Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice (IPECP) & Education for Sustainable Healthcare (ESH)

WEBINAR Wed 14 October 2026; 14-15h30 on Teams

Time		Presenters
14h00-14h10	**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**	Dr James Irlam (ESH SIG Chair) & Dr Luzaan Africa (IPECP SIG Chair)
14h10-14h20	**Interprofessional Education in theory**	Prof Gérard Filies
14h10-14h25	**Interprofessional Education & ESH in Curriculum**	Dr Luzaan Africa
14h25-14h40	**Bridging Silos: Multidisciplinary Learning and Generative AI for Future-Ready Health Science Graduates.**	Ms. Melishnee Ruthanam & Dr Shamanie Govender
14h40-14h55	**Minor Procedures, Wider Impact: Can Decentralised Care Make Healthcare More Sustainable?**	Dr Charné Diedericks
14h55-15h10	**Empowering Students for Sustainability: The 2026 Planetary Health Report Card (PHRC) of the UCT Faculty of Health Sciences**	Dr James Irlam
15h10-15h30	**Q&A** **CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS**	

SPEAKERS

Prof Gérard Filies (Interprofessional Education Unit, University of the Western Cape)

Prof Gérard Filies is a registered Occupational Therapist with a BSc in Occupational Therapy from the University of the Western Cape (UWC), an MPhil in Health Sciences Education from Stellenbosch University, and a PhD from UWC. His doctoral research focused on developing an interprofessional education model to embed core interprofessional collaborative practice competencies in allied health curricula. He is the Chairperson of UWC's Interprofessional Education Unit (IPEU) in the Faculty of Community and Health Sciences and the Africa Interprofessional Education Network (AfrIPEN).

Dr Luzaan Africa (Interprofessional Education Unit, University of the Western Cape)

Dr Luzaan Africa is a Senior Lecturer, IP Clinical Supervisor, and deputy Chair in the Interprofessional Education (IPE) Unit within the Faculty of Community and Health Sciences at UWC. She holds a BSc, MSc, and PhD in Physiotherapy, and is actively involved in IPE of health and social science students at UWC. Luzaan serves as the Conference Chair of the 2026 Africa IPE Network Conference and as Chair of the SAAHE IPECP Interest Group. Her current research focuses on the development of an IP clinical supervision model, as well as the advancement of IP care processes within student-led clinics.

Dr James Irlam, Dept. of Family, Community & Emergency Care (FaCE) & Division of Environmental Health, University of Cape Town

Dr James Irlam is a Senior Lecturer in the Primary Health Care Team of FaCE, and in the Division of Environmental Health at UCT Faculty of Health Sciences. James holds an MPhil in Epidemiology and an MSc in Climate Change & Development from UCT, and his PhD was on ESH in South African HPE. James is the founder and Chair of the ESH Group in SAAHE, and is leading curricular integration of ESH at UCT.

Melishnee Ruthanam (Department of Community Health Studies, Durban University of Technology)

Ms. Melishnee Ruthanam is a Lecturer in the Environmental Health program and is a qualified Environmental Health Practitioner by profession. She is registered with the Health professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). Melishnee has a Master's degree in Environmental Health and is currently registered for her PhD in Environmental Health. Her research focus area is Climate Change Education and Environmental Health. She has a keen interest in Climate Change Communication and advancing research in the field of Environmental Health.

Dr. Shamanie Govender (Department of Biomedical and Clinical Technology, Durban University of Technology)

Dr. Govender's professional journey is marked by a successful transition from clinical leadership to academia; prior to joining DUT in 2020, she spent over a decade in the private sector as a Unit and Regional Cluster Manager in dialysis units. Her academic and research contributions have been widely recognized, and her focus is improving quality of life for patients with Chronic Renal Failure, and on socio-economically accessible healthcare solutions. Dr. Govender is currently pursuing a Post Graduate Diploma in Higher Education at DUT.

Dr Charné Diedericks (University of Pretoria)

Dr Diedericks is a district medical officer who has worked in Tshwane for six years. She studied at the University of Pretoria, where she also serves as an extraordinary lecturer. She is passionate about clinical training and developing sustainable services in the public health sector.

To find out more, please visit the SAAHE webpage and sign up for our SIG mailing lists

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