

EACTS/CSIA Africa Cardio-Thoracic Surgical Conference 2026
In Africa for Africa
SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME



EACTS / STS / CSIA
CARDIO-THORACIC CONFERENCE
IN AFRICA FOR AFRICA



4 – 6 September 2026

University of Cape Town Academic Conference Centre
 Protea Hotel, Breakwater Lodge, Cape Town Waterfront, South Africa

www.ctsinafricaforafrica.org

FRIDAY 04 SEPTEMBER 2026		
07h00 – 08h00	Registration Opens	
Venue:	Auditorium	
08h00 – 08h05	Opening remarks: Cardiothoracic Surgery in Africa - Reality and Objectives	Rafael Sádaba (Spain), Francis Smit (South Africa)/ EACTS Emily Farkas (USA), Bruno Podesser (Austria) / CSIA Vinay Badhwar (USA), Joseph Sabik (USA) / STS
MORNING SESSION STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY		
08h05 - 09h40	HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT AND SCALING	
Venue:	Auditorium	
08h05 – 08h15	Needs Based Healthcare	Francis Smit (South Africa)
08h15 – 08h30	The DNA of CSIA: Origin and Vision	Chip Bolman (USA)
08h30 - 08h45	Salam Centre: A transnational answer to cardiac surgical need	Gina Portella (Italy)
08h45 – 09h00	Yacoub Aswan Heart Centre and Research Foundation model	Ahmed Afifi (Egypt)
09h00 - 09h15	How platforms like the Discovery Foundation invest in progress	Maurice Goodman (South Africa)
09h15 - 09h30	Industry pro-bono partnerships for scaling and supply chain solutions	Maurice Musoni (Rwanda)
09h30 - 09h40	Audience and panel discussion	
09h40 - 10h00	Refreshment Break	

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FRIDAY 04 SEPTEMBER 2026

10h00 - 11h30 TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Venue: Auditorium

10h00 - 10h15	Core Curriculum - CMSA (Colleges of Medicine of South Africa) perspective	Tim Pennel (South Africa)
10h15 - 10h30	Core Curriculum - COSECSA (College of Surgeons of East, Central, Southern Africa) perspective	TBC
10h30 - 10h45	Expanding training sites for WACS (West African College of Surgeons)	Uvie Onakoya (Nigeria)
10h45 - 11h00	Building a regional Fellowship Program	Yonas Teferi (Kenya)
11h00 - 11h15	The role of simulation training in Africa	Francis Smit (South Africa)
11h15 - 11h30	Audience and panel discussion	

11h30 - 11h50 Refreshment Break

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FRIDAY 04 SEPTEMBER 2026		
11h50 - 13h30	Risk Stratification, Quality and Databases	
Venue:	Auditorium	
11h50 - 12h15	Keynote Speaker: How database development and minimum requirements drive quality	Sir Bruce Keogh (UK)
12h15 - 12h30	Implementation of a national model: Nigeria Open-Heart Surgery Registry	Bode Falase (Nigeria)
12h30 - 12h45	Realisation of a regional model: The COSECSA surgical database	Keith Dindi (Kenya)
12h45 - 13h00	Consideration of a global model: The World Health Organisation platform?	Jaymie Ang (USA)
13h00 - 13h15	EUROSCORE in SSA and consideration of an Afroscore	Valdano Manuel (Angola)
13h15 - 13h30	EPA, WBA and training assessment models applied in SSA	Jacques Janson (South Africa)
13h30 - 14h30	Lunch plus Roundtable Discussion on Potential Playbook for Government / Ministry of Health Engagement Mitigating the challenge of African Cardiovascular Healthcare shortage & Brain Drain	Hani Shennib (USA)
13h20 - 14h30	Moderated e-Posters	

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FRIDAY 04 SEPTEMBER 2026

AFTERNOON SESSION RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE FROM SELECTION TO INTERVENTION

Venue: Auditorium

14h30-16h00 RHD: PRE-INTERVENTION and OPTIMISATION

14h30 - 14h50	Keynote Speaker: From ASAP to Action: 20 years of progress - and persistent gaps - in rheumatic heart disease	Liesl Zühlke (South Africa)
14h50 - 15h05	Role and criteria for percutaneous valvuloplasty	Joann Kiyeng (Kenya)
15h05 - 15h20	Lessons in surgical optimisation from Mozambique	Adriano Tivano (Mozambique)
15h20 - 15h25	Echocardiographic features of concern for RHD surgery	Justiaan Swanevelder (South Africa)
15h25 - 15h50	Improving readiness & efficiency with a surgical management platform	Global Scholar Selection
15h50 - 16h00	Audience and panel discussion	
16h00 - 16h20	Refreshment Break	

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FRIDAY 04 SEPTEMBER 2026		
16h20 - 17h40	RHD: JUDGEMENT AND TECHNIQUES	
Venue:	Auditorium	
16h10 - 16h25	Surgical risk assessment for mitral and tricuspid valve operations	Vinay Badhwar (USA)
16h25 - 16h40	Surgical algorithm for rheumatic tricuspid disease	Vinicius Nina (Brazil)
16h40 - 16h55	SCORE procedure for surgical judgment in rheumatic mitral disease: experience from China	Hu Qiuming (China)
16h55 - 17h10	Techniques for rheumatic mitral repair: experience from Egypt	Ahmed Afifi (Egypt)
17h10 - 17h25	Pearls and pitfalls of teaching RHD valve surgery	TBC
17h25 - 17h40	Discussion	
18h00 - 20h00	Welcome Reception and Leadership Lessons in 5 Minutes	Venue: Rooftop
	Former President of STS Joseph Sabik (USA)	
	Former President of STS Joe Bavaria (USA)	
	Current President of STS Vinay Badhwar (USA)	
	Secretary General of EACTS Patrick Myers (Switzerland)	
	Current President of EACTS Rafa Sadaba (Spain)	
	Current President of SCTSSA Elias Zigiriadis (South Africa)	
	Former President of SBCCV Vinicius Nina (Brazil)	
	Former Medical Director of NHS Sir Bruce Keogh (UK)	

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SATURDAY 05 SEPTEMBER 2026

08h00- 09h30

Coronary Revascularization in Africa

08h00 - 09h30

Thoracic Surgery for Infection and Trauma

08h30 – 09h30

Simulation Session: Califia Team Training

Venue: Auditorium

Venue 4 & 5

Venue 6

Trainers:

Francis Smit (South Africa) and Team

08h00 - 08h15	Do guidelines apply globally?	Patrick Myers (Switzerland)	08h00 - 08h15	Thoracic surgery in Africa	Risenga Chauke (South Africa)	08h30 - 08h45	Scenario Training
08h15 - 08h30	The evolution of coronary surgery	Joseph Sabik (USA)	08h15 - 08h30	Trends in thoracic surgery in Europe	Korkut Bostanci (Turkey)	08h45 - 09h00	Situation Management
08h30 - 08h45	Off pump surgery review and strategy with resource constraints	TBC	08h30 - 08h45	Trends in thoracic surgery in USA	TBC	09h00 - 09h30	Crisis Management
08h45 - 09h00	On pump surgery review and strategies with resource constraints	Larry Rampini (South Africa)	08h45 - 09h00	Blunt chest trauma and chest wall internal fixation	Richard Schulenburg (South Africa)		
09h00 - 09h15	PCI in Africa	Hellmuth Weich (South Africa)	09h00 - 09h15	TB Nodal disease	Jacques Janson (South Africa)		
09h15 - 09h30	Case presentations for discussion	Panel / Audience	09h15 - 09h30	Pleural based diagnostics	Ivan Schewitz (South Africa)		
09h30 - 10h00	Refreshment Break and Moderated e-Posters						

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SATURDAY 05 SEPTEMBER 2026					
10h00 - 11h30 Urgent and Elective Aortic Surgical Techniques				10h00 - 11h30 Simulation Session: "How to do a Bailout Coronary Artery Bypass"	
Venue: Auditorium				Ground Floor - Wet Lab/Training area	
				Trainers: Christoph Holzinger (Austria), Bruno Podesser (Austria), Hermann Reichenspurner (Germany), Rainald Seitelberger (Austria), Joe Sabik (USA)	
10h00 - 10h15	The pathology and surgical objectives	Martin Sussman (South Africa)		10h00 - 10h30	Theory and Pitfalls - Rainald Seitelberger (Austria)
10h15 - 10h30	Decision making in aortic surgery	Joseph Bavaria (USA)		10h15 - 10h30	Pitfalls
10h30 - 10h45	Inflammatory aneurysms in Africa	Baffoe Gyan (Ghana)		10h30 - 11h30	Practical wetlab
10h45 - 11h00	Tips for aortic surgery when deep hypothermic circulatory arrest is not practical	Keith Dindi (Kenya)			
11h00 - 11h15	Aortic urgencies and emergencies with limited resources	Tim Pennel (South Africa)			
11h15 - 11h30	Case presentations for discussion	Panel / Audience			
11h30 - 13h30	Lunch with Industry Round Table on Scaling / Supply Chain Solutions Scaling MedTech Solutions in Africa: From Innovation to Sustainable Health System Impact - Amit Thakker				
	Moderated e-Posters				

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SATURDAY 05 SEPTEMBER 2026..... continued

13h30 - 15h30 Surgery for Other Acquired Cardiac Disease: Infectious, EMF, Afib in Africa				13h30 - 15h30 Essentials of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery				13h30 - 15h30 Simulation Session: Califia Team Training	
Venue: Auditorium				Venue 4 & 5				Venue 6	
								Trainers: Francis Smit (South Africa) and Team	
13h30 - 13h45	Redo operative tips and techniques	Vinay Badhwar (USA)		13h30 - 13h45	Paediatric surgical programmes in Africa	Francis Smit (South Africa)		13h30 - 13h45	Scenario Training
13h45 - 14h00	Infective endocarditis overview	Carlos Mestres (South Africa)		13h45 - 14h00	Rheumatic Mitral valve repair in children	Ahmed Afifi (Egypt)		13h45 - 14h00	Situation Management
14h00 - 14h15	Fenestration judgement and technique for septal defects	Godwin Sharau (Tanzania)		14h00 - 14h15	Single ventricle palliation	Lorenzo Galletti (Italy)		14h00 - 15h00	Crisis Management
14h15 - 14h30	Impact of afib in SSA and management of the left atrial appendage	Gloria Färber (Germany)		14h15 - 14h30	Surgical management of LVOT obstruction	Darshan Reddy (South Africa)			
14h30 - 14h45	Endomyocardial fibrosis vs. pericarditis diagnosis and treatment algorithms	Ana Mocumbi (Mozambique)		14h30 - 14h45	Coarctation in children	Susan Vosloo (South Africa)			
14h45 - 15h00	LV aneurysm and ventricle reconstruction			14h45 - 15h00	Consideration for surgery in Tetralogy of Fallot	David Hoganson (USA)			
15h00 - 15h15	Cheap tricks from Brazil to keep costs down during surgery	Vinicius Nina (Brazil)		15h15 - 15h30	Questions and Panel Discussion				
15h15 - 15h30	Audience and Panel Discussion								
15h30 - 16h00	Refreshment Break and moderated e-Posters								

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SATURDAY 05 SEPTEMBER..... continued

16h00 - 17h30

Peri-Operative Management and Perfusion

16h00 - 17h30

Simulation Session: "How to do a Modified Bentall Procedure"

Venue: Auditorium

Ground Floor - Wet Lab/Training area

Trainers:

Joseph Bavaria (USA), Christoph Holzinger (Austria), Bruno Podesser (Austria), Hermann Reichenspurner (Germany), Rainald Seitelberger (Austria)

16h00 - 16h15

Protocolizing Intensive Care for Better Outcomes

Christiaan Jordaan (South Africa)

16h00 – 16h30:

**Theory and Pitfalls
- Hermann Reichenspurner (Germany)**

16h15 - 16h30

Essential Echocardiography for Surgeons

Reza Yusoff (Malaysia/ Australia)

16h30 - 16h45

Principles of blood management when supply is limited

Rafael Sádaba (Spain)

16h30 -- 17h30

Practical wetlab

16h45 - 17h00

A strategy for management of peri-operative pump failure

Martin Sussman (South Africa)

17h00 - 17h15

Preventing and managing arrest post-cardiac surgery

Global Scholar Selection

17h15 - 17h30

STS Phase of care mortality and morbidity analysis as a tool for programme growth

Emily Farkas (USA)

17h30 – 18h30

Cocktail Reception honouring Dr. Dominique Vervoort

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SUNDAY 06 SEPTEMBER 2026									
08h00 - 10h00 Valvular Heart Surgery Deep Dive				08h00-10h00 Non-inflammatory Thoracic Surgery				08h00-10h00 Simulation Session: "Aortic Root Enlargement"	
Venue: Auditorium				Venue: 4, 5 & 6				Ground Floor - Wet Lab/Training area	
						Trainers: Christoph Holzinger (Austria), Bruno Podesser (Austria), Hermann Reichenspurner (Germany), Rainald Seitelberger (Austria), Eduard Quintana (Spain), Elaine Tseng (USA)			
08h00 - 08h15	Contemporary data on longevity of biologic valves	Elaine Tseng (USA)		08h00 - 08h15	Lung cancer screening programmes	Korkut Bostanci (Turkey)		08h00 - 08h30	Theory and Pitfalls - Bruno Podesser (Austria)
08h15 - 08h30	Combined mitral / aortic strategies in small BSA patients	Tim Pennel (South Africa)		08h15 - 08h30	Surgery for lung cancer	Korkut Bostanci (Turkey)			
08h30 - 0845	Protective / rescue strategies for RV failure surrounding valve surgery	TBC		08h30 - 08h45	Starting a VATS programme	Ivan Schewitz (South Africa)		08h30 - 10h00	Practical Wetlab
08h45 - 09h00	Aortic root enlargement judgement and techniques	Eduard Quintana (Spain)		08h45 - 09h00	Pediatric emergencies in thoracic surgery	Andre Brooks (South Africa)			
09h00 - 09h15	Pearls and pitfalls of the modified Bentall procedure	Joseph Bavaria (USA)		09h00 - 09h15	Tracheal Dilatation	TBC			
09h15 - 09h30	Managing 2 patients: pregnancy and rheumatic valve disease	Neusa Jessen (Mozambique)		09h15- 09h30	Anterior mediastinal tumors	Itumeleng Taunyane (South Africa)			
09h30 - 09h45	Are polymer heart valves the future in LMICs?	Peter Zilla (South Africa)		09h30 - 09h45	Managing IIIa tumours	Korkut Bostanci (Turkey)			
09h45 - 10h00	Audience and Panel Discussion			09h45 - 10h00	Audience and Panel Discussion				
10h00 - 10h30	Refreshment Break								

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SUNDAY 06 SEPTEMBER 2026..... Continued

10h30- 12h00 EACTS Escape the Coffin: Crisis Management in Low Resource Settings		10h30 - 12h00 Advanced Techniques in Paediatric Cardiac Surgery			
Venue: Auditorium		Venue: 4, 5 & 6			
Panel from EACTS, STS, SCTSSA, ACTSON, CSIA					
			10h30 - 10h45	AVSD	André Brooks (South Africa)
			10h45 - 11h00	The Arterial Switch operation, European perspective	Lorenzo Galletti (Italy)
			11h00 - 11h15	Arterial switch operation, Aswan: Late presenters and difficult coronary patterns	Ahmed Afifi (Egypt)
			11h15 - 11h30	TGA: Pre-, intra- and postoperative intensive care and anaesthetic considerations	Matthias Angrés (Germany)
			11h30 - 11h45	The value of high-volume units	Frank Edwin (Ghana)
			11h45 - 12h00	Panel discussion	André Brooks (South Africa)
12h00 - 12h30	CLOSING SESSION				
Venue:	Auditorium				
12h00 - 12h10	The way forward - CSIA/STS – Emily Farkas (USA) / Bruno Podesser (Austria)				
12h10 - 12h20	The way forward - EACTS - Rafael Sádaba (Spain), /Patrick Myers (Switzerland)				
12h20 - 12h30	Closing Summary - Francis Smit (South Africa)				