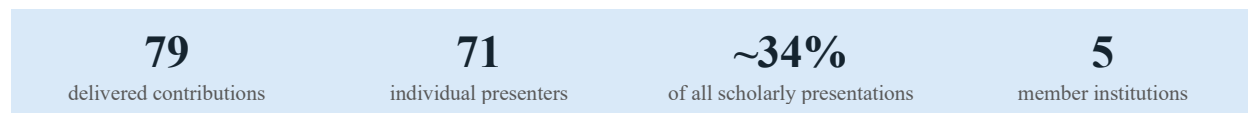


Participation of the SAAHE Northern Chapter at SAAHE 2026

This report highlights the participation of members from the SAAHE Northern Chapter at the Southern African Association of Health Educationalists conference held from 30 June to 3 July 2026 in Stellenbosch, South Africa. The conference theme, *Unravelling the Future of Health Professions Education*, was reflected in a broad contribution of scholarly work from across the Chapter's five member institutions.



Summary of participation

Northern Chapter members delivered 79 contributions at SAAHE 2026, presented by 71 individuals drawn from all five member institutions (**Figure 1**) — roughly a third of every scholarly presentation at the conference. Of the delivered work, 69 were presentations (oral, e-poster, campfire, PechaKucha and SAAHE Unleashed) and 10 were co-facilitated workshops (**Figure 2**). Across the six themes, *Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments* and *Empathy-Driven Innovation & Practice* were best represented (**Figure 3**).

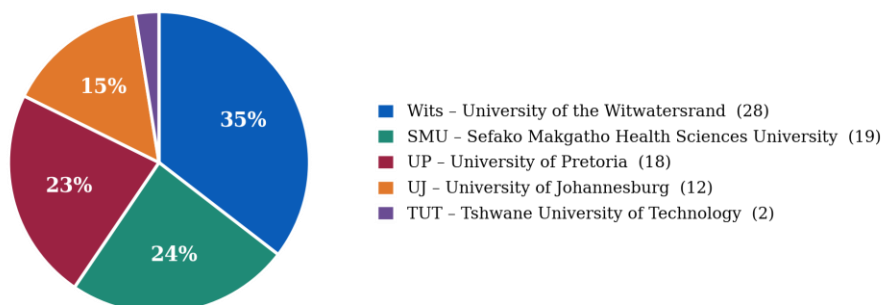


Figure 1: Contributions by member institutions reflected by the affiliation of the presenting author (n = 79)

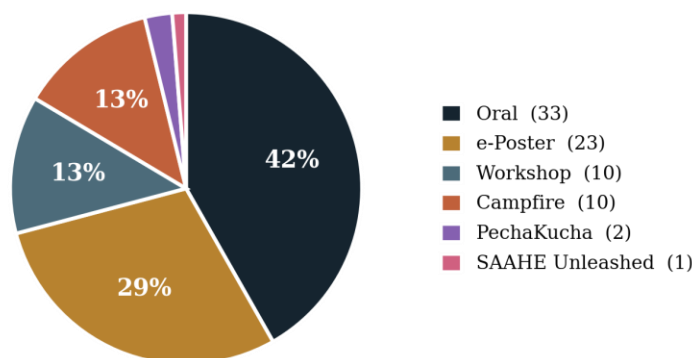


Figure 2: Contributions by type of presentation format (n = 79)



Figure 3: Distribution according to representative themes for all talks (n = 48), as not all formats were categorised by theme in the programme.

Collaborative footprint

Members of the Northern Chapter showcased broad collaborative footprint, with five presentations including two or more additional Northern Chapter affiliations, while four included other South African chapters. Seven presentations carried international co-authors.



Partner institutions appearing alongside Northern Chapter authors

South African partner institutions

- University of Cape Town ×3
- Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) ×1
- Stellenbosch University ×1

International partners

- United Kingdom — King's College London; King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust; University of Essex
- Germany — Medizinische Hochschule; Brandenburg Medical School Theodor Fontane
- Finland — University of the Arts
- Netherlands — Maastricht University
- Canada — University of Toronto
- United States — Uniformed Services University
- Australia — Flinders University
- China — Fujian University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (and affiliated institutions)

Awards and accolades

Dr Stuart Pattinson (Wits) received the SAAHE Best Publication Award for the following paper: Pattinson SR, Savelberg H, Atherley A. Readiness for the realities of internship: an ethnographic study using legitimization code theory. *Perspectives on Medical Education*. 2025; 14(1): 628–640. DOI: 10.5334/pme.1802

Every Northern Chapter contribution

Presenter	Presenter institution	Contributing authors	Format	Theme	Title
Amisha Kanji	Wits	Anam Qwala	Campfire	—	Student perspectives as a lens for developing reflective practice
Anastasia Ebele Ugwuanyi	Wits	Elina Renko, Jussi Valtonen	Oral	Empathy-Driven Innovation & Practice	Recentring human connection in health professions education: A transcultural evaluation of narrative medicine groups in South Africa and Finland
Ann George	Wits	Francois Cilliers, Ronel Maart, Anthea Hansen, Michelle Hannington, Ludo Badlangana	Workshop	Global & Local Trends Shaping HPE	Getting published: Taking intentional steps towards success
Carol Hartmann	Wits	Shirra Moch, Lizelle Crous	Workshop	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Triangles of education: A practical navigation tool for designing learning experiences
Charlene Mapukata	Wits	—	SAAHE Unleashed	—	Five minutes to listen – The art of history taking
Collete Janssen	Wits	Anastasia Ebele Ugwuanyi, Lethuxolo Shange	Campfire	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Breaking silos
Elizabeth Semanya	Wits	Ann George, Deidre Pretorius	Oral	Global & Local Trends Shaping HPE	A longitudinal qualitative study exploring family medicine supervisor and registrars' perceptions and experiences of the University of the Witwatersrand's blended-learning training programme (2016–2023)
Haroon Saloojee	Wits	Michael Gramanie, Rhodasi Mwali, Bruce Bassett, Shabir Madhi, Ismail Kalla	Oral	Navigating the Next Era of HPE	Randomised controlled trial of ChatGPT's impact on student performance in real-patient clinical exams
Itumeleng Tsatsi-Mosala	Wits	Olindah Silaule	Oral	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Perceptions of preparedness for mental health practice among newly qualified occupational therapists in South Africa
Jennie McAdam	Wits	Amanda Jankowitz, Erica Conibear	Oral	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Minecrafting context: Reimagining rural occupational therapy education through immersive digital worlds
Jennifer Watermeyer	Wits	—	Oral	Navigating the Next Era of HPE	Lost in (machine) translation? Accuracy failures and interactional breakdowns in multilingual case history interviews
Kim Coutts	Wits	Jennifer Watermeyer, Nancy Barber	e-Poster	—	Building bridges: Interprofessional education to enhance communication skills in healthcare practices
Kimberly Mc Alpine	Wits	Andre Le Roux, Akshar Kanaye, Ayesha Chhaya, Lerato Makhalemele, Bokang Morake, Leora Porter, Luyanda Ngwenya, Collete Janssen,	e-Poster	—	The reliability of AI in assessing paediatric history-taking in undergraduate medical education

Presenter	Presenter institution	Contributing authors	Format	Theme	Title
		Lauren Frade, Sean Buchanan, Ashraf Coovadia			
Lauren Frade	Wits	—	e-Poster	—	Belonging in health sciences: Undergraduate perceptions of LGBTQ+ campus climate
Lenhle Mlangeni	Wits	Bokang Morake, Katlego Makhubu, Bontsi Pitsoe, Anastasia Ugwuanyi	e-Poster	—	Learning where the need is: A student-led clinic and the meaning of social accountability
Lizelle Crous	Wits	Shirra Moch	Oral	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Cultivating scholarly identity in specialist nursing: From roots to embodiment of clinical scholarship
Mantoa Mokhachane	Wits	Ann George, Lionel Green-Thompson, Ayelet Kuper, Tasha Wyatt	Oral	Equity, Access & Social Accountability	Medical students navigating space and power during South Africa's #FeesMustFall protests (2015–2016)
Mohammed Patel	Wits	—	e-Poster	—	Pre-clinical simulation: Supporting clinical readiness in undergraduate medical education
Moyahabo Rampya	Wits	Esther Cele, Shelden Hartmannsgruber, Natalie Shemesh, Hope Taylor, Aviva Ruch	Campfire	Empathy-Driven Innovation & Practice	Reimagining early clinical exposure amid curriculum reform in undergraduate medical education
Nabeela Sujee	Wits	Mapule Moroke-Morais, Gabriel Reedy	Campfire	Empathy-Driven Innovation & Practice	Debriefing the lonely debriefer: Holding space for those who hold space
Ngalulawa Kone	Wits	Nabeela Sujee, Lizelle Crous	e-Poster	—	Beyond CanMEDS-aligned EPAs: Digital literacy as a missing core competency in chemical pathology
Njabulo Ndaba	Wits	Melissa Olifant, Humaira Ismail, Shamara Hochstadter, Mohammed Patel	e-Poster	—	For Tech's Sake!?
Nonhlanhla Sefatsa	Wits	—	Campfire	—	Sim anywhere: When the environment becomes the simulator
Paula Barnard-Ashton	Wits	Lato Sete	e-Poster	—	Microlearning for self-directed learning in health sciences education: A scoping review
Rebecca Coetzee	Wits	Nabeela Sujee, Mohammed Patel, Lizelle Crous	Oral	Empathy-Driven Innovation & Practice	Building clinical confidence and competence through obstetric simulation in clinical associate students
Renelle Reddy	Wits	Mohammed Patel	Campfire	Empathy-Driven Innovation & Practice	Building confidence before the bedside: An interactive, collaborative approach to digitized partogram learning
Shirra Moch	Wits	Lizelle Crous, Carol Hartmann	Workshop	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Triangles of education: A practical navigation tool for designing learning experiences

Presenter	Presenter institution	Contributing authors	Format	Theme	Title
Stuart Pattinson	Wits	Anique Atherley, Hans Savelberg	Oral	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	‘Like an infant trying to run a marathon’: A longitudinal audio diary study exploring the transition from medical school to internship
Dini Mawela	SMU	Risenga Chauke, Hanlie Pitout, Moliehi Matlala, Gerda Botha, Kebiditswe Masike, Douglas Maleka, Patrick Demana	Oral	Empathy-Driven Innovation & Practice	Elective courses in undergraduate health professions training programs – multiple stakeholder views at SMU
Galetshetse Vallery Diale	SMU	Hanlie Pitout, Fasloen Adams, Nicola Plastow	Campfire	—	Erile... Kelenketla! When occupation screams Sepedi: Listening to Bapedi narratives
Gerda Botha	SMU	Honey Mabuza, Kamelia Nashed, AO Adefolalu, Helga Hambrock, Ernesto Blanco-Blanco	e-Poster	—	A needs analysis for One Health and inclusivity topics in undergraduate health professions training programs
Hanlie Pitout	SMU	Katerina Ehlert, Ina Treadwell, Olaf Fritze	Oral	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Using holographic technology on the LOOOP curriculum mapping platform to support planned IPECP across health sciences programs
Hanlie Pitout	SMU	Fatima Ismail	Workshop	—	IPE-in-a-Box: A toolkit for designing implementable interprofessional learning activities
Hildegard Jo-Anne Vink	SMU	—	Campfire	Empathy-Driven Innovation & Practice	Agency of supervised work integrated learning in curriculum development for future nurse educators
Ishmerelda Mabena-Segoe	SMU	Nkhensani Mabunda	Oral	Empathy-Driven Innovation & Practice	The human side of PBL: Psychological well-being of health sciences students and academic staff: An integrative review
Kamelia Nashed	SMU	LH Mabuza, Keven Hlaise, Tladi Ledibane, Gerda Botha, Christian Saidiya, Tebogo Thaba	e-Poster	—	An evolving socially responsive framework for evaluating research skills training in undergraduate medical programs
Katerina Ehlert	SMU	Ina Treadwell, Olaf Fritze, Hanlie Pitout	Oral	Interprofessional & Collaborative Practice	Using holographic technology on the LOOOP curriculum mapping platform to support planned IPECP across health sciences programs
Kebiditswe Masike	SMU	Dini Mawela, Gerda Botha, Ina Treadwell, Illoise Ras	e-Poster	—	Comparison of graduate attributes and competencies in MBChB and Dentistry programmes using LOOOP curriculum mapping
Kebiditswe Masike	SMU	Nonhlanhla Nzima-Chiloane, Sandeepa Rajbaran Singh	e-Poster	—	Piloting an escape room pedagogy in maxillofacial and oral radiology education: Design, implementation, and initial outcomes
Langalibalele Honey Mabuza	SMU	Musa Moshabela	Oral	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	The experiences of undergraduate medical students and their trainers on generalist medical practice training in South Africa
Mahlako Makhubela	SMU	Eunice Seekoe, Jayne Donaldson, Elelwani Ramugondo, Lieketseng Ned, Frank Kronenberg	Oral	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Current practices in teaching activity selection within South African occupational therapy programmes

Presenter	Presenter institution	Contributing authors	Format	Theme	Title
Mary Masetla	SMU	Mpho Morule, Gezani Miyambu	e-Poster	—	Perceptions of the School of Dentistry students towards student support services at a South African university
Ntandoyakhe Nxumalo	SMU	Lindi Zikalala-Mabope	Oral	Interprofessional & Collaborative Practice	Interprofessional education and collaborative practice among health sciences students at a Gauteng university, South Africa
Phumzile Skosana	SMU	—	Oral	Empathy-Driven Innovation & Practice	Listening beyond the curriculum: Empathy as innovation in health professions education
Thabisile Ndlovu	SMU	Maphoshane Nchabeleng, Andrew Musyoki, Gerda Botha, Ina Treadwell, Iloise Ras, Abegail Dlova, Moshaba Khaba, Nosipho Thobakgale, Siesta Rashopole, Ramokone Maphoto	e-Poster	—	Curriculum transformation from a discipline-based to a body-system integrated curriculum: Review using LOOOP
Veena Abraham	SMU	—	Oral	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Designing for accountability: Redesigning an anatomy and physiology workshop using a rotational OSPE model
Zulaikha Mawela	SMU	Andria Harmzen, Andile Zulu, Risuna Baloyi	Oral	Interprofessional & Collaborative Practice	Interprofessional ethics presentations: Learning experiences of final-year students
Annah Lesunyane	UP	Enos Ramano, Karin van Niekerk	Oral	Empathy-Driven Innovation & Practice	Support services for health science students: Experiences of university staff
Corne Nel	UP	Marlize Cochrane-Boeyens	Oral	Global & Local Trends Shaping HPE	Beyond human mentorship: Integrating AI and peer support to navigate student success in health sciences
Dianne Manning	UP	Tania Buys, Kitty Uys, Melandri Claassen	Workshop	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Engaging student diversity in four dimensions: Exploring universal design for learning
Diphale Joyce Mothabeng	UP	—	e-Poster	—	Innovative undergraduate research supervision – a physiotherapy case
Ishana Gangaram	UP	—	e-Poster	—	From chaos to clarity: Horizon scanning as a catalyst for transforming health professions education
Kitty Uys	UP	Dianne Manning, Tania Buys, Melandri Claassen	Workshop	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Engaging student diversity in four dimensions: Exploring universal design for learning
Kitty Uys	UP	Tania Buys, Dianne Manning, Melandri Claassen	e-Poster	—	Designing for all: Evaluating universal design for learning in an occupational therapy undergraduate programme
Muhle Komati	UP	Elzette Korkie, Robert Prince	Campfire	Interprofessional & Collaborative Practice	Development of a clinical readiness diagnostic assessment tool for third-year physiotherapy students
Muhle Komati	UP	Elzette Korkie, Robert Prince	Oral	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Development of a clinical readiness diagnostic assessment tool for third-year physiotherapy students

Presenter	Presenter institution	Contributing authors	Format	Theme	Title
Nontembiso Magida	UP	Georgia Evangelellis, Lizette Le Roux, Simamkele Ndlwana, Ashley Pretorius, George Spershott, Lara Strauss	e-Poster	—	Physiotherapy students' perceptions, attitudes, and intentions toward clinical practice in older adults' nursing homes in Pretoria
Owen Eales	UP	—	Oral	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Co-creating clinical learning environments in decentralised primary health care: An adapted World Café study with medical students
Refilwe Morwane	UP	—	PechaKucha	—	Implementation of an Allied Health programme in a low- and middle-income country: A reflexive narrative from Botswana
Sharifa Moosa Tayob	UP	Karin van Niekerk, Pam Gretschel	Oral	Empathy-Driven Innovation & Practice	Exploring the use of artificial intelligence chatbots to develop competence in family-centred practice: Perspectives of occupational therapy students from South Africa
Tania Buys	UP	—	Oral	Navigating the Next Era of HPE	Pragmatism in curriculum development: Using curriculum documents, educator perspectives, and graduate feedback to develop a micro-curriculum theme framework
Tania Buys	UP	Dianne Manning, Kitty Uys, Melandri Claassen	Workshop	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Engaging student diversity in four dimensions: Exploring universal design for learning
Vanessa Steenkamp	UP	Marlize Cochrane-Boeyens	Oral	Equity, Access & Social Accountability	From exit to insight: Student discontinuation as institutional learning in health sciences
Werner Cordier	UP	Charné Scully	Oral	Navigating the Next Era of HPE	Determining academic and non-academic factors for a pharmacology education success prediction model: A scoping review
Werner Cordier	UP	Deshni Naidoo, Kimesh Naidoo, Simone Dawson-Titus, Beloved Mashava	Workshop	Navigating the Next Era of HPE	Ethical publishing in the age of GenAI: Critical support or a harbinger of scientific decay
Abrie Senekal	UJ	—	Campfire	Interprofessional & Collaborative Practice	Collaboration across disciplines – disaster simulation with EM registrars in UJ Rescue Centre
Abrie Senekal	UJ	Rolivhuwa Muavha	e-Poster	—	The state of mental wellbeing of emergency medical care students at a university in Johannesburg
Amina Hajat	UJ	Karien Henrico, Andrew Makkink	e-Poster	—	Ultrasound students' perception of psychological safety in workplace-based learning environments
Bonginkosi Thango	UJ	Lerato Matshaka	Oral	Empathy-Driven Innovation & Practice	Assessing factors influencing students' digital competence development in technology-enhanced learning environments
Chamandra Kammies	UJ	Elize Archer, Penelope Engel-Hills, Mariette Volschenk	Oral	Global & Local Trends Shaping HPE	Curriculum considerations to prepare future radiographers for an AI-assisted healthcare environment: A scoping review
Fatima Ismail	UJ	Hanlie Pitout	Workshop	—	IPE-in-a-Box: A toolkit for designing implementable interprofessional learning activities

Presenter	Presenter institution	Contributing authors	Format	Theme	Title
Lynne Hazell	UJ	Hanlie Pitout, Rahab Mothapo, Lindi Zikalala-Mabope, Suzan Nyalunga, Mary Masetla, Grace Phalwane, Khomotso Motiang	Oral	Interprofessional & Collaborative Practice	The use of simulated patients during an interprofessional education and collaborative practice event for collaborative care
Manoko Molabe	UJ	—	Oral	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Interprofessional simulation as a catalyst for future-ready graduates in transformative learning environments
Manoko Molabe	UJ	Marvin Jansen, Nabeela Sujee, Ahmad Jassen, Lisema Rammea	Workshop	Future-Ready Graduates & Learning Environments	Simulation for rural and district health training: Designing for context and impact
Radmila Razlog	UJ	Zijing Hu, Cherie Kruger	e-Poster	—	Learning without shortcuts: Undergraduate reflections on AI restriction and deep learning in health sciences research
Richard Rasesemola	UJ	—	Oral	Interprofessional & Collaborative Practice	Technology-enhanced interprofessional simulation in higher education healthcare training
Zijing Hu	UJ	Radmila Razlog, Cherie Ann Kruger, Shanli Yang, Weilin Liu, Jingsong Wu, Caixia Qiu, Weixiang Yuan	e-Poster	—	Reframing human–AI interaction as pedagogical synergy in health sciences education
Bonita Johnson	TUT	—	e-Poster	—	Reimagining a learning management system to enhance student engagement: Reflections on designing a future-ready learning environment
Lynton Hazelhurst	TUT	Bonita Johnson	PechaKucha	—	Modelling the message: Interprofessional co-teaching in clinical education and mentoring