



SATiBA Conference 2026
Growth with Purpose
Sustainable and Ethical Advances in Tissue Banking
5 – 7 November  **SATiBA**
Krystal Beach Hotel, Gordons Bay
congress.satiba.org.za

Final Programme

Thursday, 5 November 2026

12h00 – 14h00	ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION – WELCOME DRINKS AND SNACKS		
14h00 – 14h10	Opening & Welcome - Melodie Labuschaigne - SATiBA President & Chair of the Board		
14h00 – 15h30	AI Workshop - Rucien Petersen - Spottmedia		
15h30 – 16h00	Refreshments		
16h00 – 17h30	SESSION 1: RESTORING LIVES: IMPACT IN PRACTICE		Chair: Sandra Venter
16h00 – 16h20			
16h20 – 16h40	Winners or losers in life – it’s your choice - Bruce Walsh		
16h40 – 17h00	Journey of Hope - Megan Lee de Cock		
17h00 – 17h20	The call that changed everything - Mbali Khumalo		
17h30 – 19h00	Welcome Cocktail & Networking evening		





Friday, 6 November 2026

09h00 – 10h30	SESSION 2: THE DONATION JOURNEY: EVERY DONOR MATTERS	Chair: Riana Cockeran
09h00 – 09h20	From Willingness to Donation: The Systems and Structures That Enable Sustainable Tissue Donation - Martin Borgel, DGFG	
09h20 – 09h40	From Concept to Sustainable Eye Bank: Progress and Lessons Learned - Amsale Getachew, Ethiopian Eye Bank	
09h40 – 10h00	From Donor to Recipient: Understanding the Human Milk Banking Model - Jenny Wright, Milk Matters	
10h00 – 10h20	WMDA statement on the use of plerixafor in healthy donors - Jane Ward, SABMR	
10h30 – 11h00	Refreshments	
11h00 – 13h00	SESSION 3: ETHICS IN ACTION: TRUST & TRANSPARENCY WORKSHOP	Chair: Melodie Labuschaigne & David Thomson
11h00 – 11h20	Ethical implementation of organ donation following medical assistance in dying - David Thomson, GSH	
11h20 – 11h40	Beyond the Taboo: Culture, Belief and Eye Donation in Ethiopia - Nega Demessie, Ethiopian Eye Bank	
11h40 – 12h00	Ethical practice in human tissue donation - Melodie Labuschaigne, UNISA	
12h00 – 12h30	Group activity & discussion	
13h00 – 14h00	Lunch & Networking - Restaurant	





Friday, 6 November 2026

14h00 – 15h30	SESSION 4: STRONGER TOGETHER: BUILDING EXPERTISE	Chair: Sandra Venter
14h00 – 14h20	Cornea preservation – Cold storage vs Organ culture - Martin Borgel, DGFG	
14h20 – 14h40	From Bench to Bedside: Development of Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells and Exosomes from Placental tissue - Yvonne Holt, Next Biosciences	
14h40 – 15h00	Beyond the blood bag: new products, new possibilities - Riana Cockeran, SANBS	
15h00 – 15h30	Free Papers	
15h00 – 15h10	6 -Year Review of Cornea Transplantation in South Africa (2019 -2024) - Roland Hollumer, The Cronea Foundation	
15h10 – 15h20	From donor to recipient: leveraging Artificial Intelligence to predict the success of microbiome transfer - Veronica Bale, SANBS	
15h30 – 16h00	Refreshments	
16h00 – 17h30	SESSION 5: SAFE BY DESIGN: QUALITY WITHOUT COMPROMISE	Chair: Jane Ward
16h00 – 16h20	Prevalence of TB in the Western Cape population and how it affects Tissue Banking in SA - Virginie Rozot, SATVI	
16h20 – 16h30	When Regulation Is Absent, Responsibility Cannot Be - Sandra Venter, Bone SA	
16h30 – 17h00	Free Papers	
16h30 – 16h40	A comparative evaluation for HIV, HBV and HCV of the Roche Cobas 5800, Abbott Alinity-m and Hologic panther - Nadia Pietersen, WCBS	
16h40 – 16h50	Evaluation of Vitanova's femoral head donation programme spanning a 3-year period - Heinrich Schultz, Bone SA	
16h50 – 17h00	Evaluating Temperature Indicators to Optimise Red Cell Returns and Patient Safety - Arno Siebrits, WCBS	
18h00 – 21h00	Ocean Basket Restaurant, Harbour Island	





Saturday, 7 November 2026

09h00 - 10h30	SESSION 6: COUNTING THE COST: SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS	Chair: Yvonne Holt
09h00 – 09h20	Implementing Continuous Improvement (Lean) at a non-competitive, non-profit Blood Service - Why bother? - Greg Bellairs, WCBS	
09h20 – 09h40	Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness Innovation Project - EMS Call Centre Development - David Thomson, GSH	
09h40 – 10h30	Free Papers	
09h40 – 09h50	Building a Blood Donation Centre IT System for Infrastructure Challenged Countries - Jacques Breslaw, WCBS	
09h50 – 10h00	5S Workplace Organisation Implementation to Sustainability: Building a Culture of Continuous Improvement - Shahana Manekware, WCBS	
10h00 – 10h10	More from every gift: yield, sustainability and end-to-end tissue banking model - Helena Heystek, Bone SA	
10h00 – 10h10	Enhancing Cost-Effectiveness and Turnaround Time through Immediate-Spin Crossmatch: A Single-Site Review at Western Cape Blood Service - Cindy le Roux, WCBS	
10h30 – 11h00	Refreshments	
11h00 - 13h00	SESSION 7: AWARENESS TO ACTION	Chair: Michelle Vermeulen
11h00 – 11h20	Creating and scaling donation education courses - David Thomson, GSH	
11h20 – 11h40	Building a Culture of Eye Donation: The Ethiopian Experience - Nega Demessie, Ethiopian Eye Bank	
11h40 – 12h00	From Awareness to Lifesaving Action: Lessons in Blood Donor Recruitment and Retention - Monique Schreiner, SANBS	
12h00 – 12h15	The impact of social worker in donor awareness & referral at GSH - Sharon Santon, Bone SA	
12h15 – 12h30	Introduction: The Organites! - Shayur Bansee, Save7	
12h30	SATIBA AGM	
13h00 – 14h00	Grab-and-Go Lunch & Departure	

