

# 2025 VASSA Congress | 16-18 October 2025

Protea Hotel by Marriot Stellenbosch & Conference Centre - Western Cape - South Africa | [www.vassacongress.co.za](http://www.vassacongress.co.za)



## ACADEMIC DRAFT PROGRAMME

— DRAFT Programme - 22 August 2025

MEETINGS | Wednesday, 15 October 2025 | VENUE: *Details to be confirmed*

13:00 - 17:00	VASSA EXCO Meeting
17:00 - 17:45	EXCO   VASSA Corporate Member Meeting
18:00 - 19:00	VASSA Corporate Member Networking Event   VENUE: <i>Details to be confirmed</i>

DAY 1 | Thursday, 16 October 2025 | VENUE: *Details to be confirmed*

### WORKSHOPS

08:15 - 09:45	Clinical benefits for Patients with hydrogel coils - Supported by Terumo   Dr Emiliano Chisci, San Giovanni di Dio Hospital (Italy)
10:00 - 11:30	From Arch to Iliacs: The Next Era in COOK Aortic Therapies - Supported by Marcus Medical   Prof Timothy Resch, Copenhagen University Hospital - Rigshospitalet (Denmark)
11:30 - 12:30	LUNCH

OPENING PLENARY SESSION - Welcome Remarks and Introduction

12:30 - 12:40	Welcome by the Vascular Society of Southern Africa (VASSA) President   Dr Pradeep Mistry
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PLENARY SESSION 1 - TOPIC: Miscellaneous | SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: Dr Nadraj Naidoo and Dr Raj Nair

12:40 - 12:50	Non Throbotic IVL - Do we have a consensus?   Dr Martin Forlee, Cape Town Vascular (South Africa)
12:50 - 13:00	Acute DVT - Is CDT obsolete?   Dr Taalib Monareng, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (South Africa)
13:00 - 13:10	PE: High intermediate risk patient - An indication looking for a treatment   Dr Mariusz Tarkowski, Busamed Hillcrest Private Hospital (South Africa)
13:10 - 13:25	Thrombotic Complications following Endothermal Venous Ablation   Dr Raj Nair, Northern General Hospital, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (United Kingdom)
13:25 - 13:40	Cases: When it goes wrong in venous stenting   Dr Iman Bayat, Northern Health (Australia)
13:40 - 13:55	DISCUSSION

PLENARY SESSION 2 - TOPIC: Acute Vascular Surgery | SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: *Details to be confirmed*

13:55 - 14:05	Endovascular clot retrieval: Will it replace open and hybrid embolectomies?   Dr Moinuddeen Vally, Life Peglerae Hospital (South Africa)
14:05 - 14:15	EVAR under local for rAAA should be the standard of care   Dr Jarek Kowalczyk, The Glynnwood Hospital (South Africa)
14:15 - 14:25	Acute mesenteric ischaemia: Does a laparotomy first approach limit options?   Prof Bhakifa Dube, Livingstone Tertiary Hospital (South Africa)
14:25 - 14:35	Proximal Carotid trauma: Should algorithms change to incorporate endo first approach   Prof Bala Pillay, Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital (South Africa)
14:35 - 14:45	Acute upper limb DVT   Dr Mbokeleng Sikhosana, Steve Biko Academic Hospital (South Africa)
14:45 - 15:00	DISCUSSION
15:00 - 15:30	Rutherford Lecture presented by Prof Joseph Mills, Baylor College of Medicine (United States)
15:30 - 16:00	TEA   COFFEE BREAK

PLENARY SESSION 3 - TOPIC: Aortic Surgery | SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: *Details to be confirmed*

16:00 - 16:15	Considerations for Endovascular Aneurysm Repair in patients with disease in multiple vascular beds   Prof Palma M. Shaw, SUNY Upstate Medical University (United States)
16:15 - 16:25	Aortic Infections: Not so NAIS   Dr Riaz Goga, St. Augustine's Hospital (South Africa)
16:25 - 16:40	A simplified technique for parallel grafts in the treatment of juxtarenal aortic aneurysms   Dr Maciej Dryjski, University at Buffalo (United States)
16:40 - 16:55	CO <sub>2</sub> Angiography: Revolutionizing Endovascular Aortic Procedures – How this technique has transformed my practice   Dr Emiliano Chisci, San Giovanni di Dio Hospital (Italy)
16:55 - 17:10	What ADD - factors influence the radiation dose in EVAR procedures: Major differences in nationwide results   Dr Pekka Aho, Helsinki University Hospital (Finland)
17:10 - 17:25	Endovascular Arch Solutions from hybrid to full metal jacket   Prof Timothy Resch, Copenhagen University Hospital - Rigshospitalet (Denmark)
17:25 - 17:35	Open Complex Aortic aneurysms (Juxta, Para, Supra renal) - Optimising outcomes   Dr Jakkie Odendaal, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
17:35 - 17:45	Physician. Modified endografts: The answer for resource constrained settings   Dr Legae Mogase, Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre (South Africa)
17:45 - 18:00	DISCUSSION
18:00 - 19:00	Welcome Cocktail   VENUE: <i>Details to be confirmed</i>

DAY 2 | Friday, 17 October 2025 | VENUE: *Details to be confirmed*

07:00 - 07:45	Smart Polymer Embolization; Enabling versatility   Review of current and future smart polymer studies - Supported by Innovative Medical Solutions - Prof Timothy Resch, Copenhagen University Hospital - Rigshospitalet (Denmark)
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PLENARY SESSION 4 - TOPIC: Supraortic | SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: *Details to be confirmed*

08:00 - 08:15	Symptomatic carotid disease: Who needs treatment?   Prof Gert de Borst, University Medical Center Utrecht (Netherlands)
08:15 - 08:25	Acute stroke management - update   Dr Nishen Paruk, Netcare Umhlanga Hospital (South Africa)
08:35 - 08:45	Optimisation in Carotid surgery: Pre, Intra, Post operatively   Dr Ian Grant, Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre (South Africa)
08:45 - 08:55	Septic Subclavian and carotid false aneurysms from IV Drug use: Management options   Dr Muhammad Zafar Khan, Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (South Africa)
08:55 - 09:10	DISCUSSION

PLENARY SESSION 5 - FELLOWS: Professor Cobus van Marle Travelling Fellowship Award | SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: *Details to be confirmed*

09:10 - 10:50	— Details to be confirmed
10:50 - 11:05	DISCUSSION
11:05 - 11:35	TEA   COFFEE BREAK

PLENARY SESSION 6 - TOPIC: Miscellaneous  
SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: *Details to be confirmed*

— NURSES AND ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAMME —

11:35 - 11:50	The impact of cardiac conditions on the patency of endovascular and open lower extremity revascularization - Dr Maciej Dryjski, University at Buffalo (United States)	11:00 - 11:10	Opening Address   Dr Pradeep Mistry & Dr Dirk le Roux
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11:50 - 12:05	<b>Advances in vascular imaging and AI</b> - Dr Alan Lumsden, Houston Methodist Hospital (United States)	<b>SESSION 1: Pedicure and Wounds</b> <b>SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr Muhammad Zafar Khan</b>	
12:05 - 12:15	<b>Ideal Antithrombotic strategy</b> - Dr Ismail Cassimjee, Milpark Hospital (South Africa)	11:10 - 11:20	<b>Leg ulcers: Practical assessment and management methods</b> — Details to be confirmed
12:15 - 12:25	<b>Introduction to Iodinated contrast media, CIN and precautions</b> - Mr LeRoy Feldtman, Axim (South Africa)	11:20 - 11:35	<b>Role of podiatrist in high risk foot</b> - Ms Andy Bletcher, Andy Blecher Podiatrist (South Africa)
12:25 - 12:35	— Details to be confirmed	11:35 - 11:45	<b>Vascular instruments: use and care</b> - Sr Ntombie Xaba, Netcare Sunninghill Hospital (South Africa)
12:35 - 12:50	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	11:45 - 11:55	<b>Bleeding post-operative patient in the Ward</b> Dr Muhammad Zafar Khan, Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (South Africa)
12:50 - 13:15	<b>Kerneels Nel Lecture - Vascular Trauma in Southern Africa</b> - Dr Nadraj Naidoo (South Africa)	11:55 - 12:05	<b>Radiation protection in theatre</b> - Ms Ashlie Pretorius, ARAD (South Africa)
13:15 - 14:15	<b>LUNCH</b>	12:05 - 12:20	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<b>PLENARY SESSION 7 - The European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS)</b> <b>SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: Details to be confirmed</b>		<b>SESSION 2: Vascular Nursing Across the Continents</b> <b>SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr Dirk le Roux</b>	
14:15 - 14:25	<b>ESVS: a growing European society with global impact</b> - Prof Sebastian Debus, University Heart Center Hamburg–Eppendorf (Germany)	12:20 - 12:30	<b>Vascular Nursing and Training in the United States: Pathways, Practice, and Global Perspective</b> - Prof Palma M. Shaw, SUNY Upstate Medical University (United States)
14:25 - 14:35	<b>Early intervention for CLTI saves legs and lives</b> - Mr Jonathan Boyle, Cambridge University Hospitals (NHS) (United Kingdom)	12:30 - 12:40	<b>How do deal with difficult employees in the workplace</b> - Sr Thami Tshabala, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital (South Africa)
14:35 - 14:45	<b>DEBATE   SVS vs. ESVS: Asymptomatic carotid disease does not need an intervention</b> - <b>For Motion:</b> Prof Gert de Borst (Netherlands) - <b>Against Motion:</b> Prof Joseph Mills, Baylor College of Medicine (United States)	12:40 - 12:50	— Details to be confirmed
14:45 - 14:55	<b>Real world data on endovascular repair of complex aortic aneurysms- an update from the European data collection study</b> - Prof Timothy Resch, Copenhagen University Hospital - Rigshospitalet (Denmark)	12:50 - 13:00	<b>Effective running of a busy Vascular unit</b> - Sr Pauline Bergamasco, Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre (South Africa)
14:55 - 15:05	<b>Current knowledge on the drug eluting technology: what did BEST-CLI, Basil-3 and SWEDEPAD teach us and who we should believe</b> - Prof Maarit Venermo, Helsinki University Hospital, University of Helsinki (Finland)	13:00 - 13:15	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
15:05 - 15:20	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	13:15 - 14:15	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>PLENARY SESSION 8 - TOPIC: CLTI</b> <b>SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: Details to be confirmed</b>		<b>SESSION 3: Atherosclerosis and Aneurysms</b> <b>SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr Ismail Cassimjee</b>	
15:20 - 15:30	<b>Iliac disease - choosing the correct stent for the disease pattern</b> - Dr Sabatta Chris Tsotetsi, Steve Biko Academic Hospital (South Africa)	14:15 - 14:25	<b>Atherosclerosis and Aneurysms</b> - Dr Matheus Masaku, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
15:30 - 15:40	<b>Reintervention strategies in previous Aorto-Bifem</b> — Details to be confirmed	14:25 - 14:35	<b>Vascular Anatomy / Vascular Assessment of Atherosclerosis and Aneurysms</b> - Ms Belinda Stevens, Milpark Vascular Practice(South Africa)
15:40 - 15:50	<b>The occluded common femoral with inflow or outflow disease: Hybrid outcomes</b> - Dr Yadhvir Baitchu, Panorama Mediclinic (South Africa)	14:35 - 14:45	<b>ESVS 2024 Practice Guidelines on the Management of Aorto-Iliac Aneurysms</b> - Prof Philippe H. Kolh, University of Liège (Belgium)
15:50 - 16:05	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	14:45 - 15:00	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
16:05 - 16:35	<b>TEA   COFFEE BREAK</b>	15:00 - 15:05	<b>5 MINUTE BREAK</b>
<b>PLENARY SESSION 9- TOPIC: Aorta</b> <b>SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: Details to be confirmed</b>		<b>SESSION 4: Aortic Aneurysms</b> <b>SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: Ms Ashlie Pretorius / Dr Pradeep Mistry</b>	
16:35 - 16:45	<b>Update on FEVAR registry</b> - Dr Pradeep Mistry, Vascare (South Africa)	15:05 - 15:15	<b>Diagnosis and operative radiology</b> - Mr Yaseen Lorgat, ARAD (South Africa)
16:45 - 16:55	<b>Bridging stents for complex EVAR - It's a jungle out there</b> - Prof Timothy Resch, Copenhagen University Hospital - Rigshospitalet (Denmark)	15:15 - 15:25	<b>Spinal Cord Esc protocol -post aortic surgery</b> - Dr Prashil Naran, Johannesburg Surgical Hospital (South Africa)
16:55 - 17:05	<b>Coarcatation - Endovascular first?</b> - Prof Asha Malan, Bloem Vascular (South Africa)	15:25 - 13:35	<b>Nursing Care</b> - Sr Amritha Maharaj, Netcare Sunninghill Hospital (South Africa)
17:05 - 17:15	<b>Carotid-Carotid bypass: Is it a benign procedure that is underutilised?</b> — Details to be confirmed	15:35 - 15:45	<b>EVAR,FEVAR,BEVAR IBD Setup</b> — Details to be confirmed
17:15 - 17:25	<b>Methods and current evidence to prevent spinal cord ischemia following TAAA repair</b> - Prof Sebastian Debus, University Heart Center Hamburg–Eppendorf (Germany)	15:45 - 15:55	<b>Preparation for emergency aortic surgery EVAR to Open</b> - Sr Elsie Phuti Neluheni
17:25 - 17:35	<b>Lithotripsy in Hostile Access During EVAR: Techniques and Rationale – Exploring the "how" and "why" behind its application</b> - Dr Emiliano Chisci, San Giovanni di Dio Hospital (Italy)	15:55 - 16:40	<b>ABI Training - Video</b> - Sr Amritha Maharaj, Netcare Sunninghill Hospital (South Africa)
17:35 - 17:45	<b>Cases: When it goes wrong</b> - Prof Timothy Resch, Copenhagen University Hospital - Rigshospitalet (Denmark)	16:40 - 17:00	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
17:45 - 18:00	<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
18:00 - 21:00	<b>Presidents Dinner   By Invitation Only</b>		

DAY 3 | Saturday, 18 October 2025 | VENUE: Details to be confirmed

07:00 - 07:45	<b>IVL: Coping with Calcium - Supported by Vertice</b> - Dr Mark Portou, Royal Free Hospital (United Kingdom)	<b>— NURSES AND ALLIED HEALTH PROGRAMME —</b>	
<b>PLENARY SESSION 10 - TOPIC: Vascular Access</b> <b>SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: Details to be confirmed</b>		<b>SESSION 5: Miscellaneous</b> <b>SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Details to be confirmed</b>	
08:00 - 08:10	<b>The marginal vein: Predictors of success and strategy in fistula creation</b> — Details to be confirmed	08:00 - 08:10	<b>Humorous moments in theatre</b> - Dr Pradeep Mistry, Wits DGMC (South Africa)
08:10 - 08:20	<b>Cephalic Arch restenosis - Management options and outcomes</b> - Dr Siphumelele Ngema, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (South Africa)	08:10 - 08:20	<b>Stressful situations in theatre</b> — Details to be confirmed
08:20 - 08:30	<b>TCVO: Management Options</b> - Dr Vinesh Padayachy, The Vein Institute (South Africa)	08:20 - 08:30	<b>Vascular Trauma</b> - Dr Wikus Mulder, University of the Free State (South Africa)
08:30 - 08:40	<b>Endovascular AVF - Is it economically feasible</b> - Dr George Manyangadze, Glynnwood Hospital (South Africa)	08:30 - 08:40	<b>Surgical safety on theatre</b> - Sr Ntombie Xaba, Netcare Sunninghill Hospital (South Africa)
08:40 - 08:50	<b>Restenosis of Graft anastomosis - IS DCB the answer?</b> - Dr Dirk le Roux, Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre (South Africa)	08:40 - 08:55	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
08:50 - 09:05	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	08:55 - 09:25	<b>TEA   COFFEE BREAK</b>

09:05 - 09:35	TEA   COFFEE BREAK		SESSION 6: Carotid Disease and Medical Management & VTE SESSION CHAIRPERSON: Dr James Tunnicliffe	
PLENARY SESSION 11 - TOPIC: PAD SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: <i>Details to be confirmed</i>			09:25 - 09:35	Diagnosis and imaging - Ms Greta Tunicliffe / Dr James Tunicliffe, Cape Town Vascular (South Africa)
09:35 - 09:45	Best CLI and BASIL -2 - incorporating evidence into GVG algorithms - Prof Joseph Mills, Baylor College of Medicine (United States)		09:35 - 09:45	Medical Management - Dr Marguerite Barnard, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)
09:45 - 09:55	Vessel Preparation - Horsers for courses (POBA Prep/Atherectomy/IVL) Is it time to rethink our strategy for treating iliac calcification? — Details to be confirmed		09:45 - 09:55	Surgical Management - Dr Zuko Booï, Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital (South Africa)
09:55 - 10:05	Diabetic foot mangement: Arch enemy - Dr Sindiswa Ntloko, Ethekwini Hospital and Heart Centre (South Africa)		09:55 - 10:05	Post Operative Care Dr Henri Pickard, Kingsbury Hospital (South Africa)
10:05 - 10:15	DCB - BTK - Do we need evidence? Limus or Taxel - Dr Anthony Sander, Groote Schuur Hospital (South Africa)		10:05 - 10:15	VTE & Pulmonary Embolism - Dr Prashil Naran, Johannesburg Surgical Hospital (South Africa)
10:15 - 10:25	Cases: No flow post intervention - troubleshooting - Dr James Tunnicliffe, Cape Town Vascular (South Africa)		10:15 - 10:30	DISCUSSION
10:25 - 10:40	DISCUSSION		10:30 - 10:40	10 MINUTE BREAK
PLENARY SESSION 12 - World Federation of Vascular Societies (WFVS)   SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: Prof Palma Shaw and Dr Pradeep Mistry			SESSION 7: Vascular Access SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: Dr Dirk le Roux / Ms Reena Moodley	
10:40 - 10:50	When Endovascular Therapy is the only reasonable approach to revascularization in patients with diabetes - Prof Palma M. Shaw, SUNY Upstate Medical University (United States)		10:40 - 10:50	Dialysis unit requirements - Ms Reena Moodley, Life Fourways Hospital (South Africa)
10:50 - 11:00	CLTI disease patterns in ASIA in comparison to North America (VQI data) - Dr Chong Tze Tec, Singapore General Hospital (Singapore)		10:50 - 11:00	Diagnosis and Intra op radiology — Details to be confirmed
11:00 - 11:10	Global Vascular Companionship - A step toward vascular health equity - Dr Iman Bayat, Northern Health (Australia)		11:00 - 11:10	Management of Renal failure pts - Dr Trevor Gerntholtz, Life Vincent Pallotti Hospital (South Africa)
11:10 - 11:20	The use of artificial intelligence in managing aortic diseases - Prof Philippe H. Kolh, University of Liège (Belgium)		11:10 - 11:20	Endovascular and surgical Management - Dr Ian Grant, Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre (South Africa)
11:20 - 11:30	Robotics in Vascular Surgery and Digital Surgery - Dr Alan Lumsden, Houston Methodist Hospital (United States)		11:20 - 11:30	Post Operative Care — Details to be confirmed
11:30 - 11:45	DISCUSSION		11:30 - 11:40	Antimicrobial catheter lock - Sr Stephanie Viljoen, JTS Medcare Solutions (South Africa)
11:45 - 12:45	LUNCH		11:40 - 11:50	Dialysis peritoneal and haemodialysis how its done! - Mr Jonathan Maree, Tygerberg Hospital (South Africa)
PLENARY SESSION 13 - TOPIC: <i>Details to be confirmed</i> SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: <i>Details to be confirmed</i>			11:50 - 12:05	DISCUSSION
12:45 - 12:55	Pelvic venous congestion syndrome - Dr Laura Redman, Netcare Christiaan Barnard Memorial Hospital (South Africa)		12:05 - 13:05	LUNCH
12:55 - 13:05	Nutcracker Syndrome: Can anchoring of stent shift management in favour of endovascular approach - Dr Iman Bayat, Northern Health (Australia)		13:05 - 14:05	WOUND CARE SYMPOSIUM: Facilitator: Ms Johlene Sander, Wound Care Consultant (South Africa) What's new in wound care for lower limb injuries - Sr Anne Berzen, Wound Healing (South Africa)
13:05 - 13:15	Robotic vascular surgery - Dr Alan Lumsden, Houston Methodist Hospital (United States)			
13:15 - 13:30	DISCUSSION			
13:30 - 14:00	TEA   COFFEE BREAK			
PLENARY SESSION 14 - ETHICS SESSION CHAIRPERSONS: <i>Details to be confirmed</i>				
14:00 - 14:15	Smoking cessation: Whats our responsibility — Details to be confirmed			
14:15 - 14:30	HPCSA perspective on complaints against surgeons - Prof Martin Veller, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)			
14:30 - 14:45	Multidisciplinary Teams - Do they add real value to patient outcomes? or does the 'loudest voice wiN - Prof Philippe H. Kolh, University of Liège (Belgium)			
14:45 - 15:00	Reported outcomes: Do we need them in South Africa or does it create unintended incentives - Dr Ismail Cassimjee, Milpark Hospital (South Africa)			
15:00 - 15:15	Informed consent and Pt education - Prof Jay Pillai, Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre (South Africa)			
15:15 - 15:30	Occupational injuries and ergonomics in operating room - Ms Waheeda Essop, Essop-Dolinschek Occupational Therapists (South Africa)			
15:30 - 15:45	Expanding SA Medical Education into Africa and beyond. How we can use our resources to support others using current technologies. - Dr Jessica Trusler, Medtalkz (South Africa)			
15:45 - 16:00	Importance of multidisciplinary team communication - Dr Sue Tager, Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre (South Africa)			
16:00 - 16:15	DISCUSSION			
16:15 - 16:30	THANK YOU AND CONGRESS CLOSURE			
16:30 - 17:15	VASSA AGM   VENUE: <i>Details to be confirmed</i>			
18:30 - 22:00	Congress Dinner & Awards   VENUE: <i>Details to be confirmed</i>			