holds a master's degree in international relations and an executive master's in EU project management. She has previously worked for Christian Blind Mission, Plan International, and Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) in roles focusing on the health and education sectors, as well as the EU budget. From 2011 to 2014, Baldini was a member of the European Network Action for Global Health. She is the Secretary General of the International Federation of Anthroposophical Medical Associations (IVAA) and Chair of the European Foundation for Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (EUROCAM).



Dr Bin Wang is a professor and doctoral supervisor; he leads several major research and innovation centres in Shaanxi focused on TCM development, brain health, and health industry technologies. He holds prominent academic leadership roles in Chinese pharmacology and TCM organisations. His research specialises in TCM manufacturing technologies and industrial application, leading multiple national and provincial research projects. Dr Wang has published more than 100 academic papers and contributed to more than 20 books and textbooks on TCM pharmacology. His work has earned several scientific awards and professional honours. He also contributes to academic publishing as an associate editor and editorial board member for journals in integrative medicine and pharmacology.



Dr Hiba Boujnah is a research fellow at the Charité Integrative Oncology Group, where she focuses on advancing evidence-based integrative medicine through systematic reviews and health policy analysis. Her work supports informed healthcare decision-making and contributes to strengthening the integration of traditional, complementary and integrative health (TCIH) into health systems. In line with the third WCTCIM thematic focus on 'Integration of TCIM into Health Systems,' she contributes to international dialogue through publications in leading journals, including BMJ Global Health, by supporting the implementation of the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy, and through evidence-based approaches reflected in the Gujarat Declaration. As Project Manager for the European Society of Integrative Medicine (ESIM), Dr Boujnah also promotes international collaboration, research harmonisation, and the translation of scientific evidence into practical policy recommendations.



Prof Fernão Castro Braga, PhD, is a full professor in the Faculty of Pharmacy, Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Brazil. Trained in chemistry and pharmaceutical biology in Brazil and Germany, his research focuses on natural products, medicinal plants, ethnopharmacology, drug discovery, and biodiversity-based pharmaceutical development. Over the past two decades, he has led numerous national and international research projects, including the development of herbal medicines and antiviral agents from Brazilian biodiversity. Prof Braga has supervised more than 50 postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers, published extensively – with more than 5 100 citations – and contributed to multiple patents in natural product drug development. A CNPq Productivity Fellow since 2000, he has held several academic leadership and advisory roles, served as a visiting professor at the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, and currently leads the Brazil Chair at the University of Münster, Germany, advancing research on broad-spectrum antiviral natural products.

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Dr Kofi Donkor is Deputy Executive Director of the Centre for Plant Medicine Research (CPMR) in Ghana, and Head of its Research and Innovation Office. He holds a PhD in Pharmacology from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and a BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Ghana.

Since joining the CPMR in 2005, he has led research and development of herbal medicines for COVID-19, malaria, hypertension, and other diseases. His work focuses on product innovation, technology transfer, intellectual property, and strengthening quality and regulatory systems. He has secured major grants, coordinated training programmes, and contributed to research capacity across Africa.

An active researcher and speaker, Dr Donkor has published widely on medicinal plants and traditional medicine. He is a member of the Western Africa Network of Natural Products Research Scientists and the Ghana Science Association and is involved in postgraduate training and mentorship.



Dr Diadelis Figueredo is a biochemist and pharmacologist with advanced degrees, including a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences. She trained in toxicology and pharmacology in Havana, Amsterdam, and Toronto. She specialises in regulatory affairs, focusing on the safety and efficacy evaluation of traditional and complementary medicines, such as phytotherapy and homeopathy, at the Cuban Regulatory Agency. She is a member of national and international expert groups on traditional medicine, notably participating in the WHO's herbal medicine regulatory cooperation since 2012. Dr Figueredo has served as a scientific journal referee and lecturer, and has received the National Award of Pharmacology twice from the Cuban Pharmacology Society.



Dr Ricardo Ghelman is a leading figure in the integration of conventional medicine with traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine (TCIM). With a focus on paediatrics and paediatric oncology, he has worked to incorporate complementary therapies into clinical practice to enhance patient outcomes and quality of life. His efforts extend beyond individual care to influencing national health policies, aiming to foster a more scientifically grounded and holistic healthcare system.

As founder of the Brazilian Academic Consortium for Integrative Health (CABSIN) and adviser to the Brazilian Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), Dr Ghelman has played a key role in developing strategies for integrating TCIM into primary care and hospital settings. His emphasis on rigorous scientific validation supports a diverse knowledge base, aligning with global initiatives such as the Gujarat Declaration and the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025-2034, and advancing the vision of the third WCTCIM thematic axis on health system integration.



Dr Sumeet Goel is an Ayurvedic paediatrician and associate professor heading the Department of Kaumarbhritya at the All India Institute of Ayurveda, Goa. With more than 13 years of experience in clinical care, research, and policy, he has contributed to public health initiatives, traditional medicine policy, and international collaborations, including the WHO and WIPO. His expertise spans Ayurvedic paediatrics, public health integration, nutrition, and traditional knowledge. Dr Goel has published extensively, advised government policies, and participated in global forums on Ayurveda and traditional medicine.



Prof Nceba Gqaleni is a research professor and acting academic leader of Traditional Medicine at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and a faculty member at the Africa Health Research Institute. Trained as a biochemist, he earned his PhD from the University of Strathclyde, Scotland, in 1996. His research focuses on immunology, infectious and non-infectious diseases, and traditional medicine. He has held several leadership roles, including chair of Indigenous Health Care Systems Research and deputy dean of the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine, and has served on national and international bodies, including the WHO expert committee on Traditional Medicine. His work centres on developing alternative treatments for conditions affecting Africa, such as HIV and diabetes, and advancing the integration of traditional medicine into public and global health systems.

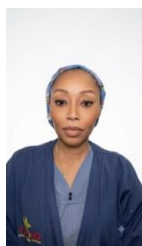
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Jeanette R Hunter (BCur, MBA, PGDip in health services management, PGDip in health economics) is the Deputy Director General for Primary Healthcare at the National Department of Health of South Africa. She has worked in senior management positions in and outside of the public sector for the past 30 years. Successful application of theory and an understanding of the service delivery environment have enabled her to lead the development and implementation of key health system strengthening policies and strategies in South Africa.



Dr Tobi Ayodele Keeney (MB ChB) is a licensed naturopathic physician and Managing Director of the Quincy Wellness & Naturopathic Centre – an integrative healthcare clinic in Lagos, Nigeria, with international operations. With academic training in psychology, biochemistry, and critical care nursing from the University of Maryland, she has helped expand the family-founded wellness brand globally since joining in 2009. A leading advocate for integrative medicine, she promotes collaboration between traditional healthcare systems to improve patient outcomes. She is a recognised speaker on natural health and presented to the Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Healthcare (TCIH) Coalition on integrating traditional medicine and biomedicine to deliver holistic, patient-centred care in 2025.



Prof LN Katende-Kyenda is an associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and Pharmacology at Walter Sisulu University. She holds a PhD in pharmacy practice, along with three master's degrees and a postgraduate higher diploma in education. As a National Research Foundation-rated researcher (C3), she has published more than 64 peer-reviewed articles and delivered more than 80 presentations at both national and international conferences, including invited keynote addresses. Her recent accolades include the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Community Engagement and Infused Research (2024), Excellent Teaching (2023), and NRF Rating (2022). She also leads the Gender-Based Violence research niche area within the Human Rights and Development research group.

In addition to her research, Prof Katende-Kyenda serves on various faculty committees, mentors researchers, and supervises students across undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She is an external examiner and moderator in pharmacology and clinical pharmacy, as well as an NRF grants and rating reviewer and a reviewer for international scientific journals. Her research interests encompass tuberculosis, HIV/Aids, gender-based violence, quality of life, chronic diseases, and cervical cancer, and she actively collaborates with both national and international researchers while engaging in community-orientated teaching for MB ChB and Nursing students.



Prof Dr Mariana Cabral Schweitzer is a professor in the Department of Preventative Medicine of the Paulista School of Medicine at the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP).

She is the Coordinator of the Evidence Hub (NEV CARE) of the WHO Evidence-informed Policy Network (EVIPNet) and former president of the Brazilian Academic Consortium of Integrative Health (CABSIN 2023–2024). She is also president of the third World Congress of Traditional Medicine and serves on the steering committee of the second WHO Global Summit of Traditional Medicine.



Prof Paul Fewou Moundipa is a renowned scientist specialising in toxicology and biochemistry. Since 1988, he has held a full professorship at the University of Yaoundé I, where he leads the Laboratory of Pharmacology and Toxicology, heads the Department of Biochemistry, and coordinates the master's programme. His research focuses on chemical contaminants, natural product-based drug development, antiviral pharmacology, and male reproductive toxicology, and he maintains an extensive international network. He holds advanced degrees in biochemistry, both awarded with distinction.

Prof Moundipa has supervised numerous graduate students, contributed to international research collaborations, and published more than 190 peer-reviewed articles. Recognised with awards from the European Academy of Andrology and the US National Library of Medicine, he is an active member of several scientific societies and serves as a referee for multiple journals.

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Prof Pulok Kumar Mukherjee is a renowned pharmaceutical scientist with more than 30 years of experience in natural product bioprospecting, ethnopharmacology, and translational chemical biology. His work emphasises evidence-based validation of medicinal plants, integrating traditional knowledge with modern science, and promoting sustainable bioeconomy models from Indian bioresources. Currently at Jadavpur University, he has previously led prestigious research institutes and is highly published, with 295 peer-reviewed papers, 8 books, 7 patents, and more than 26 500 citations, earning recognition as one of the top 2% of scientists worldwide. He is a fellow of several distinguished academies, including the Royal Society of Chemistry, and has received numerous awards for his contributions. Prof Mukherjee has played a significant role in shaping policy and global collaboration in traditional medicine through leadership in the WHO and Indian government committees. As the founder of the Society for Ethnopharmacology and past president of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology, he continues to promote the integration of traditional knowledge with modern healthcare and sustainable development.



Prof Frédéric Nico Njyou is a full professor of biochemistry, pharmacology, and toxicology at the University of Yaoundé I. His research focuses on the valorisation of African medicinal plants and mushrooms as sources of novel therapeutics for inflammatory, infectious, liver, and neurodegenerative diseases. He has published extensively on natural-product pharmacology, hepatoprotection, anti-inflammatory agents, and neuroprotection, and holds a patent related to medicinal plant-derived therapeutic formulations. A former Fulbright visiting scholar at the University of Connecticut, he has supervised numerous postgraduate researchers and leads several collaborative research initiatives in Africa and internationally.



Dr Samuel Baker Obakiro is a pharmacologist and analytical chemist with a strong focus on drug development and science leadership. He received his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Master of Science in Pharmacology from Makerere University, Uganda, and earned his PhD in Analytical Chemistry from Moi University, Kenya, in 2020.

He is currently Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the Busitema University Faculty of Health Sciences. Dr Obakiro is also the founder and director of the Busitema University Natural Products Research and Innovation Centre (BUNaPRIC), which specialises in traditional and complementary medicine research.

With 40 publications, he supervises two PhD and five master's students and coordinates research programmes at Busitema University. He is a member of various scientific organisations, including the Uganda Pharmacological Society (UPharS) and the Africa Science Leadership Programme (ASLP).



Prof Ifeoma Celestina Orabueze (BPharm, MSc, PhD) is an associate professor and acting head of the Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lagos. Her teaching, mentorship, and research focus on natural product chemistry, drug discovery and development, herbal medicine standardisation, quality control, ethnomedicine, and regulatory toxicology. Her research explores bioactive natural products as potential sources of antimalarial, anti-infective, antioxidant, and neuropharmacological agents, alongside studies in toxicology, reproductive health, and nutritional pharmacognosy. She collaborates widely, has conducted research in internationally recognised laboratories, and has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals. She received the 2017 Outstanding Scientific Research Award from the Society of Free Radical Research–Europe (SFRR Europe) for work on natural antioxidant compounds and is a member of the African Centre of Excellence for Drug Research, Herbal Medicine Development and Regulatory Science (ACEDHARS).



Dr Marina Leal Rosa is a naturopath and executive secretary at the Brazilian Academic Consortium of Integrative Health (CABSIN), where she provides executive, administrative, and organisational support for institutional activities, committees, and international partners. She played a key role in the organisation of the third World Congress on Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Medicine (Rio de Janeiro, 2025), an event attended by more than 1 000 participants, where she coordinated speaker communications, programme activities, logistics, and operational processes. She is currently pursuing an MBA focusing on organisational management and institutional leadership.

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Kesolofetse Samson is a regulatory affairs professional at the Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority (BoMRA). She works to strengthen the regulation of medicines (including traditional medicine) and cosmetics. She is driven by a commitment to public health, developing practical regulatory solutions, building strong stakeholder partnerships, and contributing to initiatives that improve access to safe, effective, and quality health products.

Currently pursuing a master's degree in biotechnology, innovation, and regulatory science, Samson is particularly interested in regulatory innovation, systems strengthening, and regional collaboration across Africa. She believes that meaningful progress is achieved through teamwork, continuous learning, and the exchange of ideas.

Samson is interested in supporting platforms that bring together professionals, researchers, indigenous knowledge holders, and industry leaders to share knowledge, inspire innovation, and shape the future of pharmaceutical sciences and health product regulation in the region.



Prof Dr Friedemann Schad is a leading figure in integrative oncology in Europe, combining clinical practice with research to advance evidence-based complementary approaches in cancer care. As head physician of oncology and head of the Havelhöhe Research Institute at Havelhöhe Community Hospital in Berlin, he works to translate scientific evidence into patient-centred clinical practice.

His work strongly aligns with the third WCTCIM thematic focus on 'Contributions of TCIM to Global Public Health (Evidence-Based),' particularly through research in anthroposophic medicine and integrative cancer care. By generating evidence on clinical outcomes, quality of life, and cost-effectiveness, Prof Schad contributes to the integration of TCIM into health systems and supports the goals of the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034 and the principles of the Gujarat Declaration.



Prof Dr Georg Seifert is a prominent expert in paediatric integrative oncology at Charité, Europe's renowned university hospital. His work focuses on enhancing the quality of life for children with cancer by combining complementary therapies with standard medical treatments, emphasising a holistic, patient-centred approach that considers both survival and well-being for young patients and their families.

His expertise exemplifies key themes of the third WCTCIM, demonstrating how integrative medicine can be tailored to children's unique needs and integrated into major health systems. Through his research and leadership in EU-funded projects, Prof Seifert promotes international collaboration and evidence-based practices, aligning with the principles of the Gujarat Declaration to advance the scientific validation and global integration of traditional and complementary medicine.



Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela is the CEO of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), overseeing access to safe, effective health products and clinical trials in South Africa. She holds a PhD in Biochemistry and an MSc in Management, Finance, and Investment.

As chair of the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation initiative, she leads efforts to develop harmonised regulatory standards across Africa and supports the establishment of the African Medicines Agency. With extensive experience in health research, innovation, and policy, she has contributed to key continental projects, served on COVID-19 advisory committees, and held leadership roles at CSIR Biosciences and The Innovation Hub. She has postdoctoral training from Nottingham and EPFL and has published widely in scientific literature.



Dr Wei Quan is an associate chief pharmacist and master's supervisor at the Affiliated Hospital of Shaanxi University of Chinese Medicine. His research focuses on pharmaceutical approaches to cardiovascular, cerebrovascular, and mental health disorders.

He serves in several academic leadership roles, including youth committee member of the Network Pharmacology and Chemotherapy Pharmacology Committees of the Chinese Pharmacological Society, and director of the Formula-Efficacy Research Society of the Chinese Medical Association of Minority Nationalities.

Recognised as a high-level talent by Shaanxi University of Chinese Medicine and awarded as 'Outstanding Pharmacist' at provincial level, Dr Quan has led and contributed to more than 10 research projects and published more than 40 scientific papers, including 20+ SCI-indexed articles as first author. He also serves as a reviewer for leading international journals and contributes to academic monographs in clinical medicine and traditional Chinese medicine.