

2026 Nutrition Congress

ANLP LEADERSHIP SESSION ●

Friday, 9 October 2026



● Beyond Degrees: Nourishing Leadership in Public Health Nutrition Careers

- **Organizer:** African Nutrition Leadership Programme | Centre of Excellence for Nutrition, North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, South Africa
- **Target Audience:** Congress delegates interested in leadership development in nutrition across undergraduate training, postgraduate training, and in-service professional development.
- **Participant Limit:** 60 delegates

PROGRAMME PRESENTERS:

- Christine Taljaard-Krugell, Cornelia Conradie, Robin Dolman-Macleod and Johann C Jerling



SESSION SUMMARY:

The 2008 Lancet Maternal and Child Nutrition¹ Series recognised that nutrition leadership programmes form an essential part of the enabling environment needed to address malnutrition. More recently, Aryeetey and Covic² identified transformational leadership as an important capacity gap and called for deliberate efforts to train and nurture leaders who can navigate complex nutrition challenges and improve nutrition outcomes.

Since 2002, the African Nutrition Leadership Programme has been committed to building leadership capacity in nutrition. This session draws on lived experience and lessons learned in embedding leadership capabilities in undergraduate training, postgraduate training, and in-service professional development through initiatives across Africa.

The session will begin with a brief introduction highlighting the importance of leadership development at different educational and professional levels. It will then provide space to share lessons learned from leadership development initiatives involving undergraduate dietetic students, PhD students, and in-service professionals participating in the African Nutrition Leadership Programme. An interactive discussion component will further explore opportunities for scaling up leadership development initiatives and fostering collaboration. Insights arising from the session discussions will be used to inform ongoing initiatives and to create opportunities for future collaboration.

PROGRAMME LAYOUT:

| Component | Description | Speakers |
|--------------|---|---|
| Introduction | Brief overview of the importance of leadership development at different educational levels. | Prof Johann Jerling |
| Session 1 | Sharing lessons learned in leadership development in undergraduate dietetic students, PhD students, and the African Nutrition Leadership Programme for in-service professionals across the African continent. | Prof Christine Taljaard-Krugell Prof Robin Macleod Dr Cornelia Conradie |
| Session 2 | Interactive discussion to explore the potential for scaling up leadership development initiatives across undergraduate, postgraduate, and in-service levels. | Prof Robin Macleod |
| Session 3 | Sharing key findings and insights arising from the interactive discussions. | Prof Johann Jerling |

¹ Black RE, Allen LH, Bhutta ZA, et al, for the Maternal and Child Undernutrition Study Group. Maternal and child undernutrition: global and regional exposures and health consequences. *Lancet* 2008; 371: 243–60.

² Aryeetey R, Covic N. A Review of Leadership and Capacity Gaps in Nutrition-Sensitive Agricultural Policies and Strategies for Selected Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. *Food Nutr Bull.* 2020;41(3):380-96. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0379572120949305>