



SOUTH AFRICAN DIABETIC FOOT CONSENSUS MEETING 2026

EVIDENCE • EQUITY • EXCELLENCE



SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 20 August 2026 | MEETINGS

14:00 - 17:00	VASSA EXCO Meeting
17:00 - 17:45	EXCO and Corporate Member Meeting
18:00 - 19:00	VASSA Exco and Corporate Member Networking Event

DAY 1 | Friday, 21 August 2026

CONGRESS OPENING - Welcome

07:30 - 07:35	Welcome by The Vascular Society of Southern Africa (VASSA) President	Prof Asha Malan	
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PLENARY SESSION 1 | Prevention, Screening and Risk Stratification

SESSION CHAIRS: Prof Bheki Dube & Prof Zaheer Bayat

07:35 - 07:50	Diabetic Foot Disease in South Africa: The Burden, the Gaps, and the Need for Consensus	Prof Asha Malan (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
07:50 - 08:10	The Road to Amputation: Lessons from the RAMPs Study on Diabetic Foot Disease, Peripheral Arterial Disease, and Limb Salvage in Sub-Saharan Africa	Dr Nick Moody	Vascular Surgery
08:10 - 08:30	National Strategies for Diabetic Foot Screening and Risk Identification	Dr Reyna Daya (SEMDSA)	Endocrinology
08:30 - 08:50	Risk Stratification Systems for Diabetic Foot Disease	Dr Anette Thompson (PASA)	Podiatry
08:50 - 09:10	Preventative Foot Care Services for Moderate- and High-Risk Patients	Ms Yaasirah Choonara (PASA)	Podiatry
09:10 - 09:30	Patient Education and Behavioural Modification in Diabetic Foot Disease	Prof Mari van der Vyver (SEMDSA)	Endocrinology
09:30 - 09:50	Therapeutic Footwear and Pressure Redistribution	Dr Franci Swanepoel (SAOPA)	Orthotics & Prosthetics
09:50 - 10:20	International Keynote Lecture	Prof Zulfiqarali G. Abbas	International Faculty
10:20 - 10:50	International Keynote Lecture	Prof Robert Fitridge	International Faculty

10:50 - 11:20 TEA • COFFEE BREAK | VENUE: Exhibition Venue

PLENARY SESSION 2 | Diagnosis, Assessment and Multidisciplinary Care

SESSION CHAIRS: Dr Ian Grant & Prof Simiso Ntuli

11:20 - 11:40	Multidisciplinary Assessment and Team-Based Management of Diabetic Foot Disease	Dr George Manyangadze (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
11:40 - 12:00	Classification Systems in Diabetic Foot Disease: Choosing the Right Tool for the Right Purpose	Dr Sam Letsoara (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
12:00 - 12:20	Vascular Assessment in Diabetic Foot Disease: Defining the Minimum Haemodynamic Evaluation	Dr Ian Grant (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
12:20 - 12:40	Referral Pathways for Peripheral Arterial Disease and Limb-Threatening Ischaemia	Dr Sabatta Tsotetsi (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery

12:40 - 13:40 LUNCH | VENUE: Exhibition Venue

PLENARY SESSION 3 | Vascular Referral and Revascularisation

SESSION CHAIRS: Prof Bala Pillay & Dr Reyna Daya

13:40 - 14:00	Diagnosis of Diabetic Foot Osteomyelitis: Developing a Practical Evidence-Based Pathway	Dr Mari Wentzel	Radiology
14:00 - 14:20	Early Vascular Referral and Timing of Revascularisation in Diabetic Foot Disease	Dr Zuko Booï (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
14:20 - 14:40	The Role of Revascularisation in Chronic Limb-Threatening Ischaemia	Dr Anthony Sanders (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
14:40 - 15:00	Choosing the Right Revascularisation Strategy: Endovascular, Open or Hybrid?	Dr James Tunnicliffe (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
15:00 - 15:20	Angiosome-Guided and Pedal Revascularisation	Dr Ruan Botha (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery

15:20 - 15:50 TEA • COFFEE BREAK | VENUE: Exhibition Venue

PLENARY SESSION 4 | Advanced Revascularisation and Limb Salvage

SESSION CHAIRS: Dr Bokie Sikhosana & Dr Febe Bruwer

15:50 - 16:10	Defining Successful Revascularisation: Anatomical Success versus Physiological Success	Dr Mariusz Tarkowski (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
16:10 - 16:30	Limb Salvage Programmes and Systems of Care: Building Effective Multidisciplinary Services	Prof Bhékifa Dube (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
16:30 - 16:50	Surveillance After Revascularisation: Protecting the Limb Salvage Investment	Dr Tshenolo Kgopane (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
16:50 - 17:10	Defining and Managing No-Option Chronic Limb-Threatening Ischaemia	Dr Helene Louwrens (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
17:10 - 17:30	Futility Thresholds and When to Choose Major Amputation	Dr Marguerite Barnard (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
17:30 - 17:50	Quality of Life, Cost-Effectiveness and National Audit Standards in Limb Salvage	Dr Nazmie Kariem (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
17:50 - 18:10	Microbiological Diagnosis of Diabetic Foot Infection: Obtaining the Right Sample	Prof Colleen Bamford (SASCM)	Clinical Microbiology

18:15 - 19:15 WELCOME & NETWORKING EVENT | VENUE: Boardwalk Convention Centre • Exhibition Venue

19:30 - 22:00 PRESIDENTS DINNER | VENUE: Ginger Restaurant (Beach Hotel) - By invite only



VASSA
VASCULAR SOCIETY
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PLENARY SESSION 5 | Infection and Microbiology

SESSION CHAIRS: Dr Sabatta Tsotetsi & Prof Colleen Bamford

07:30 - 07:50	Medical and Surgical Management of Diabetic Foot Infection	Dr Arifa Parker (IDSSA)	Infectious Diseases
07:50 - 08:10	Bone Biopsy and Osteomyelitis: Defining the Gold Standard	Dr Lesego Mothibi (SASCM)	Clinical Microbiology
08:10 - 08:30	Antibiotic Therapy for Diabetic Foot Infection and Osteomyelitis	Dr Lauren Richards (IDSSA)	Infectious Diseases
08:30 - 08:50	Inpatient Glycaemic Management During Diabetic Foot Infection	Dr Reyna Daya (SEMDSA)	Endocrinology
08:50 - 09:20	International Keynote Lecture	Prof David Armstrong	International Faculty
09:20 - 09:40	Modern Diabetes Therapies and Active Diabetic Foot Disease	Prof Zaheer Bayat (SEMDSA)	Endocrinology
09:40 - 10:00	Developing a National Infection Management Pathway for Diabetic Foot Disease	Dr Arifa Parker (IDSSA)	Infectious Diseases
10:00 - 10:20	Debridement in Diabetic Foot Disease: The Foundation of Effective Wound Care	Dr Sindiswa Ntloko (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
10:20 - 10:30	Discussion		
10:30 - 11:00	TEA • COFFEE BREAK VENUE: Exhibition Venue		

PLENARY SESSION 6 | Wound Care and Adjunctive Therapies

SESSION CHAIRS: Dr Anthony Sanders & Dr Lauren Richards

11:00 - 11:20	Negative Pressure Wound Therapy in Diabetic Foot Disease	Dr Febe Bruwer (WHASA)	Wound Care
11:20 - 11:40	Advanced Wound Dressings: Evidence-Based Selection and Clinical Application	Dr Ethel Andrews	Wound Care
11:40 - 12:00	Biologics, Skin Substitutes and Regenerative Medicine in Diabetic Foot Disease	Dr Marshall Murdoch (APRASSA)	Plastic Surgery
12:00 - 12:20	Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy: Defining Its Role in Diabetic Foot Disease	Dr Zafar Khan (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
12:20 - 12:30	Discussion		
12:30 - 13:30	LUNCH VENUE: Exhibition Venue		

PLENARY SESSION 7 | Health Systems and Quality Improvement

SESSION CHAIRS: Dr Riaz Goga & Dr Franci Swanepoel

13:30 - 13:50	Developing a National Wound Care Pathway for Diabetic Foot Disease	Dr Febe Bruwer (WHASA)	Wound Care
13:50 - 14:10	Multidisciplinary Diabetic Foot Clinics: Defining the South African Standard of Care	Prof Bala Pillay (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
14:10 - 14:30	Structured Referral Pathways for Diabetic Foot Disease	Prof Thifheli Luvhengo	Department of Health
14:30 - 14:50	Minimum Service Standards for Diabetic Foot Care in South Africa	Prof Thanyani Mulaudzi (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
14:50 - 15:20	TEA • COFFEE BREAK VENUE: Exhibition Venue		

PLENARY SESSION 8 | Ethics Session

SESSION CHAIRS: Dr Ismail Cassimjee & Prof Thifheli Luvhengo

15:20 - 15:50	You Can't Improve What You Don't Measure: Introducing the VASSA-SAVEr Registry	Prof Asha Malan	
15:50 - 16:20	Billing with Integrity: Ethical Practice in Modern Vascular Surgery	Dr James Tunnicliffe	
16:20 - 16:50	Should Standards Be Lowered Because Resources Are Limited? Ethical Considerations in Setting Standards of Care in South Africa.	Prof Martin Veller	
16:50 - 17:20	Practising in a Broken System: Medicolegal Duties, Risks and Responsibilities	Speaker TBC	
19:30 for 20:00	CONGRESS DINNER VENUE: Boardwalk Convention Centre		

DAY 3 | Sunday, 23 August 2026

PLENARY SESSION 9 | Off-Loading, Orthotics, Prosthetics and Rehabilitation

SESSION CHAIRS: Dr Zaki Shaik & Prof Nando Ferreira

07:30 - 08:00	International Keynote Lecture 4	Prof Joseph Mills	International Faculty
08:00 - 08:20	Principles of Off-Loading in Diabetic Foot Disease	Prof Simiso Ntuli	Podiatry
08:20 - 08:40	Total Contact Casting and Alternative Off-Loading Strategies	Ms Yaasirah Choonara (PASA)	Podiatry
08:40 - 09:00	Prevention of Ulcer Recurrence Following Healing	Dr Franci Swanepoel (SAOPA)	Orthotics & Prosthetics
09:00 - 09:20	Pressure Measurement and Biomechanical Assessment in Diabetic Foot Disease	Prof Simiso Ntuli	Podiatry
09:20 - 09:40	Rehabilitation Following Limb Salvage	Dr Boki Sikhosana (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
09:40 - 10:00	Prosthetic Rehabilitation Following Amputation	Mr Pierre van Eeden (SAOPA)	Orthotics & Prosthetics
10:00 - 10:20	Patient-Reported Outcomes and Functional Recovery in Diabetic Foot Disease	Dr Riaz Goga (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
10:20 - 10:30	Discussion		
10:30 - 11:00	TEA • COFFEE BREAK VENUE:		

PLENARY SESSION 10 | Surgical Management, Reconstruction and Limb Salvage

SESSION CHAIRS: Prof Thanyani Mulaudzi & Dr Marshall Murdoch

11:00 - 11:20	Limb Salvage Versus Primary Major Amputation: Defining Appropriate Surgical Goals	Dr Zaki Shaik (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
11:20 - 11:40	Functional Reconstruction Following Minor Amputation	Dr Willem de Kock (SAFSA)	Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Surgery
11:40 - 12:00	Orthopaedic Limb Preservation Strategies in Diabetic Foot Disease	Prof Nando Ferreira	Orthopaedic Surgery
12:00 - 12:20	Soft Tissue Reconstruction in Diabetic Foot Disease	Dr Marshall Murdoch (APRASSA)	Plastic Surgery
12:20 - 12:40	Charcot Neuro-Osteoarthropathy: Contemporary Diagnosis and Management	Dr Ziyaad Mayet	Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Surgery
12:40 - 13:00	Minor Amputation Strategy and Wound Closure Techniques	Dr Mart-Mari Visser (SAFSA)	Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Surgery
13:00 - 13:20	Health Economics, Registries and National Quality Improvement in Diabetic Foot Disease	Dr Ismail Cassimjee (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery
13:20 - 13:30	Closing Plenary: From Consensus to Action: Defining the Standard of Diabetic Foot Care in South Africa	Prof Asha Malan (VASSA)	Vascular Surgery

IN COLLABORATION WITH

Boardwalk Convention Centre,
Gqeberha

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