

Monday 1 December 2025

07:00 Registration opens & arrival refreshments

Venue	Diamond Auditorium	Ruby Auditorium	Amethyst Room	Amber I Room	Amber II Room	Crystal/Garnet Room
09:00		SADC Science Journalism Training Workshop	Moderating for impact	Empowering journalists and communicators to combat science misinformation with cutting-edge tools		A primer on quantum science and journalism: An International Year of Quantum sponsored workshop

10:30 Mid-morning refreshments (Exhibition hall)

Venue	Diamond Auditorium	Ruby Auditorium	Amethyst Room	Amber I Room	Amber II Room	
11:00		SADC Journalists workshop continues	Moderating for impact continued	Empowering journalists and communicators to combat science misinformation with cutting-edge tools continues		 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF Quantum Science and Technology

12:30 Lunch on the Deck

Glow Balance meeting in Jade Room

Venue	Diamond Auditorium	Ruby Auditorium	Amethyst Room	Amber I Room	Amber II Room	Crystal/Garnet/Onyx
14:00		From principles to practice: how to implement WFSJ ethical guidelines in the real world	Moderating for impact continued	Opinion writing for the sciences: science communication to drive trust SPRINGER NATURE	Whose story gets told? Who gets to tell them? A hands-on workshop on inclusive health reporting	How to pitch video stories: mastering environmental journalism by playing the editor

16:00 Afternoon refreshments in the exhibition hall featuring:
Spotlight sessions: Punt your science-related books, podcasts, blogs and the likes! Contact vicky@useful.co.za to join

17:00 Buses depart for official hotels

End of Program Monday 1 December 2025

Tuesday 2 December 2025

07:00 Registration opens & arrival refreshments

07:30 Buses leave official hotels for the CSIR ICC

Venue Diamond Auditorium

Entertainment

08:30 **Opening welcome** - Serusha Govender, Local Organising Committee Member, Freelance Journalist

08:35 **Safety Briefing & Housekeeping** - CSIR ICC

08:40 **Remarks by Local Association Host** - Mandi Smallhorne, President of the South African Science Journalists' Association (SASJA)

Opening video

08:45 **Welcoming remarks** - Dr Thulani Dlamini, Chief Executive Officer, CSIR, Host

09:00 **Introductory remarks** - Mr Daan du Toit, Deputy Director General of the South African Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI)

09:15 **Opening address** - Minister Blade Nzimande, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation - South Africa, Conference Patron

09:45 **Keynote address** - Advocate Cormac Cullinan, winner of the 2025 Shackleton Prize for the Protection of the Polar Regions

Topic: Planet, People and Law: deploying the power of law to reshape our relationship with our world

Mid-morning refreshments in the exhibition hall featuring:

Press Briefing, The Human Exposome Project: A Global Game-Changer Mapping 80%+ of Human Chronic Disease

10:30 - Professor Thomas Hartung, Director, Centre for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT), Professor, Evidence-based Toxicology, Department of Environmental Health & Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health and Whiting School of Engineering

Venue	Diamond Auditorium	Ruby Auditorium	Amethyst Room	Amber I Room	Emerald Auditorium	Crystal/Garnet Room
11:00		Bringing social justice into ocean science reporting 		Covering vulnerable communities affected by climate change		Reporting on localised health technologies for Africa, by Africa
Venue	Diamond Auditorium	Ruby Auditorium	Movie Room Showing of short films and documentaries by conference participants	Amber I Room	Bid Presentations to Board for WCSJ 2029 Conference (all welcome)	Crystal/Garnet Room
12:00		Centering community expertise: four approaches to responsible reporting		Reporting under fire: science journalism in conflict zones and authoritarian regimes		Ethical challenges in mental health reporting
13:00	Lunch on the Deck & dessert and coffee in exhibition hall featuring: Media Briefing - SKAO/SAAO, Revealing new results! at 13:30					
Venue	Diamond Auditorium	Ruby Auditorium	Amethyst Room	Amber I Room	Emerald Auditorium	Crystal/Garnet Room
14:00		When industry endangers health and ecosystems, how science journalists champion marginalized voices	Will Africa ride (or miss) the quantum wave? 		General Assembly of the African Confederation of Science Journalists (AC SJ)	Workshop: Covering a global health crisis: a workshop on effective reporting on antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
Venue	Diamond Auditorium	Ruby Auditorium	Amethyst Room	Amber I Room		
15:00		Science journalism and Indigenous Peoples: reporting with complexity	From sky to society: the great strides of astronomy in Africa	From local to global: pitching regional stories to international outlets		
16:00	Afternoon refreshments in the exhibition hall featuring: - Spotlight sessions : Put your science-related books, podcasts, blogs and the likes! Contact vicky@useful.co.za to join					
	16:00 Nature Africa & Nature India - Meet the Editors Coffee Session - All welcome					
Venue	Diamond Auditorium	Ruby Auditorium	Amethyst Room	Amber I Room	Emerald Auditorium	Crystal/Garnet Room
16:30		All in a day's work: share your stories on how your work has had an impact on social justice and helping others Open session, contact aghan@meshascience.org to join	Movie Room Showing of short films and documentaries by conference participants	Covering the effects of social and environmental health challenges on the lives of children	European Federation for Science Journalism (EFSJ) Information Session	
17:30	Travel to networking cocktail (buses available for delegates staying in official hotels)					
	18:00 Networking cocktail: Javett Museum at University of Pretoria - https://javettup.com/					
	18:30 Welcome: Deputy Director General of the South African Department of Science, Technology & Innovation, Mr Daan du Toit					
	18:35 Opening remarks by host: Prof Francis Petersen Vice-Chancellor & Principal, University of Pretoria					
	18:50 Introduction to the Javett Art Museum Collections					
	19:00 Guided Tours of the Javett Art Museum					
	20:00 First bus back to hotels					
	21:00 Last bus back to hotels					

End of Program Tuesday 2 December 2025

Wednesday 3 December 2025

07:00 Registration opens & arrival refreshments

07:30 Buses leave official hotels for the CSIR ICC

Venue Diamond Auditorium

08:30 Opening welcome & Housekeeping - Serusha Govender, Local Organising Committee Member, Freelance Journalist

08:40 **Keynote introduction - Serusha Govender**

08:45 **Keynote address - Dr David Obura: Chair of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**

Topic: Doubling Down on Science and Evidence: scientific data and insights, plus collaboration across beats, equals better reporting

End of Program Wednesday 3 December 2025

Thursday 4 December 2025

07:00 Registration opens & arrival refreshments

07:30 Buses leave official hotels for the CSIR ICC

Venue Diamond Auditorium

08:30 **Opening welcome & Housekeeping** - Serusha Govender, Local Organising Committee Member, Freelance Journalist

08:40 **Keynote introduction** - Serusha Govender

08:45 **Keynote address** - Prof Linda-Gail Bekker: CEO Desmond Tutu Health Foundation, Director, Desmond Tutu HIV Centre at the Institute of Infectious Disease & Molecular Medicine, University of Cape Town

Topic: Everything has changed: what health communicators need to know about the new parameters of public health

Venue	Diamond Auditorium	Ruby Auditorium	Amethyst Room	Amber I Room		Crystal/Garnet
09:15	Plenary Session Challenging times: communicating about climate change when politics promotes denial and misinformation		Movie Room Showing of short films and documentaries by conference participants	Radio as a lifeline: The importance of radio in risk communication		
10:15	Mid-morning refreshments in the exhibition hall featuring: "Let's Talk Archeology" - meet up with SA archeology stars					
Venue	Diamond Auditorium	Ruby Auditorium	Amethyst Room	Amber I Room		Crystal/Garnet
10:45		People, planet, and possibility: systems science meets journalism for wellbeing	Show me the money	Misinformation What are we missing		Fake news! Fake news? – Cross-border challenges and out-of- the box options for debunking false stories
Venue	Diamond Auditorium	Ruby Auditorium	Amethyst Room	Amber I Room	Onyx Room	
12:00		Who gets to tell the story? Science journalism and research collaboration.	Constructive Journalism as a catalyst of new narratives for science	HIV and TB - new ways to tackle "old" problems	13:00 ITER Lunch  china eu india japan korea russia usa	
13:00	Lunch on the Deck					

South African Science Journalists Association (SASJA) Lunchtime Information Session in the Jade - grab your lunch from the deck and come and join us!

Venue	Diamond Auditorium	Ruby Auditorium	Amethyst Room	Amber I Room		Crystal/Garnet
14:00		Stepping out of the office to learn more		Navigating conflicts of interest in African science reporting		Archeology: why report on the past if there's so much to focus on in the present?
Venue	Diamond Auditorium	Ruby Auditorium		Amber I Room	Emerald Auditorium	Crystal/Garnet
15:00		Using scientific data as a starting point for a journalistic investigation on endangered species	Movie Room Showing of short films and documentaries by conference participants	Children and science communication: creating new formats for this curious audience	Connecting global science to local narratives - spotlight on Ghana	Blue Monday in the office: Share your professional bloopers Open Session - Contact meghie@gmail.com to join
16:00	Afternoon refreshments in the exhibition hall featuring: Spotlight sessions : Punt your science-related books, podcasts, blogs and the likes! Contact gallery@useful.co.za to join					

Venue	Diamond Auditorium	Ruby Auditorium	Amethyst Room	Amber I Room		Crystal/Garnet/Onyx
16:30	Closing Plenary: So... What happens next?					
17:30	Closing ceremony					
	Vote of thanks - Lynne Smit, LOC Member					
	Reveal of WCSJ 2029 Destination - Ben Deighton, President of the World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ)					
	Handover to WCSJ 2027 - Engela Duvenage, 2025 Conference Director, to Alex O'Brien, 2027 Conference Director					
	Introduction of WCSJ 2027 - Speech and video by Alex O'Brien, invitation to cocktails sponsored by London 2027					

18:00 Networking cocktail sponsored by London

20:00 First bus back to hotels

21:00 Last bus back to hotels

End of Program Thursday 4 December 2025