

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH
& INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM

PRIS 2025

DATE:
28 & 29
October 2025
(Tuesday and
Wednesday)

VENUE:
Coastlands
Hotel,
Musgrave Durban

THEME:
INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF QUANTUM
SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY

pris.ukzn.ac.za

UKZN's College of Agriculture, Engineering & Science (CAES) is hosting the 2025 Postgraduate Research & Innovation Symposium (PRIS) at Coastlands Hotel, Musgrave. CAES provides all Masters and PhD students from the School of Agriculture and Science and the School of Engineering with the opportunity to showcase their research through oral and flash presentations.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER, PRIS

Professor Val Zwiller is a Professor of Physics at Sweden's Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), where he heads the Quantum Nano Photonics research group. He also serves as Chief Science Officer at Single Quantum, a company he co-founded to develop cutting-edge single-photon detectors.



GUEST TALK, UUW SESSION

Dr Ntsapokazi Deppa is the Executive: Scientific Services for uMngeni-uThukela Water (UUW). She holds a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Cape Town, focusing on research in medicinal, physical and analytical chemistry. She graduated with her MBA *cum laude* from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and began her career as a contract chemistry lecturer at the Vaal University of Technology. She proceeded to work as a Chemist and later an Analytical Manager at Tongaat Hulett for nine years. She joined UUW as the Laboratory Manager in 2016.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER, SCIENCE WITH JAZZ

Professor Thomas Konrad is a research professor in the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science at UKZN and Director Designate of the Centre for Quantum Computing and Technology (CQCTec). Professor Konrad pioneers research in quantum information processing and communication, is an internationally recognised researcher with a NRF B-rating, and promotes the interplay between Science and the Arts.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER, GALA DINNER

Dr Happy Sithole is the Centre Manager for the South African cyberinfrastructure (CI) system, NICIS since 2019. This involves the three main entities of the CI, CHPC, SANReN, and DIRISA. He is also a board member at the Centre for Nuclear Safety (CNSS) at the National Nuclear Regulator.

PROGRAMME

DAY 1 : Tuesday, 28 October

08h00 – 08h55	REGISTRATION
09h00 – 09h45	OPENING PLENARY (Sapphire Hall) MC: Professor Rituparno Goswami: College Dean of Research Welcome: Professor Anil Chaturgoon: Deputy-vice Chancellor of Research Keynote Speaker: Professor Val Zwiller: Professor of Physics at the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden & Chief Science Officer at Single Quantum
10h00 – 11h20	CONCURRENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS (Suite 1-4 & Ruby 1-2) Session 1: Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences Session 2: Chemistry and Physics Session 3: Engineering Session 4: Life Sciences Session 5: Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science
11h20 – 11h40	TEA AND VIEWING OF INDUSTRY EXHIBITS (Sapphire Hall)
11h40 – 13h00	CONCURRENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS (Suite 1-4 & Ruby 1-2) Session 1: Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences Session 2: Chemistry and Physics Session 3: Engineering Session 4: Life Sciences Session 5: Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science
13h00 – 14h00	LUNCH (Sapphire Hall)
14h00 – 15h20	CONCURRENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS (Suite 1-4 & Ruby 1-2) Session 1: Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences Session 2: Chemistry and Physics Session 3: Engineering Session 4: Life Sciences Session 5: Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science
16h00 – 16h30	GUEST TALK (Suite 1-4) Welcome: Professor Neil Koobanally: Acting Dean of Research Speaker: Dr Ntsapokazi Deppa: Executive: Scientific Services, uMngeni-uThukela Water (UUW)
16h30 – 18h00	SCIENCE WITH JAZZ: (Suite 1-4) Speaker: Professor Thomas Konrad: Director: CQCTec, UKZN Musicians: Linda Sikhakhane (saxophone) & Paras Dlamini (vocal)
18h00 – 22h00	GALA DINNER (Sapphire Hall)
	Master of Ceremonies: Professor Alan Matthews: Academic Leader Welcome: Professor Ademola Olaniyan: Dean: School of Agriculture and Science Keynote Speaker: Dr Happy Sithole: Centre Manager: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Cyberinfrastructure Entertainment: Ms Jamy-Lee Simmons UKZN Foundation Talk: Steve Camp: Executive Director, UKZN Foundation Acknowledgement of Donors: Steve Camp & Professor Rituparno Goswami Acknowledgement of PRIS Supporters: Professor Phatuwani Mudau: Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of College and Professor Ademola Olaniyan, Dean, School of Agriculture and Science Entertainment: Ms Kearnoetswe Magau Closing Remarks Dinner Entertainment: Ms Jamy-Lee Simmons

DAY 2 : Wednesday, 29 October

08h00 – 08h55	REGISTRATION
09h00 – 11h20	CONCURRENT FLASH BREAKAWAY PRESENTATIONS (Suite 1-4 & Ruby 1) Session 1: Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences Session 2: Chemistry and Physics Session 3: Engineering & Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science Session 4: Life Sciences
09h00 – 11h20	CONCURRENT INDUSTRY SESSION (Ruby 2) Session 1: uMngeni-uThukela Water: Ms Nelisiwe Mbatha Session 2: First National Bank: Ms Candace Naidoo Session 3: Standard Bank: Ms Vanessa Oger Session 4: National Research Foundation: Ms Kgaugelo Molepo Session 5: Feenix Trust: Ms Yanga Totyi
11h25 – 11h45	TEA AND VIEWING OF INDUSTRY EXHIBITS (Sapphire Hall)
11h50 – 13h00	CONCURRENT FLASH BREAKAWAY PRESENTATIONS (Suite 1-4 & Ruby 1) Session 1: Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences Session 2: Chemistry and Physics Session 3: Engineering & Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science Session 4: Life Sciences
11h50 – 14h30	CONCURRENT INDUSTRY SESSION (Ruby 2) Session 1: KZNDOF: Ms Nasiphi Ntengo Session 2: Department of Agriculture: Ms Votelwa Ndana Session 3: Mintek: Ms Dikeledi Mafikeng Session 4: Eskom: Mr Siphiwe Moloi Session 5: SACNASP: Mr Phuti Seanego Session 6: CSIR: Mr Justice Komane Session 7: SANRAL: Ms Rhona Erasmus Session 8: Agricultural Research Council: Ms Pearl Ndalasi
13h00 – 14h00	LUNCH (Sapphire Hall)
14h30 – 16h00	NETWORKING SESSION: TEA AND COFFEE (Suite 1-4)
16h00 – 17h00	CLOSING, PRIZE GIVING AND LUCKY DRAWS (Sapphire Hall) Professor Rituparno Goswami: College Dean of Research Professor Ademola Olaniyan: Dean, School of Agriculture and Science Professor Glen Bright: Dean, School of Engineering Professor Phatuwani Mudau: Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of College Dr Sally Frost: College PR Manager

CONTACT

Siphesihle Owen Shezi:
SheziS4@ukzn.ac.za, 031-260 7878

Nqobile Mthuli:
MthuliN@ukzn.ac.za, 031-260 8563