

2026 SA-ACAPAP Congress

● ● ● In participation with PANDA-SA and SAISI

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME



DAY 1 | Thursday, 12 March 2026

OPENING PLENARY SESSION | VENUE: Pacific Suite

SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Prof Michal Harty, University of Cape Town (South Africa)

08:30 - 08:45 **Welcome and Opening Remarks** by Prof John-Joe Dawson-Squibb, SA-ACAPAP President

08:45 - 09:30 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Understanding youth suicide risk from the life-course perspective**
- Dr Massimiliano Orri, McGill University (Canada)

PLENARY SESSION 2 | VENUE: Pacific Suite

SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr Gina Rencken, University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa)

09:30 - 11:00 **SYMPOSIUM - More than clumsiness: A multidisciplinary conversation on OCD**

- Ms Emma Wijnberg, South African Institute for Sensory Integration, Dr EJ Smith, Stellenbosch University, Prof Gillian Ferguson and Dr Verushka Ramanjam, University of Cape Town (South Africa)

11:00 - 11:30 **TEA | COFFEE BREAK | Foyer Area (Outside Pacific 1 & 2)**

PARALLEL SESSION 1A | VENUE: Pacific 1

SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr Verushka Ramanjam, University of Cape Town | PANDA (South Africa)

PARALLEL SESSION 1B | VENUE: Pacific 2

SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Prof Michal Harty, University of Cape Town (South Africa)

11:30 - 11:45 **Reaching the child who won't reach back: Sensory-based approaches to engagement, safety and regulation**
Ms Emma Wijnberg, South African Institute for Sensory Integration (South Africa)

Parenting in the age of tech: Disrupted co-regulation and developmental risk in the first 1,000 days
Ms Meg Faure, Sense-It (South Africa)

11:45 - 12:00 **Resilience and family quality of life in parents of children with developmental disabilities: A South African pilot study**
Dr Sashmi Moodley, University of Cape Town (South Africa)

Harnessing the playful power of F-words in child mental health - Application in clinical practice
Dr Gina Rencken, University of KwaZulu-Natal | SAISI (South Africa)

12:00 - 12:15 **The "Bloom" autism support programme for families: Findings from a South African pilot study**
Dr Liezi Schlebusch, University of Cape Town (South Africa)

Developing a socio-emotional well-being programme for preschool children in the North West Province, South Africa
Dr Mariska Oosthuizen-van Tonder, North-West University (South Africa)

12:15 - 12:30 **DISCUSSION**

DISCUSSION

12:30 - 13:30 **LUNCH | VENUE: Hotel Restaurant • Au Bleu**

PARALLEL SESSION 2A | VENUE: Pacific 1

SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Ms Marisa Viljoen, University of Cape Town (South Africa)

PARALLEL SESSION 2B | VENUE: Pacific 2

SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr EJ Smith, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)

13:30 - 13:45 **Strengthening decision-making in child and adolescent mental health services through healthcare information systems in a resource-constrained setting**
Ms Ilze Steenkamp, University of the Western Cape (South Africa)

Childhood psychosis and catatonia revealing late-onset Cobalamin C Deficiency: First case from India
Dr Ankita Garg, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi (India)

13:45 - 14:00 **The moderation effect of attachment on the relationship between psychological resilience and help-seeking behaviour among University students**
Ms Hlengiwe Majola, Ms Mokgaetji Mamabolo and Prof Jabu Mokwena, University of Limpopo (South Africa)

"You know my mom does not like you?!" - Navigating retaliation and revenge in treating children of personality disordered parents

14:00 - 14:15 **Exploring rural youth's perceptions and experiences of occupational engagement and its influences on mental health in Pofadder, Northern Cape**
Ms Elizabeth Jonker, University of the Western Cape (South Africa)

- **PRESENTERS:** Dr Fiona Schulte, Ms Salisha Maharaj and Mr Nhlanhla Ndelela - Stellenbosch University (South Africa)

14:15 - 14:30 **Reducing adolescent sexual violence and improving family mental health: Findings from a cluster randomised trial in Tanzania**
Ms Nicole Chetty, University of Cape Town (South Africa)

14:30 - 14:45 **DISCUSSION**

DISCUSSION

14:45 - 15:15 **TEA | COFFEE BREAK | Foyer Area (Outside Pacific 1 & 2)**

PLENARY SESSION 3 | VENUE: Pacific Suite

SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Prof Michal Harty, University of Cape Town (South Africa)

15:15 - 16:00 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Who promotes child mental health, when – and how?**
- Prof Linda Richter, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)

DAY 2 | Friday, 13 March 2026

PLENARY SESSION 4 | VENUE: Pacific Suite

SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: Prof Petrus De Vries, University of Cape Town (South Africa)

08:30 - 09:15 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Selective mutism: Current research results and their implications for clinical practice**
- Prof Christina Schwenck, University of Giessen (Germany)

PLENARY SESSION 5 | VENUE: Pacific Suite

SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: Dr EJ Smith, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)

09:15 - 10:30 **SYMPOSIUM - Rebuilding bonds and bodies - Family based treatment for adolescent anorexia nervosa in the South African context**
- Dr Fiona Schulte, Dr Kate Mawson, Mr Clayton Arendse and Mr Nhlanhla Ndelela, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)

10:30 - 11:00 **TEA | COFFEE BREAK | Foyer Area (Outside Pacific 1 & 2)**

	PARALLEL SESSION 3A VENUE: Pacific 1 SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr Gina Rencken, University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa)	PARALLEL SESSION 3B VENUE: Pacific 2 SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr Verushka Ramanjam, University of Cape Town PANDA (South Africa)
11:00 - 11:15	Developing service indicators for child and adolescent mental health in South Africa: A framework-guided mixed-methods study Ms Ilze Steenkamp, University of the Western Cape (South Africa)	Validation of the TSC-Associated Neuropsychiatric Disorders Self-Report Quantified Checklist (TAND-SQ) Dr Nola Chambers, University of Cape Town (South Africa)
11:15 - 11:30	Resilience begins in the community: Integrating MHPSS into SRHR for adolescents and young people in Kibra, Kenya Ms Rosemary Ayiera Kombo, Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (Kenya)	The TANDem-2 Study: Closing the gap to interventions for TSC-Associated Neuropsychiatric Disorders Dr Nola Chambers, University of Cape Town (South Africa)
11:30 - 11:45	Building resilience and hope through rural youth engagement Prof Lisa Wegner, University of the Western Cape (South Africa)	Digital parenting programmes: Promises and pitfalls Ms Carly Katzef and Ms Cindee Bruyns, University of Cape Town (South Africa)
11:45 - 12:00		Parenting experiences of parents of children with ADHD, in grades one to three, during COVID-19 lockdown in South Africa Ms Michelle Szigethy, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)
12:00 - 12:15	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION
12:15 - 13:15	LUNCH VENUE: Hotel Restaurant • Au Bleu	
	PARALLEL SESSION 4A VENUE: Pacific 1 SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr Gina Rencken, University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa)	PARALLEL SESSION 4B VENUE: Pacific 2 SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr Nola Chambers, University of Cape Town (South Africa)
13:15 - 13:30	Beyond behaviour: Understanding emotional Dysregulation in ADHD through a sensory lens Ms Emma Wijnberg, South African Institute for Sensory Integration (South Africa)	Parental stressors, coping mechanisms, family resilience and hope among parents of children living with autism spectrum disorder in semi-rural communities in Limpopo, South Africa Dr Thandiwe Mokgomola, Sefako Makgatho Health Science University (South Africa)
13:30 - 13:45	Impact of maternal antenatal intimate partner violence exposure on the volume of the infant visual cortex Ms Jae Eun Park, University of Cape Town (South Africa)	Understanding the barriers and facilitators to autism early intervention in South Africa: Implementation partners' perspectives on caregiver coaching by non-specialists Ms Amy Seale, University of Cape Town (South Africa)
13:45 - 14:00	Reframing the understanding of giftedness: A comparative analysis of Dabrowski's Overexcitabilities and Sensory Integration Ms Kirsty Beamish, Silvertree Cottage Occupational Therapy Practice (South Africa)	Sensory integration challenges in South African sign language deaf learners: Implications for participation and mental health Ms Margeretha Van Lingen, University of the Free State (South Africa)
14:00 - 14:15	"Akalali umntu ozala inkwenkwe": The experiences of mothers whose sons have been through Ulwaluko in the Xhosa Culture Ms Zintle Sigwabe and Dr Leigh Tucker, University of the Western Cape (South Africa)	Challenges faced by teachers when teaching learners with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in Capricorn District, Limpopo Ms Keoapetse Linda Ralebapa, Limpopo Department of Education (South Africa)
14:15 - 14:30	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION
14:30 - 15:15	TEA COFFEE BREAK Foyer Area (Outside Pacific 1 & 2) • POSTER PRESENTATION VIEWING	
PLENARY SESSION 6 VENUE: Pacific Suite SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: Prof Petrus De Vries, University of Cape Town (South Africa)		
15:15 - 16:15	PANEL DISCUSSION - Child and adolescent mental health in a changing world: New evidence, new risks, new opportunities Prof Christina Schwenck, University of Giessen (Germany), Dr Massimiliano Ori, McGill University (Canada) and Prof Linda Richter, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)	
16:15 - 16:30	Awards • Congress Closure Prof Michal Harty, 2026 SA-ACAPAP Congress Chairperson	
18:00 - 21:30	Dinner (Pre-Booking Essential) VENUE: Wang Thai Restaurant	

DAY 3 | Saturday, 14 March 2026 - WORKSHOPS • 08:30 - 12:30 | Workshop Summaries - www.saacapap.co.za

VENUE: Pacific 1	Parenting programmes for children's safety and mental health: Innovations in implementation and adaptation FACILITATORS: Dr Nyasha Manjengena, Prof Catherine Ward, Ms Anna Booij, Ms Cindee Bruyns, Ms Carly Katzef, Ms Fundiswa Menziwa, Ms Likhona Qazisa and Ms Bronwen Pietersen Clowns Without Borders South Africa, University of Cape Town (Global Parenting Initiative) and Parenting for Lifelong Health
VENUE: Pacific 2	Infant and maternal mental health through a sensory lens: Co-regulation and joyful occupation FACILITATORS: Dr Gina Rencken, Ms Elize Janse van Rensburg and Ms Emma Wijnberg South African Institute for Sensory Integration (SAISI)

POSTER PRESENTATIONS | Listed Alphabetically by Surname

	• PRESENTER	• TOPIC
1.	Mr Dharmendra Bhoola, Vision Solutions Inc. (South Africa)	The mask of ADHD: 20/20 eyesight with 0/0 vision
2.	Ms Karin Clarke, Prader-Willi Syndrome Support Group (South Africa)	Understanding the mental health needs of children and adolescents with the complex neurodevelopment condition, Prader-Willi syndrome
3.	Ms Heesoo Diara, University of Cape Town (South Africa)	Psychometric valuation of the WHO Global Scales for Early Development (GSED) in a South African birth cohort
4.	Ms Gabriella Evangelou, University of Cape Town (South Africa) (WITHDRAWN)	Exploring YouTube's impact on the language skills of children with autism: South African caregivers' perspectives
5.	Prof Saraswathi Govender, University of Limpopo (South Africa)	The attitudes of educators and high school learners towards epilepsy in a rural community in Limpopo Province, South Africa
6.	Prof Jabu Mokwena, University of Limpopo (South Africa)	Psychological experiences of young women on dialysis in Limpopo Province, South Africa
7.	Ms Kwanga Sibabalwe Monakali, University of Pretoria (South Africa)	Adolescent digital risk in South Africa: Parenting practices, decision-making styles, and online harm exposure
8.	Dr Sarosha Pillay, University of Cape Town (South Africa)	Assessing autism knowledge and stigma in Rehabilitation Care Workers (RCW) in the Western Cape Province
9.	Dr Gina Rencken, University of KwaZulu-Natal SAISI (South Africa)	Paediatric functional neurological disorder: A scoping review
10.	Ms Katlego Sebolai and Prof Petrus De Vries, University of Cape Town (South Africa)	Does home language matter in language testing? Adjusted associations with Griffiths-III language and communication subtest at baseline
11.	Ms Doné Smit, University of Cape Town (South Africa)	Designing belonging: Translating autistic experience through visual narrative