



THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN
INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL
HYGIENE



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service

PROGRAMME (Final, as of 21 September 2026)
SAIOH 2026 Annual Scientific Conference
Thaba Eco Hotel, Johannesburg

Theme	'Building Stronger Partnerships for Healthier Workplaces'
Location	Thaba Eco Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa
Duration of the conference	28 September 2026 - 01 October 2026
Gala Dinner and SAIOH Awards	Wednesday evening, 30 September 2026 Please note that a fee will apply to guests attending the gala dinner
Snacks and lunch (arrival, mid-morning, and mid-afternoon)	Tea and lunch will be provided by the venue
SAIOH CPD points	Attendees earn 1 SAIOH CPD point per conference day, and 0.5 point per Professional Development Course (PDC) attended
Monday 28 September 2026	
08:00 – 10:00 All day	Registration of delegates Exhibitors' set-up of exhibition stands Poster presentation set-up
Professional Development Courses (PDCs)	
10:00 – 14:30 (In person attendance only)	PDC – 01 Site Visit to the National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH) Presenters: NIOH staff members – Prof Spo Kgalamono, Dr Jitcy Joseph, Dr Delerise Fassom, Zinhle Maphumulo, Edith Ratshikhopha Note: <i>Participants will depart from the conference venue, Thabo Eco Hotel, at 09:00 and return at 15:00.</i> <i>A site visit programme will be shared with registered participants.</i> <i>Participants are required to communicate with the Conference Organisers to make travel arrangements, or to indicate that they will be travelling independently, for logistic arrangements to be made with the NIOH</i>
15:00 – 17:00 (Virtual attendance only, free session)	PDC – 02 From OH Assistant to OH Technologist to Occupational Hygienist: Navigating SAIOH certification, CPD, and competency assessments Presenters: Members of the SAIOH Professional Certification Committee (PCC) – Dr Ivan Niranjani, Dr Goitsema Keretse, Corlia Peens, Naadiya Mundy, Sean Chester, Robert Randolph, Deon Jansen Van Vuuren, Garth Hunter, Jaco van Rensburg
18:00 – 20:30	SAIOH Welcome Cocktail Function (free)

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Tuesday 29 September 2026		
07:00 – 08:30	Registration of delegates – Eagle Boardroom Exhibitors’ set-up of exhibition stands Poster presentation set-up	
Professional Development Courses (PDCs) – Parallel sessions in hybrid format		
08:30 – 16:00	Tswana Hall and online	Lobola Deck and online
In person and virtual attendance (08:30 – 12:00)	PDC - 03 (full day) Beyond posture and chair design: The influence of psychosocial factors on work health, wellbeing and performance Presenter: Dr Miriam Mattison (Rhodes University and the Ergonomics Society of South Africa, ESSA)	PDC – 04 (morning only) Beyond the dust: Understanding silica exposure, modern silicosis and worker outcomes Presenters: Dr Vanessa Govender (Masakhane Health and University of the Witwatersrand) and Prof Nico Claassen (University of Pretoria)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Exhibition and Poster Viewing	
In person and virtual attendance (13:00 – 16:00)	PDC - 03 (full day, continued) Beyond posture and chair design: The influence of psychosocial factors on work health, wellbeing and performance Presenter: Dr Miriam Mattison (Rhodes University and the Ergonomics Society of South Africa, ESSA)	PDC – 05 (afternoon only) Ethics in action: Real-world challenges for occupational hygiene professionals Presenters / Panel members: Profs Johan du Plessis, Anja Franken, Suranie Horn, Cas Badenhorst (North-West University, NWU), and Dr Casper Joubert (Stellenbosch University, SU)

Summary Information – Professional Development Courses (PDCs)

PDC	Summary
PDC – 01 Monday, 28 September, 10:00 – 14:30 In person attendance only Site Visit to the National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH)	Go behind the scenes at the National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH) and explore how science, research and multidisciplinary collaboration improve worker health. This unique site visit features expert-led demonstrations in occupational toxicology, immunology, microbiology, pathology and exposure assessment, showcasing innovative laboratory technologies and their application to disease prevention, workplace monitoring and compensation. Note: Participants will depart from the conference venue, Thabo Eco Hotel, at 09:00 and return at 15:00. A site visit programme will be shared with registered participants.
PDC – 02 Monday, 28 September, 15:00 – 17:00 (afternoon only) Virtual attendance only, free session From OH Assistant to OH Technologist to Occupational Hygienist: Navigating SAIOH certification, CPD, and competency assessments	Advance your occupational hygiene career with this practical PDC on the SAIOH Professional Certification process. Learn how to navigate certification and registration requirements, assess your readiness for professional upgrades, prepare successful applications, understand examination expectations, and maintain your professional status through ethics and CPD. An interactive panel discussion with SAIOH PCC experts provides the opportunity to have your questions answered directly.
PDC – 03 Tuesday, 29 September, 08:30 – 16:00 (full day) In person and virtual attendance Beyond posture and chair design: The influence of psychosocial factors on work health, wellbeing and performance	Modern workplace challenges arise from the interaction of physical, psychosocial and organisational factors, requiring systems-based solutions rather than isolated interventions. This interactive PDC introduces contemporary Human Factors and Ergonomics (HFE), equipping occupational health and hygiene practitioners with practical tools to identify psychosocial risks and improve worker wellbeing, safety and organisational performance.
PDC – 04 Tuesday, 29 September, 08:30 – 12:00 (morning only) In person and virtual attendance Beyond the dust: Understanding silica exposure, modern silicosis and worker outcomes	Modern silicosis is re-emerging as a significant occupational health challenge, underscoring the need for effective silica exposure prevention. This interactive PDC provides occupational hygiene and occupational health professionals with practical, up-to-date knowledge on respirable crystalline silica exposure assessment, disease prevention, medical surveillance and interdisciplinary collaboration to improve worker health outcomes.
PDC – 05 Tuesday, 29 September, 13:00 – 16:00 (afternoon only) In person and virtual attendance Ethics in action: Real-world challenges for occupational hygiene professionals	Strong ethical practice is fundamental to protecting workers, organisations and the integrity of the occupational hygiene profession. This engaging PDC equips practitioners with practical tools to navigate ethical challenges, interpret professional codes and legislation, apply ethical decision-making, and use AI responsibly through expert-led discussions and real-world case studies. Successful participants receive a SAIOH Professional Ethics Certificate valid for three years.

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Wednesday 30 September 2026		
08:00 – 09:00	Conference Registration	Registration of delegates – Eagle Boardroom Exhibitors' set-up of exhibition stands Poster presentation set-up
Plenary Session 1 – Strategic Collaborations in Occupational Health and Hygiene Main Auditorium (Lobola Hall) Session Chair: Naadiya Mundy (PCC Vice Chair and SAIOH Immediate Past President)		
09:00 – 09:20	Welcome	Prof Cas Badenhorst (SAIOH President), and Dr Monica Young (Chair of the Conference Committee and the SAIOH Gauteng Branch) Venue health and safety announcements (Thabo Eco Hotel staff)
09:20 – 09:40	Keynote address 1	Prof Spo Kgalamono (Executive Director – NIOH, Johannesburg, South Africa) <i>Title: Building stronger partnerships for healthier workplaces: The impact of strategic collaboration on occupational health outcomes at the National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH)</i>
09:40 – 10:00	Keynote address 2	Prof Cas Badenhorst (SAIOH President and North-West University Potchefstroom, South Africa) <i>Title: Beyond the sample - The relationships that make Occupational Hygiene work</i>
10:00 – 10:20	Oral presentation 1	Prof Anja Franken (North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa) <i>Title: Barely covered? Skin exposure knowledge and experiences of Southern African occupational hygiene professionals</i>
10:20 – 10:30	Q&A with Presenters of Plenary Session 1	
10:30 – 11:00	Morning refreshments and exhibition viewing	
Plenary Session 2 – Psychosocial Hazards, Metals and Asbestos, and Artificial Intelligence for Africa Main Auditorium (Lobola Hall) Session Chair: Kaamini Reddy (SAIOH Communication and Digital Manager)		
11:00 – 11:20	Keynote address 3	Milly Ruiters (Chief Inspector - Occupational Health and Safety, National Department of Employment and Labour, South Africa) <i>Title: Psychosocial hazards in the workplace: A ticking time bomb</i>
11:20 – 11:40	Keynote address 4	Dr Casper Joubert (Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and the South African Society of Occupational Medicine, SASOM) <i>Title: Leapfrogging or left behind? AI and the future of African occupational hygiene</i>

11:40 – 12:00	Oral presentation 2	Garth Hunter (University College Cork, Ireland) Title: <i>Fix the work, not the worker: ISO 45003, Psychosocial Risk</i>
12:00 – 12:20	Oral presentation 3	Maria Elizabeth Coetzee (North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa) Title: <i>Respiratory exposure and emissions associated with a HYRAX machine using stainless steel powder</i>
12:20 - 12:40	Oral presentation 4	Gabriel E Mizan (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa) Title: <i>Asbestos exposure and health risks from asbestos-containing materials in public schools in Gauteng</i>
12:40 – 12:50	Q&A with Presenters of Plenary Session 2 and Announcements by the Session Chair	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch and exhibition viewing	
Plenary Session 3 – Connected Systems and Partnerships for Healthier Workplaces Main Auditorium (Lobola Hall) Session Chair: Dr Monica Young (Chair of the Conference Committee and the SAIOH Gauteng Branch)		
14:00 – 14:20	Keynote address 5	Dr Vanessa Govender (Director - Masakhane Strategic Health Consulting (Pty) Ltd, and School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersarand, Johannesburg, South Africa) Title: <i>Beyond the iceberg: Building connected systems for healthier workplaces</i>
14:20 – 14:40	Keynote address 6	Nokubonga (Sma) Ngcamu-Tukulula (President - The Ergonomics Society of South Africa, ESSA) Title: <i>Building stronger partnerships for healthier workplaces: Why psychosocial ergonomics is the missing link between occupational hygiene and human factors</i>
14:40 – 15:00	Oral presentation 5	Dr Jeanneth Manganyi (Head of Section: Occupational Hygiene, NIOH, Johannesburg, South Africa) Title: <i>An NIOH multidisciplinary approach to enhance occupational health service delivery and effective risk management programmes</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Q&A with Presenters of Plenary Session 3 and Announcements by the Session Chair	
15:15 – 15:30	Afternoon refreshments	
15:30 – 17:00	Dedicated session for interaction and networking with poster presenters and exhibitors Venue: Eagle Boardroom	
18:30 - 23:00	SAIOH 2026 Gala Dinner and Awards Venue: Main Auditorium (Lobola Hall)	

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Thursday 01 October 2026		
08:00 – 09:00	Conference Registration	Registration of delegates – Eagle Boardroom Exhibitors' stands Poster viewing
Plenary Session 4 – <i>Dust Exposure and Control</i> Main Auditorium (Lobola Hall) Session Chair: Dr Sibongiseni Myeni (SAIOH Past President)		
09:00 – 09:20	Welcome	André van Rooyen (SAIOH Vice President) Venue health and safety announcements (Thabo Eco Hotel staff)
09:20 – 09:40	Keynote address 7	Thapelo Chakane (Minerals Council South Africa, Johannesburg) Title: <i>Mining Industry Actionable Dust Control and Management Strategy</i>
09:40 – 10:00	Oral presentation 6	Prof Stefan Linde (North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa) Title: <i>Comparison of the output of six direct reading instruments measuring respirable dust in a controlled environment</i>
10:00 – 10:20	Oral presentation 7	Silas Msibi (Department of Employment and Labour, Mpumalanga, South Africa) Title: <i>Assessing potential human health risks caused by exposure to particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) in Embalenhle, Mpumalanga, South Africa</i>
10:20 – 10:30	Q&A with Presenters of Plenary Session 4 and Announcements by the Session Chair	
10:30 – 11:00	Morning refreshments and exhibition viewing	
Plenary Session 5 – <i>Exposure and Healthcare, Innovation and Digital Technology</i> Main Auditorium (Lobola Hall) Session Chair: Cecil-Roux Steyn (SAIOH Gauteng Branch Immediate Past Chair)		
11:00 – 11:20	Keynote address 8	Joan Visser (President – South African Society of Occupational Health Nursing Practitioners, SASOHN) Title: <i>Where exposure meets care: Strengthening partnerships for healthier workplaces (Virtual presentation)</i>
11:20 – 11:40	Keynote address 9	Stephan Bergh (Vice President – Mine Ventilation Society of South Africa, MVSSA) Title: <i>From fixed airflow to intelligent air management: Innovation and digital technology for healthier underground workplaces</i>
11:40 – 12:00	Oral presentation 8	Dr Monica Young (Occupational Hygiene Section, NIOH, Johannesburg, South Africa)

		Title: <i>The efficacy of large language models to detect technical errors in occupational hygiene reports according to predefined criteria</i>
12:00 – 12:20	Oral presentation 9	Prof Cas Badenhorst (SAIOH President and North-West University Potchefstroom, South Africa) Title: <i>Risk Assessment: The foundation of workplace health programmes</i>
12:20 – 12:40	Oral presentation 10	Jaco Pieterse (Gijima Occupational Health, Johannesburg, South Africa) Title: <i>Transforming occupational hygiene from retrospective prevention to predictive exposure intelligence and prevention</i>
12:40 – 12:50	Q&A with Presenters of Plenary Session 5 and Announcements by the Session Chair	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch and exhibition viewing	
Plenary Session 6 – Climate Change, Biological, Chemical and Physical Exposures, and Ethics Main Auditorium (Lobola Hall) Session Chair: Deon Jansen Van Vuuren (SAIOH Fellow and Past General Manager)		
14:00 – 14:20	Keynote address 10	Dr Busisiwe Shezi (South African Medical Research Council, SA MRC, Durban, South Africa) Title: <i>Occupational health in a changing climate: Protecting workers through collaboration</i>
14:20 – 14:40	Keynote address 11	Prof Johan du Plessis (North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa) Title: <i>An ethics short course for occupational hygiene professionals in southern Africa</i>
14:40 – 15:00	Oral presentation 11	Dr Karlien Linde (University of Limpopo, Mankweng, South Africa) Title: <i>Overlooked agricultural hazards: A task-based dust and endotoxin case study</i>
15:00 – 15:20	Oral presentation 12	Simnikiwe Reve (North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa) Title: <i>Assessing biological and chemical exposure risks in a forensic pathology facility among morgue attendants</i>
15:20 – 15:40	Oral presentation 13	Siyathemba Kekana (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa) Title: <i>Knowledge and attitudes among maintenance workers in a coal-fired power generating plant regarding noise-induced hearing loss and the use of hearing protective devices in Mpumalanga, South Africa</i>
15:40 – 15:50	Q&A with Presenters of Plenary Session 6 and Announcements by the Session Chair	
15:50 – 16:10	Presentation of prizes and conference awards	
16:10 – 16:30	Conference closure and announcement of the SAIOH 2027 Annual Scientific Conference	

/... Poster Presentations

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POSTER PRESENTATIONS		
No.	Presenter Name and Affiliation	Title of Poster Presentation
<i>1 - Policy, Systems, and Partnerships – Aligning Institutions for Sustainable Impact</i>		
P1	Ngoni Gumbo Occupational Hygiene Section, NIOH, Johannesburg, South Africa	Exposure to particulate matter, inhalable and respirable dust in a community close to a mine dump in Johannesburg, South Africa
<i>2 - Prevention of Workplace Exposures – Success Stories, Case Studies and Shared Learnings</i>		
P2	Dikeledi Singo Occupational Hygiene Section, NIOH, Johannesburg, South Africa	Outcome of the occupational health risk assessment conducted on COVID-19 mobile screening and testing laboratories
P3	Tebogo Nthoke Occupational Hygiene Section, NIOH, Johannesburg, South Africa	Quantitative health risk assessment: Winter indoor air quality in healthcare facilities in South Africa (2017)
P4	Kevin Renton University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa	Practical recommendations to reduce workplace health risks
P5	Zizipho Mini Katlego Coal, Mpumalanga, South Africa	Reducing respirable dust exposure in a South African coal mine through collaborative occupational hygiene interventions
P6	Ntokozo Ntebele North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa	Characterisation of airborne emissions and occupational exposure during multi-filament fused deposition modeling® using PLA and PETG thermoplastics
P7	Lize van der Westhuizen North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa	Evaluation of occupational exposure limit adjustment models for extended working hours among petrol attendants
P8	Dr Antony Mundackal University of Limpopo, Mankweng, South Africa	Occupational heat stress exposure and workload assessment of agricultural workers in the Limpopo province
<i>3 - Modern Challenges and Re-emerging Risks: Learning from Past and Present Occupational Diseases</i>		

P9	Lebogang Ntlailane Occupational Hygiene Section, NIOH, Johannesburg, South Africa	Assessment of work-related airborne contaminant exposure among petrol attendants in Johannesburg, South Africa
<i>4 - Innovation and Digital Technology for Healthier Workplaces</i>		
P10	Lerato Sebola Occupational Hygiene Section, NIOH, Johannesburg, South Africa	Comparison of respirable dust concentrations between gravimetric weighing and real-time dust monitoring equipment in non-mining industries
<i>5 - Capacity-building and Professional Development in Occupational Health and Hygiene</i>		
P11	Karen du Preez Occupational Hygiene Section, NIOH, Johannesburg, South Africa	A progress update on the study to develop a South African Proficiency Testing Scheme for asbestos fibre counting using phase contrast microscopy

Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH)

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