



2026 SARIMA Conference | DRAFT PROGRAMME

9-11 September 2026 - NH Hotel Johannesburg Sandton, South Africa | www.sarimaconf.co.za

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS | Tuesday, 8 September 2026 (Booking Essential)

MORNING WORKSHOPS | 08:15-12:15

- **Going Together:** Advancing Research and Innovation Management in SADC
- **Future-Focused Research Costing:** Where Strategy, Governance, and Sustainability Meet
- **IPRC Workshop** — By invitation Only

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS | 13:00 - 17:00

- **RMA's Roles in Advancing Equity, Inclusion and Diversity in IKS, Authorship and Responsible AI Use**
- **African Leaders Forum:** Leading Sustainable Institutional Transitions without Disruption
- **PAN-RIMA:** Advancing Africa's R&I Ecosystem — By invitation Only

FULL DAY WORKSHOP | 09:00 - 16:30

- **Research Security**

WELCOME FUNCTION (Booking Essential)

Including the Spoor & Fisher FUN EVENT

CONFERENCE DAY 1 | Wednesday, 9 September 2026

RM = RESEARCH MANAGEMENT

I & TT = INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

SESSION 1 - WELCOME AND OPENING

SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: Dr Anna Matros-Goreses, SARIMA President | Ms Maryke Hunter-Husselmann, Conference Chair, Stellenbosch University

08:30 - 08:45	Welcome and Introduction	
08:45 - 09:30	KEYNOTE SPEAKER — Beyond the Blueprint: Research and Innovation Management as the Engine of Agenda — Prof Brando Okolo — Head of Science Technology and Innovation, AUDA-NEPAD (South Africa)	
09:30 - 10:00	Pan-African Network of Research and Innovation Management Associations	
10:00 - 10:40	PANEL The RIMA Effect: Building Resilience in Africa's Science Granting Councils — Dr Doug Sanyahumbi and Ms Zimasa Sobuza, SARIMA	
10:40 - 11:00	TEA COFFEE BREAK	
SESSION 2	2A - RM Building Capacity for Digital Transformation in Research and Innovation Management SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Ms Mandy Jampies, University of the Free State	2B - I&TT Building Partnerships for Innovation SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Ms Anita Nel, Stellenbosch University
11:00 - 11:15	Building data readiness for digital transformation in research management Ms Boitumelo Mdluli, University of Cape Town (South Africa)	Building partnerships for innovation: Lessons from Norway's academic spin-off ecosystem Mr Philip Hoekstra, University of Cape Town (South Africa)
11:15 - 11:30	Invisible work, visible impact: Leveraging digitisation for maximum impact Mr Mpho Mashamba and Ms Muneera Mansoor, University of the Free State (South Africa)	The NUST innovation ecosystem as a blueprint for architecting strategic partnerships Ms Valerie Garises, Namibia University of Science and Technology (Namibia)
11:30 - 11:45	A systems era for research administration Ms Bontle Moleme, Wits Commercial Enterprise (South Africa)	Leveraging regional innovation ecosystems: The role of technology transfer offices in enabling strategic innovation partnerships Ms Nolene Singh, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
11:45 - 12:00	Case study: The use of technology in the annual submission of research publications for subsidy Ms Dalene Pieterse, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)	Africa-Europe innovation platform: A network of networks shaping balanced and impactful innovation partnerships Ms Rosemary Wolson, SARIMA/Independent (South Africa)
12:00 - 12:15	Q & A	Q & A
12:15 - 13:15	LUNCH	
SESSION 3	3A - RM Building Capacity for Digital Transformation in Research and Innovation Management SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Ms Dineo Masokoane, University of the Witwatersrand	3B - I&TT Innovation Ecosystems and Technology Transfer: From Research Potential to Impact SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr Rosemary Wolson, SARIMA
13:15 - 13:30	Enabling research impact through strategic postdoctoral coordination Ms Mandy Jampies, University of the Free State (South Africa)	An integrated innovation management framework to strengthen industry-relevant research and intellectual property generation in Universities Ms Yolande Bullock, North-West University (South Africa)
13:30 - 13:45	Rewiring postdoctoral oversight: A digital leap in monitoring and reporting Ms Teresa Smit and Ms MPE Meintjies, North-West University (South Africa)	Pathways for university research commercialisation: A scoping review Ms Mashudu Nxumalo, University of the Western Cape (South Africa)
13:45 - 14:00	Institutional strategies for postdoctoral research fellowships in South African universities: Implications for societal impact Dr Maanda Ndhlovu, University of South Africa (South Africa)	Spinout formation: What IP attorneys want TTOs to know Ms Mercia Fynn, Adams & Adams (South Africa)
14:00 - 14:15	— Presentation details to be confirmed	Building lifelong partnerships: Financial sustainability strategies in six selected social innovation projects Dr Thembinkosi Maphosa, University of the Western Cape (South Africa)
14:15 - 14:30	Q & A	Q & A
14:30 - 15:00	TEA COFFEE BREAK	
SESSION 4	4A - RM The Research Funding Ecosystem: Challenges, Innovations, and Opportunities SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr Palesa Mothapo, Nelson Mandela University	4B - I&TT Innovation Ecosystems and Technology Transfer: From Research Potential to Impact SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Ms Thandiwe Marellana, Mintek
15:00 - 15:15	Building resilient and inclusive research funding systems: Reimagining external grants management for institutional impact Prof Sarah Johnston, University of South Africa (South Africa)	No Patent? No Problem: Real-world impact pathways for SHAPE research Dr Janine Chantson, North-West University (South Africa)

15:15 - 15:30	The evolving role of pre-award research management professionals in an era of rapid technological change Dr Bas Rijnen, Namibia University of Science and Technology (Namibia)	Positioning innovation for impact: Communication approaches within technology transfer ecosystems Dr Anne Chisa, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
15:30 - 15:45	Building resilient and inclusive financial research administration and management through community of practice for impact Mrs Carin Niemand, University of South Africa (South Africa)	Beyond licensing revenue: Impact-driven and social innovation commercialisation in publicly funded research institutions Dr Bruce Maseko, University of Cape Town (South Africa)
15:45 - 16:00	Bridging the gap: Managing funding gaps and bridge financing across the research project lifecycle Ms Mukobe L. Chisunka-Chiweshe, DOS LEAP Global Project (Zambia)	Dismantle to assemble: Leveraging funding mechanisms for impact, inclusion and innovation Mr Mpho Mashamba and Ms Zusake Sokutu, University of the Free State (South Africa)
16:00 - 16:15	Q & A	Q & A
END OF DAY ONE		

CONFERENCE DAY 2 Thursday, 10 September 2026			
07:45 - 08:15	BREAKFAST SESSION — INFONETICA — From Insight to Action: The Future of Research Administration Technology		
SESSION 5 - WELCOME AND OPENING SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: Dr Doug Sanyahumbi, Independent Innovation Management Consultant			
08:30 - 08:35	Welcome and Introduction		
08:35 - 09:20	KEYNOTE SPEAKER — Beyond Patents... Fast-Tracking Real-World Impact — Dr Amanda Zeffman — Head of Consultancy Services and Research Tools Licensing, Cambridge Enterprise, University of Cambridge, and ASTP President (United Kingdom)		
09:20 - 09:50	South Africa's STI Scorecard: Benchmarks for a Resilient SADC Innovation Ecosystem — Ms Anneline Morgan, Acting CEO, NACI (South Africa)		
SESSION 6	6A - RM Enabling Research for Impact – Pathways, Partnerships, and Measuring What Matters SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Ms Caz McNamara, University of the Witwatersrand	6B - I&TT Strengthening IP Management and Commercialisation Strategies SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Prof Gift Mehlana, Midlands State University	
09:50 - 10:05	Strategic approaches to enhancing institutional research outputs: The NUST initiatives Prof Omotayo Awofolu, Namibia University of Science and Technology (Namibia)	Strengthening IP management and commercialisation strategies Mr Njabulo Kubheka, University of the Western Cape (South Africa)	
10:05 - 10:20	Integrated organisational communication as research infrastructure: Enabling impact in a multi-site African health research unit Ms Theranne van Vuren, Wits Vaccines and Infectious Diseases Analytics (South Africa)	The art of making your spinout attractive for investment Ms Anita Nel, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)	
10:20 - 10:35	Rolling out measuring what matters: How NUST is building pathways, partnerships and impact evidence Ms Victoria Shipanga, Namibia University of Science and Technology (Namibia)	Reimagining university intellectual property management and commercialisation strategies for resilient innovation systems in Malawi Ms Clara Mkandawire, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Malawi)	
10:35 - 10:50	Researcher visibility as a researcher development strategy in increasing research impact Ms Musa Buthelezi, University of South Africa (South Africa)	Valuing contribution in collaborative research: Navigating evolving IP for equitable spin-outs Ms Chyreene Truluck, Spoor & Fisher (South Africa)	
10:50 - 11:00	Q & A		Q & A
11:00 - 11:20	TEA COFFEE BREAK		
SESSION 7	7A - RM Enabling Research for Impact – Pathways, Partnerships, and Measuring What Matters SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Prof Nnenesi Kgabi, North-West University	7B - Combined Building Resilient and Adaptive Research & Innovation Ecosystems in Times of Disruption SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr Retha Visagie, University of South Africa	
11:20 - 11:35	Rebuilding the professorate pipeline: The Mandela Imvuselelo Programme for accelerating research leadership and institutional impact Dr Palesa Mothapo, Nelson Mandela University (South Africa)	AI “Ghosts” Humans: Machines and the shifting landscape of research integrity Ms Eleni Flack-Davison, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)	
11:35 - 11:50	From benchmarking to institutional innovation: How NUST reimagined cross-border partnerships for postgraduate and researcher development Ms Rennie Munyayi, Namibia University of Science and Technology (Namibia)	Navigating uncertainty through strategic focus: A curriculum-driven framework for building resilient research ecosystems in Universities Prof Eltony Mugomeri, Africa University (Zimbabwe)	
11:50 - 12:05	Mentoring programme design and implementation for the strengthening of innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration Dr Henriette van den Berg, University of the Free State (South Africa)	A modular Airtable system to professionalize TTO workflows and measure KE impact Mr George Efram and Dr Sally Makady, American University In Cairo (Egypt)	
12:05 - 12:20	Enabling research for impact: Institutional pathways for professional staff through the professional research group Ms Amisha Benode and Prof Sarah Johnston, University of South Africa (South Africa)	Reimagining medical device commercialisation through strategic distribution partnerships Mr Zulfaqar Dudhia, Joseph & Jacob (South Africa)	
12:20 - 12:30	Q & A		Q & A
12:30 - 13:15	LUNCH		
SESSION 8	8A - RM EquiPD PANEL THEMATIC SEMINAR SESSION		8B - Combined Creating Visibility for the Institutional Research and Innovation Portfolio SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr Therina Theron, Stellenbosch University South Africa
13:15 - 14:40	How equity issues arise during collaborative research proposal development, and how to use the new EquiPD toolkit to improve equity and strengthen collaborations Context & introduction to the new toolkit — Dr Yolande Harley, University of Cape Town (South Africa) Identifying key equity challenges arising at proposal stage — Ms Caz McNamara, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) Developing realistic interventions to improve equity — Dr Zulfa Abrahams, University of Cape Town (South Africa) Using EquipD Tools: A practical case study on equitable proposal development — Dr Rob Huddy and Dr Helen Hopkins University of Cape Town and University College London	13:15 - 13:30	Measuring change, one story at a time: Building an evidence-plus-story model, research visibility at NUST Mr Nigel M'kwaira, Namibia University of Science and Technology (Namibia)
		13:30 - 13:45	Telling stories of impact - Platforms and paper trails Ms Ravini Moodley, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
		13:45 - 14:00	The AI-augmented innovation lifecycle: Integrating research management and technology transfer Mr Fredo Stroh, KISCH IP (South Africa)
		14:00 - 14:15	Visibility, voice, and value: Connecting people with purpose Ms Zamakayise Kose, North-West University (South Africa)
		14:15 - 14:30	— Presentation details to be confirmed
		14:30 - 14:40	Q & A
14:40 - 15:00	TEA COFFEE BREAK		

SESSION 9	9A - RM Equity, Inclusion and Indigenous Research Ethics and Integrity SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr Bas Rijnen, Namibia University of Science and Technology	9B - RM Supporting Responsible Research Practices: Navigating Assessment, Publishing, and Digital Transformation SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Ms Thato Tantsi, Nelson Mandela University
15:00 - 15:15	Navigating research ethics governance: Moving beyond compliance to building trust Mr Siyanda Manqele, North-West University (South Africa)	Closing the policy–practice gap: Staff awareness of duplicate publication and text recycling Ms Dorcas Ramodipa-Ndou and Ms Leonie Louw, University of South Africa (South Africa)
15:15 - 15:30	More than time and travel: Rethinking participant compensation in qualitative health research Ms Charmaine Khumalo, Stellenbosch University and Mr Siyanda Manqele, North-West University (South Africa)	Strengthening integrity through external review and PAM Ms Olivia Langenhoven and Ms Hlonela Goqweni, University of Cape Town (South Africa)
15:30 - 15:45	Closing the compliance gap: Ethics governance and the Nagoya protocol in research practice Ms Kimera Naicker, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)	Integrating legal oversight into research ethics and research management Mr Ayakha Nyangeni, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
15:45 - 16:00	Q & A	
18:45	2026 SARIMA Awards Gala Dinner (<i>Booking Essential</i>) VENUE: Details to be confirmed	

CONFERENCE DAY 3 Friday, 11 September 2026	
SESSION 10	
SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: Ms Mandy-Lee Pietersen, University of the Witwatersrand	
08:30 - 09:15	KEYNOTE SPEAKER — Crossing the Distance Between Discovery and Impact — Prof Bavesh Kana — Director: Microbial Innovation and Research Advancement Hub (MIRAH), Infectious Diseases and Oncology Research Institute (IDORI), School of Pathology, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)
09:15 - 09:45	TIA — Presentation details to be confirmed
SESSION 11 - Combined Leadership and Professionalisation in Research and Innovation Management: Building Resilient Futures	
SESSION FACILITATOR: Dr Doug Sanyahumbi, Independent Innovation Management Consultant	
09:45 - 10:00	— INTRODUCTION Dr Doug Sanyahumbi, Independent Innovation Management Consultant (USA & Malawi)
10:00 - 10:15	How the world can look different depending on your context Dr Robin Drennan and Dr Karin Dyason, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)
10:15 - 10:30	Advancing professionalisation in research management through an organisational readiness assessment Dr Retha Visagie and Ms Leonie Louw, University of South Africa (South Africa)
10:30 - 10:45	Feedback Leadership Forum Dr Anna Matros-Goreses, SARIMA President (Namibia)
10:45 - 11:15	TEA COFFEE BREAK
SESSION 12 - Panel Discussions	
SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: Ms Maryke Hunter-Husselmann, Stellenbosch University Ms Eleni Flack-Davison, University of the Witwatersrand	
11:15 - 12:30	 Being a Pracademic - Introduction & Overview COP's - Current COP's and the introduction of new COP's
12:30 - 12:45	2026 SARIMA Poster Awards 2027 Conference Announcement and Closing Remarks Dr Anna Matros-Goreses, SARIMA President Ms Maryke Hunter-Husselmann, Conference Chair, Stellenbosch University

— POSTERS PRESENTATIONS —		
	I & TT = INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER: Innovation Ecosystems and Technology Transfer: From Research Potential to Impact	
1	Unlocking value from data intensive research Ms Mercia Fynn, Adams & Adams (South Africa)	
2	Using expired patents to catalyse innovation and technology transfer for sustainable development: Insights Malawian universities Mr Livison Msonthe, Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (Malawi)	
	I & TT = INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER: Strengthening IP Management and Commercialisation Strategies	
3	Strengthening IP management: From data to decision-making through integrated dashboards Mrs Mari Berner, North-West University (South Africa)	
	I & TT = INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER: From Heritage to Enterprise: Approaches to Advancing IKS-Based	
4	Cultivating collaborative Relationships: Insights from an indigenous knowledge system project at a selected university Mr Njabulo Kubheka and Dr Thembinkosi Maphosa, University of the Western Cape (South Africa)	
	COMBINED = I & TT & RM: Building Resilient and Adaptive Research & Innovation Ecosystems in Times of Disruption	
5	Managing Institutional Risk in the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes: A National Independent Assessment System for South Africa Dr Bert Mohr, Scientific Veterinary Consulting (South Africa)	
6	Reimagining postgraduate funding to advance equity, throughput and research capacity Dr Priscilla Mensah, Nelson Mandela University (South Africa)	
7	Strengthening research resilience: The strategic role of pre-award grants management in navigating NRF funding systems Ms Unarine Mathye, University of South Africa (South Africa)	
8	Strengthening responsible research practices through ethics governance and institutional culture: A South African case study Dr Lisa Repsold, Tshwane University of Technology (South Africa)	
9	The framework of Shock-Response-Adaptation + Antifragility in African research systems Mr Lucky Msimango, North-West University (South Africa)	
	COMBINED = I & TT & RM: Creating Visibility for the Institutional Research and Innovation Portfolio	
10	Enhancing workflow visibility in research contract management: A practice-based reflection Ms Charelise van Staden, University of the Free State (South Africa)	
11	Illuminating impact: Showcasing the research and innovation portfolio at Nelson Mandela University Ms Elizabeth Maqhubu, Nelson Mandela University (South Africa)	
12	Making innovation visible: Practical lessons from a University Technology Transfer Office Ms Ntombiyenkosi Nkosi, North-West University (South Africa)	
13	Revealing hidden researchers: Leveraging USDP and UCDP to elevate professional staff visibility Mr Katlego Kekae, University of Pretoria (South Africa)	

	COMBINED = I & TT & RM: From Human Insight to Hyper-Intelligence: Rethinking Research, IP, and Tech Transfer in an Automated Age
14	Agentic AI for technology transfer: SOP framework for disclosure and commercialisation Mr Lucky Mokalusi, Central University of Technology (South Africa)
	COMBINED = I & TT & RM: Leadership and Professionalisation in Research and Innovation Management: Building Resilient Futures
15	Re-imaging research mentorship in universities: Challenges and strategies for effectiveness Prof James Abah and Prof Samuel Mafwila, University of Namibia (Namibia)
	RM = RESEARCH MANAGEMENT: Building Capacity for Digital Transformation in Research and Innovation
16	Accelerating research with AI: Practical tools for the modern researcher Mr Abe Mathopa, University of Pretoria (South Africa)
17	Beautiful dashboards, terrible data: Fixing the real problem Mr Yesaya Nyirenda, Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (Malawi)
18	Bridging funded research and postgraduate throughput: A systems integration approach Mr Mpho Mashamba and Mr Katleho Nyaile, University of the Free State (South Africa)
19	Building Digital Capacity for Effective Research and Innovation Management in Data-Driven Institutional Ecosystems Ms Sharifa Kiranda, Makerere University School of Public Health (Uganda)
20	Building digital transformation in research and innovation management: Using enterprise system approach in African HEIs Mr Donald Distasio, Infoed Global (United States)
21	Embedding strategic pre-award capacity building through integrated international grants support: Strengthening institutional readiness Ms Likho Sikutshwa and Ms Jacqueline Sylvester, University of Cape Town (South Africa)
22	Extending UTAUT for research and innovation management: A conceptual model of research management system adoption Mr Gaorekwe Mosala, University of South Africa (South Africa)
23	Graduate research management system: A key electronic tool in research management and innovation Mrs Keneoue Mokoena, University of the Free State (South Africa)
24	Transforming research administration through a sustainable integrated research information management system Mrs Maricél van Rooyen, University of the Free State (South Africa)
	RM = RESEARCH MANAGEMENT: Enabling Research for Impact – Pathways, Partnerships, and Measuring What Matters
25	Enabling research impact through resilient multi-funder grant administration Ms Heide Goedhals, North-West University (South Africa)
26	From outputs to impact: Strengthening research and innovation management for societal value Ms Segolame Nkape, University of Botswana (Botswana)
27	From silos to systems: A practical model for integrated communication in research units Mrs Theranne van Vuren, Wits Vaccines and Infectious Diseases Analytics (VIDA) (South Africa)
28	Institutional best practices for realigning research ethics support to promote research impact Ms Boemo Segoje and Mr Thabo Mokgokong, University of the Free State (South Africa)
29	The role of the University of Malawi research ethics committee in enabling research for impact Ms Chrissy Mandere, University of Malawi (Malawi)
30	Transforming South Africa's health research ecosystem: Lessons from the SAMRC's research capacity development initiative (2015-2025) Dr Frederic Nduhirabandi, Dr Abeda Dawood and Dr Michelle Mulder, South African Medical Research Council (South Africa)
	RM = RESEARCH MANAGEMENT: Equity, Inclusion and Indigenous Research Ethics and Integrity
31	Advancing ethical indigenous research: Community leadership, respect, and trust Ms Bagele Motlathledi, University of Botswana (Botswana)
32	Equity, inclusion, and indigenous research ethics and integrity Mr Seedy Sey, Mrog At Lshtm (Gambia)
33	Indigenous research ethics and community participation in advancing inclusive development Mr Qolane Mashaba, University of Limpopo (South Africa)
34	Reimagining faculty research administration for resilient and inclusive research management systems Mr Siviwe Feketshane, University of Zululand (South Africa)
35	Understanding indigenous autoethnography in research ethics: The role of research managers Ms Moore Hutamo, University of the Western Cape (South Africa)
	RM = RESEARCH MANAGEMENT: Reimagining Strategic Collaboration and Partnerships across Disciplines and Borders
36	Advancing equitable knowledge partnerships - Reimagining strategic collaboration Ms Samantha Coert, Human Sciences Research Council (South Africa)
37	Beyond consent: Ethical and accountable biobanking Mrs Tanya Coetzee and Mr Rhulani Mkansi, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)
38	Building research resilience: Grant writing mentorship as a strategic tool for empowering early career researchers Mr Jonathan Nkata, Medical Research Council - Uganda/ London School of Hygiene (Uganda)
39	Collaboration not a natural act: Challenges and strategies for partnership in interdisciplinary education and research Mr Harry Bopape, University of South Africa (South Africa)
40	From funding to strategic partnership: Horizon Europe and Africa IV Initiative for resilient AU–EU collaboration Mr Jonathan Brookes, Horizon Europe (EU Funding) Specialist
41	Reimagining research support through strategic partnerships between the research office and library services Ms Ronel de Swardt, University of Cape Town (South Africa)
42	Strategic partnerships for impact: The Madiba Nexus Model for Equitable North–South research collaboration Dr Palesa Mothapo, Nelson Mandela University (South Africa)
	RM = RESEARCH MANAGEMENT: Supporting Responsible Research Practices: Navigating Assessment, Publishing, and Digital Transformations
43	Navigating an Increasingly Complex Funding Environment: Can Artificial Intelligence Support Research Management in African Universities? Ms Melissa Nakiyaga, Makerere University School of Public Health (Uganda)
44	Research Security as a Pillar of Responsible Research Management Mr Ayakha Nyangeni, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
45	Supporting Responsible Research Practices: Navigating Assessment, Publishing, and Digital Transformation: Perspectives from UFS Ms Thabi Mosoetsa and Mr Thato Molefi, University of the Free State (South Africa)
46	Your research is Brilliant—Let's fix the data, make it visible, and keep it safe Mr Yesaya Nyirenda and Ms Tadala Nsaliwa Karim, Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (Malawi)