

The 19th Annual African Vaccinology Course

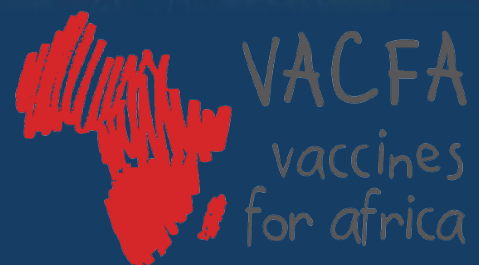


Course Report

4 – 8 November 2024

Vaccines for Africa Initiative (VACFA)

Cape Town, South Africa



Foreword

We are delighted to present the report of the 19th Annual African Vaccinology Course (AAVC), convened by the Vaccines for Africa Initiative (VACFA) from 4 – 8 November 2024. This year's course brought together 42 faculty members and 47 participants from across 29 African countries and beyond, creating a vibrant platform for learning, knowledge exchange, and collaboration.

The 19th AAVC underscored the resilience and innovation of Africa's immunization systems in addressing pressing challenges, including emerging diseases, humanitarian crises, the climate crisis, and gaps in vaccine equity. Through a comprehensive scientific programme delivered by leading vaccinology experts, participants explored cutting-edge strategies to overcome these challenges while strengthening immunization programs across the continent.

A key highlight of this year's course was the emphasis on collaboration and inclusivity. Participants, representing diverse disciplines and roles within immunization systems, shared insights and practical experiences that enriched discussions. Together, we explored solutions to enhance vaccine delivery, reach under-served populations, strengthen community engagement, and meaningfully integrate immunization into broader health systems, fostering resilience and equity in vaccine access.

The think tank session, case studies, and presentations reaffirmed the importance of collective action in tackling vaccine-preventable diseases, addressing the concerns of the communities we serve, and safeguarding broader public health across Africa. Ultimately, participants were empowered with actionable knowledge to drive positive change within their respective countries.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our Course Organizers, Scientific Programme Committee, Selection Committee, Session Chairs, and Faculty Members for their exceptional contributions to making this event a success. We also thank our sponsors and partners for their unwavering support in ensuring the continued impact of the AAVC in Africa!

As we celebrate the achievements of the 19th AAVC, we eagerly look forward to the 20th anniversary of this course in 2025—a milestone that will continue to inspire innovation, collaboration, and progress in African vaccinology.



A/Prof Benjamin Kagina



Dr Edina Amponsah-Dacosta



Prof Rudzani Muloiwa

Conveners, 19th Annual African Vaccinology Course

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Executive summary

“Building Vaccinology Expertise in Africa”

This report reflects on the 19th Annual African Vaccinology Course (AAVC) held from 4 – 8 November 2024 at the Southern Sun Newlands Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa. The AAVC is organized by the Vaccines for Africa Initiative (VACFA), based at the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

The overarching goal of the AAVC is to develop the vaccinology expertise needed to better support national immunization programmes across the continent. This course is a popular training programme targeted at diverse individuals working in the field of vaccines and immunization in Africa. Cumulatively, 1,126 participants have attended the course since its inception in 2005.

A key feature of the AAVC is the excellent and diverse team of local and international faculty members who bring to the course a wealth of expertise. Topics covered at the AAVC are focused on providing participants with a comprehensive overview of vaccinology, basic immunology, Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI), vaccine communication and advocacy, as well as up to date information on new, underused, and future vaccines.

On successful completion of the course, it is anticipated that participants will be able to improve their contributions towards the optimal delivery of immunization services, building sustainable research capacity including phase I – IV clinical trials, strengthening local vaccine manufacturing capacity, and generating vaccine demand by becoming strong advocates for vaccination in Africa!

A win for the 19th Annual African Vaccinology Course!

The 19th AAVC was a massive success! Participants reported that the course was well organized and the content informative. We are pleased to have met the goals of the AAVC and the expectations of the participants in attendance this year.

At a glance: The 19th Annual African Vaccinology Course

Course Overview

5 Days



4 – 8 November 2024

30+ talks & activities

Themes: Outbreaks, Innovation, Resilience, Equity, Policy, Community Engagement



Engagement & Innovation

Interactive Think Tank Session

Role-played solutions to vaccine demand generation

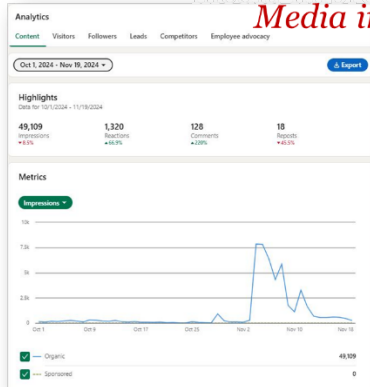


Networking Event: Fostered professional, cross-country collaboration

Media Outreach

>50,000 media impressions

Media impressions



Participant Highlights



29 African countries represented



47 in-person attendees
+200 registered online

Diverse roles: Healthcare Providers, Researchers, National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs), Programme Partners, Others

Faculty Contributions

42

Expert faculty members



Local and international thought leaders in vaccinology

Impact Metrics

1,126

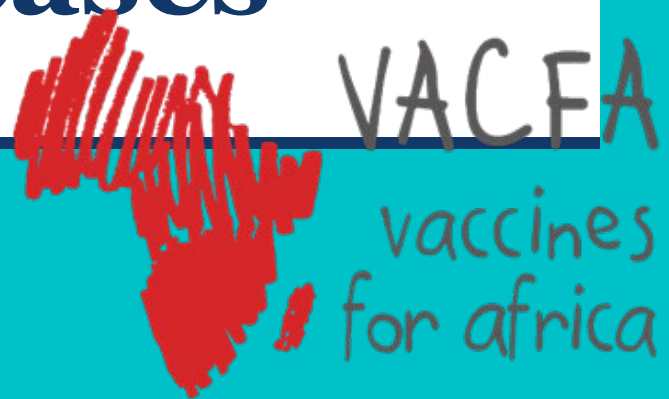
Participants trained since inception in 2005

47 African countries reached



VACFA's vision

**At VACFA, our
vision is an Africa
free of vaccine-
preventable
diseases**



Institutional information

Course name

The 19th Annual African Vaccinology Course (AAVC)

Host organization

Vaccines for Africa Initiative (VACFA), University of Cape Town

Institutional officials

A/Prof Benjamin M. Kagina (Co-Director, VACFA)

Prof Rudzani Muloiwa (Head, Paediatrics and Child Health & Co-Director, VACFA)

Dr Edina Amponsah-Dacosta (Research Officer, VACFA)

Institutional support

Ms Alana Keyser (Project Manager, VACFA)

Mrs Xolie Ndlela (Administrative Officer, VACFA)

Mr Saleem Satardien (e-Learning Specialist, VACFA)

Prof Gregory Hussey (Senior Advisor, VACFA)

Course convener

Dr Edina Amponsah-Dacosta

Course co-conveners

A/Prof Benjamin Kagina

Prof Rudzani Muloiwa

Primary contact information

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Website

<https://health.uct.ac.za/vacfa>

Course venue

[Southern Sun Newlands](#), Cape Town, South Africa

Narrative report

Background

In August 2024, the Vaccines for Africa Initiative (VACFA) opened a call for applications for the 19th Annual African Vaccinology Course (AAVC). This call (Figure 1) was circulated widely via VACFA's [website](#) and through emails to our networks including our rich pool of AAVC alumni, faculty members, and course partners. We also made use of our social media platforms which boast a large followership (over 3 000 combined followers), including LinkedIn ([VACFA-Vaccines for Africa](#)), X ([@VACFA1](#)), and Facebook ([Vaccines for Africa](#)).

The call for applications was open for three weeks and applicants were directed to an online application portal designed in [Jotform](#), which proved extremely useful in collating large numbers of applications and supporting accurate documentation. At the close of applications on 9th September 2024, we received an overwhelming 405 applications from 39 African countries (Figure 2). Historically, participation in the AAVC has been highly competitive. Following a stringent screening process led by our Independent Selection Committee, the success rate of applications this year was 13.6%.



Figure 1. Call for applications for the 19th Annual African Vaccinology Course

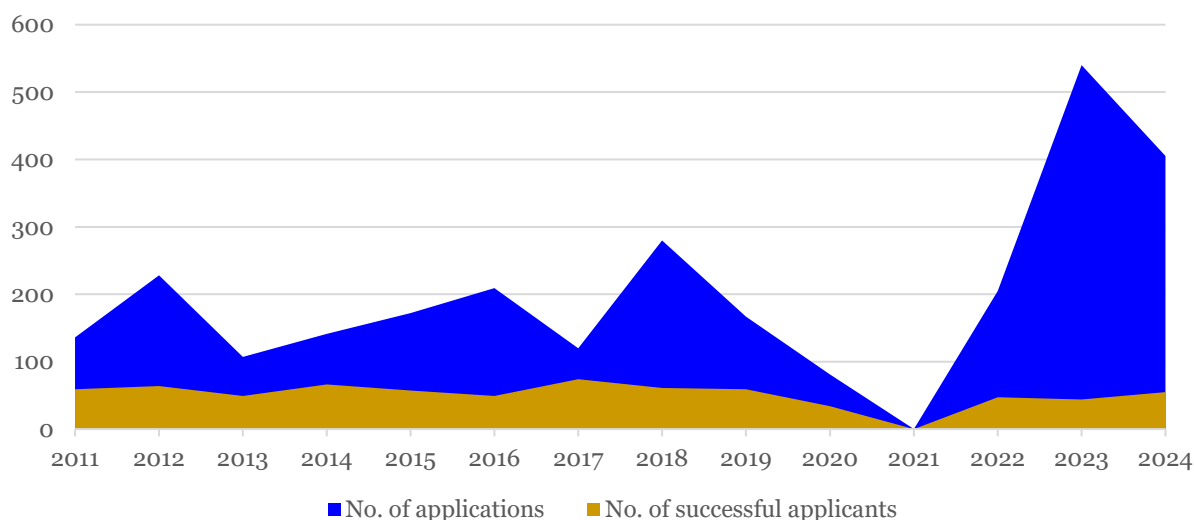


Figure 2. Number of applications received vs number of successful applicants, 2011 – 2024.

Note: the AAVC was not held in 2021 due to disruptions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic

Aims of the 19th AAVC

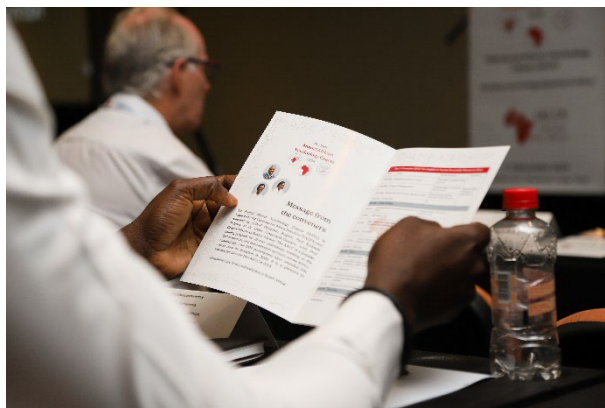
We sought to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of current topics in vaccinology and to promote inter-country dialogue around challenges facing immunization programmes and opportunities for innovation in Africa. Broadly, the aim of the 19th AAVC was to develop vaccinology expertise for Africa and promote vaccine advocacy across the continent. To this end, the goal of the AAVC is to enhance knowledge on vaccinology among immunization policymakers including NITAGs, healthcare workers at the coalface of immunization services, individuals working in the pharmaceutical industry, as well as basic scientists involved in vaccine-related research within the African continent.

The specific aims of the 19th AAVC were:

1. To provide participants with essential and up-to-date knowledge on vaccines.
2. To encourage dialogue about the successes, challenges, and opportunities to improve national immunization programmes in Africa.
3. To provide a forum for sharing country-specific immunization policymaking experiences and identify areas for collaboration and scientific capacity development.
4. To foster communication and networking among African vaccinologists.

Course content and delivery

Prior to attending the AAVC in-person, participants were invited to complete an online pre-course intended to provide foundational insights into key concepts in vaccinology. Led by VACFA's e-Learning Specialist, Mr Saleem Satardien, this online pre-course is designed to allow for self-paced learning. It is delivered via the University of Cape Town's electronic learning management system, [Vula](#). Topics include, an overview of vaccinology, basic principles of immunity, adverse events following immunization (AEFI), targeted immunization, challenges facing vaccination, and vaccine stakeholders. Participants are required to complete a quiz after each topic to assess their understanding of the concepts learned.



The course programme for the 19th AAVC (*see Appendix*) was structured around five main themes, each addressing critical aspects of the African vaccinology landscape, namely, (i) New Insights on Vaccine Preventable Diseases in Africa, (ii) Essentials of Vaccinology, (iii) Manufacturing & Delivering New / Underused Vaccines in Africa, (iv) Vaccinating Under-Served Populations, and (v) Vaccine Decision-Making and Communication in Africa. Carefully developed by the Scientific Programme Committee (Prof Gregory Hussey, Dr Edina Amponsah-Dacosta, A/Prof Benjamin Kagana, and Prof Rudzani Muloiwa) in close collaboration with our faculty, these

thematic areas ensured that participants not only gained technical knowledge but also developed a broader understanding of vaccinology's real-world applications and challenges within African contexts.

The training model adopted for the 19th AAVC was based on proven adult learning principles¹ and included didactic lectures, interactive discussion sessions, and group exercises. This training format encouraged active engagement, experience sharing, and collaboration among participants which enriched the overall learning process.

¹ Taylor, D. C. M. & Hamdy, H. Adult learning theories: Implications for learning and teaching in medical education: AMEE Guide No. 83. *Medical Teacher* 35, e1561–e1572 (2013)

Getting to know our participants and faculty members

Since its inception in 2005, the AAVC has seen cumulative attendance surpassing 1,000 participants, many of whom have gone on to positively impact immunization programs and vaccine policy at national and international levels. Building on nearly two decades of remarkable educational impact, this year's course welcomed participants from across the continent to Cape Town, where they engaged in intensive learning and discussions aimed at strengthening immunization expertise and advocacy throughout Africa.

The 19th AAVC brought together 47 participants from 29 African countries (Figure 3) with an impressive representation across fields including Essential Programme on Immunization (EPI) managers and officers, healthcare providers from both private and public sectors, NITAGs, academic researchers, postdocs, and postgraduate students, global and regional immunization programme partners and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the pharmaceutical industry. This diversity fundamentally contributed to the dynamic exchange of ideas and the collaborative spirit of the course. For a 4th consecutive year, the AAVC was delivered in a hybrid format. The opportunity for online participation was extended to all other applicants. Overall, 235 individuals registered for the online format and on average, about 60 – 70 participants joined in each day via [Zoom](#) and remained engaged throughout the five-day course period.

As in previous years, our faculty representation boasts local and international experts spanning the full spectrum of vaccinology, from vaccine development and immunology to media, advocacy, and programme implementation, enriching the course's interdisciplinary approach (Figure 4). This year, our distinguished faculty comprised 42 experts who delivered lectures, led discussions, and facilitated sessions and workshops.

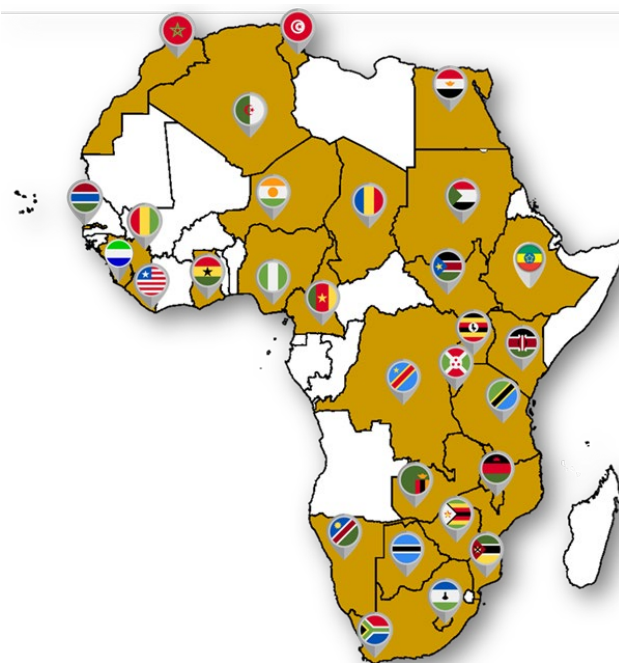


Figure 3. Geographic representation of participants of the 19th Annual African Vaccinology Course

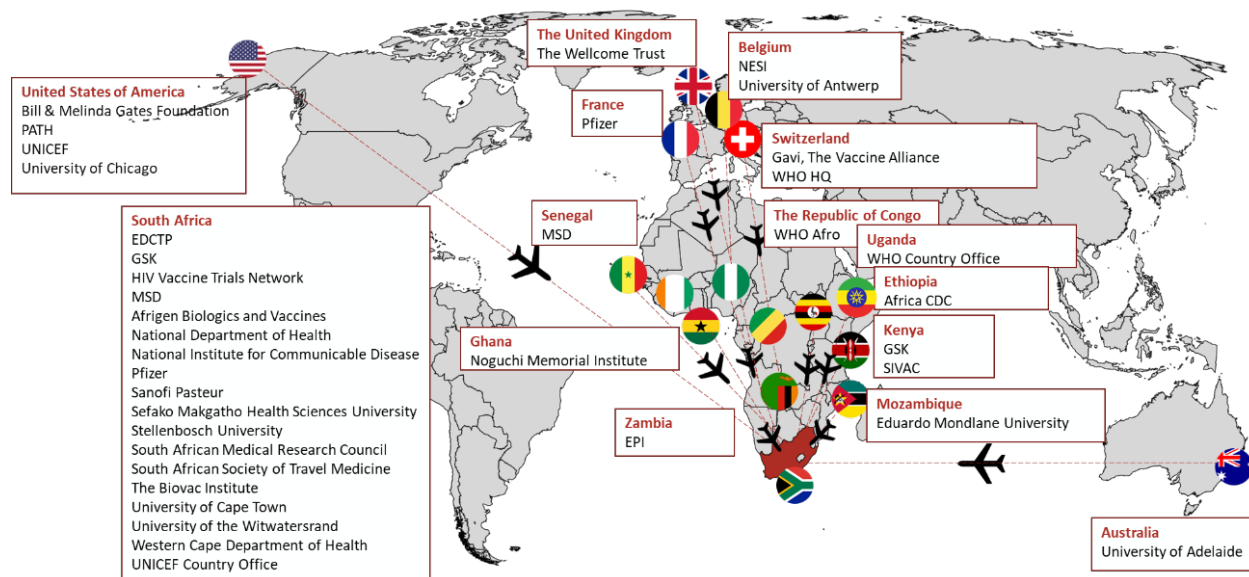


Figure 4. Summary of the expansive faculty representation at the AAVC over the years

What our participants and faculty have to say



*“It is an amazing course, from the presenters, the presentations, the facilitators and the place itself. I also felt a subtle theme throughout the presentations of vaccines in Africa, for Africa by Africa.” — **Anesu Venge**, Pharmacist, Zimbabwe*

*“It was such a brilliant and enjoyable week. I think it was the best ever VACFA [AAVC] to date.” — **Beverley Cowper**, Medical Officer, South Africa*



*“As the first Moroccan representative ... it was both an honor and a privilege to be part of such a prestigious and impactful event. Being able to learn from renowned experts ... as well as connect with passionate and inspiring individuals from all corners of Africa, has been an invaluable experience” — **Imane Belkourati**, Head of Quality Assurance, Morocco*

*“Thank you very much ... for all you do to support vaccinology efforts in Africa and thank you for the opportunity to participate in this course, I’m very grateful as I have learnt quite a lot in this past week.” — **Laura Muzingwani**, Cervical Cancer Prevention Lead Physician, Namibia*



Course format and engagement

As stated, this year's programme continued the hybrid course model introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring both inclusivity and expanded access for participants from across the continent. This approach allowed in-person and online attendees to engage fully with the course's rich content and interactive sessions, reflecting the AAVC's commitment to addressing the growing demand for vaccinology training.

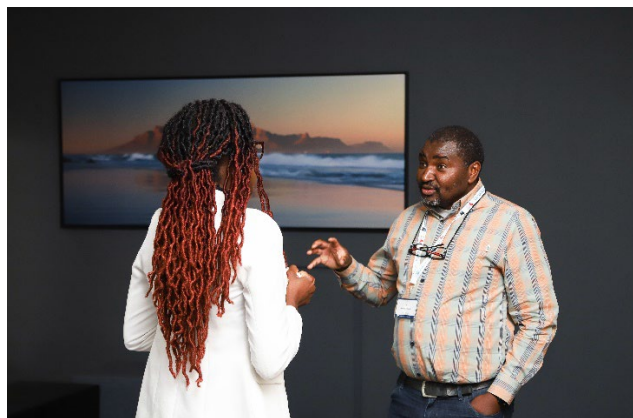


To enhance engagement and shared learning, the course incorporated dedicated discussion sessions. These facilitated the exchange of diverse perspectives, enriching collective understanding and generating innovative ideas on tackling real-world immunization challenges.



The course programme included a Think Tank session, a collaborative and creative exercise that united both in-person and online participants. Facilitated by Dr Liza Rossi, participants worked in groups throughout the week to address practical challenges, like navigating conflicts in parental consent versus adolescent assent for human papillomavirus vaccination, stakeholder engagement, community mobilization, and considerations for local contexts towards strengthening vaccine demand generation. By role-playing real-life scenarios, participants applied newly acquired concepts to develop solutions, strengthening problem-solving skills, and fostering peer-to-peer learning.

It is crucial to note that as a core feature of the AAVC, networking was intentionally woven into the course design to foster collaboration and lasting professional relationships across the continent. Participants were provided with ample opportunities to connect with peers and the faculty during sessions and through informal interactions beyond the dedicated networking event scheduled on the first day of the course. This event created a platform for attendees to build connections, share experiences, and explore potential collaborations, reinforcing the AAVC's reputation as a hub for vaccinology professionals across Africa.



Participants and faculty members engaged in key discussions during the 19th AAVC

To support continued learning, all course materials, including presentations and session recordings, were made available to participants. This ensured that the knowledge gained during the course could be revisited and applied in participants' ongoing work, further amplifying the impact of the AAVC. Upon successful completion, participants were awarded certificates of attendance—47 for in-person participants and 14 for online participants. Online certification criteria included attending a minimum of 3 hours on average per day, engaging actively during sessions, and completing a post-course evaluation survey.

Marketing and communication

Leveraging our website and social media platforms, we widely disseminated information about the 19th AAVC, ensuring extensive outreach and visibility. Impressively, content shared via our [LinkedIn](#) page garnered 32,231 organic impressions over the five-day period alone! Our Communications Coordinator, Ms. Hilary Basson, and Project Manager, Ms. Alana Keyser, played an integral role in planning, designing, and implementing external communication strategies and messaging. Their efforts were instrumental in increasing public awareness about the course and driving engagement with our stakeholders.

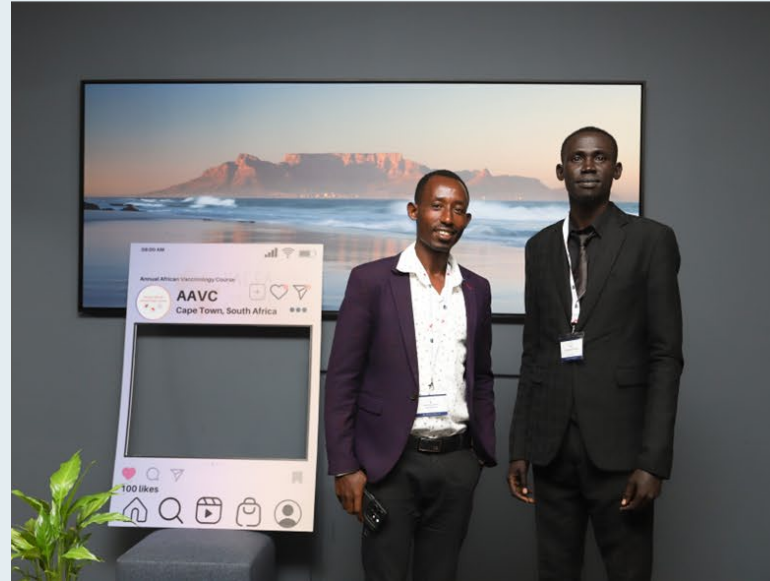
In addition to online outreach, the presence of our photographer, Ms. Je'nine May, ensured that key aspects of the course and interactions were professionally captured. These visuals not only documented the essence of the 19th AAVC but also enriched our storytelling by showcasing the energy, collaboration, and diversity of the participants and faculty. We also utilized targeted email campaigns, stakeholder networks, and media partnerships to further amplify the course's reach. These channels helped engage a diverse audience and underscore the importance of the AAVC in advancing vaccinology across Africa.

This multi-faceted approach to broader marketing and communication ensured that the 19th AAVC received the attention it deserved, strengthening its position as a flagship initiative for capacity building and collaboration in African vaccinology.



Faculty members and participants engaged in social media posts about the 19th AAVC

The 19th Annual African Vaccinology Course in Pictures



The 19th Annual African Vaccinology Course in Pictures



Daily participant evaluations of course sessions

Participants were invited to assess sessions presented each day by answering the following questions:

- How useful was the information presented in this session: [*title of each talk*]?
- List anything new learned that is applicable from today's sessions.
- Enter a word or phrase to describe how you feel about the training so far.



These daily evaluations were conducted through the interactive platform, [Wooclap](#). This ensured an optimal response rate from all participants and allowed for seamless monitoring and evaluation as the course progressed. Faculty were also able to receive real-time feedback on their sessions. In response to how useful a session was, participants could opt for the following:

- Mostly, what I have learned is important and I'll apply it.
- Some of it is useful to my work and some not.
- What I learned is interesting, but I don't think I'll be able to apply much of it.

The feedback received reflected the rich diversity in interests and overall, participants were very satisfied with the topics covered. Sessions evaluated consistently received high ratings, particularly for the focus on innovation in immunization, equity, and practical applications in African healthcare systems. Participants appreciated the blend of foundational knowledge and forward-looking strategies, with sessions on antimicrobial resistance, vaccine hesitancy, and maternal vaccination receiving the most positive responses for applicability. Notably, participants found the discussion on reaching vulnerable populations and addressing vaccine hesitancy particularly impactful and immediately applicable to their work. The inclusion of interactive elements, such as group discussions and the Think Tank session, was particularly valued for fostering collaboration and problem-solving. Suggestions for improvement often emphasized the need for additional case studies, expanded practical applications, and further scenario-based discussions to bridge foundational knowledge with real-world implementation. Overall, the evaluations reflected strong participant engagement, a sense of purpose, and an eagerness to apply the insights gained to strengthen immunization programs across the continent. The feedback underscores the importance of balancing foundational learning with actionable, context-specific strategies for future courses.

Post-course feedback survey

We conducted a post-AAVC feedback survey to obtain information that can be used to improve the organization and logistics of the course in 2025. Participants were asked to rate the overall delivery format, suggest improvements, identify additional topics of interest, evaluate facilitator expertise, highlight key takeaways, assess their confidence in applying new knowledge, identify potential barriers,

and propose ways for VACFA to support them beyond the course. The feedback from in-person and online participants highlighted both shared themes and distinct experiences.

How would you rate the overall delivery format (lectures, discussions, groupwork) of the course?

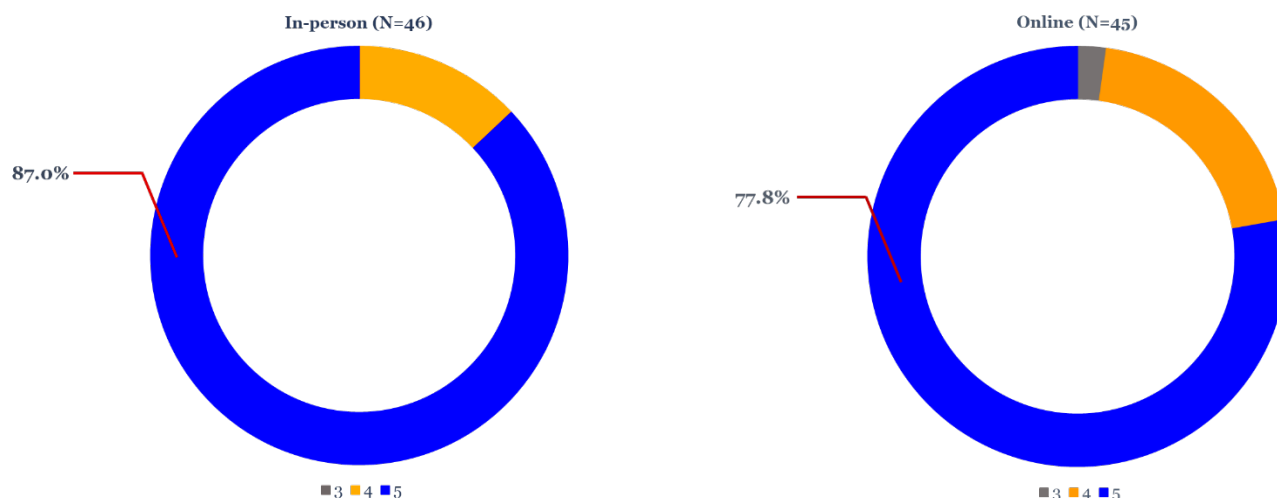


Figure 5. When asked to provide a rating on a scale of 1 to 5 (being the highest), both online and in-person attendees indicated that the AAVC was delivered at an optimal standard

All attendees agreed that the facilitators were knowledgeable and felt confident in applying what they learned, although some mentioned barriers, such as limited resources and structural constraints within their healthcare systems. To enhance ongoing support, participants recommended that VACFA offer AAVC alumni regular updates, webinars, networking opportunities, and postgraduate training opportunities in vaccinology and public health. In terms of content for future AAVCs, participants expressed interest in additional topics like therapeutic vaccines, the role of vaccines in the one health approach, social and behavioural sciences, vaccine production and supply chain, leveraging artificial intelligence in vaccinology, vaccine financing and budget impact analysis, and regulatory affairs and processes.



Participants shared their insights and key takeaways from the 19th AAVC

Challenges faced during the 19th AAVC

The overwhelming demand for the AAVC continues to surpass our capacity to meet the high popularity of this training program. While we received a substantial number of high-quality applications this year, limited funding meant that we could only provide full scholarships to a select few. We firmly believe that finances should not be a barrier to expanding vaccinology expertise in Africa. As we continue to explore additional educational and conference grants, our approach to adopting a hybrid model has allowed for online attendance by additional participants who despite having a demonstrable need for training and being eligible for scholarships, are not able to attend the course in-person. Unfortunately, there are several challenges with online attendance including time zone differences, as well as limited internet access or unstable networks, which limits participant engagement, networking opportunities, and ability to actively participate in group exercises. Further to this, participants are unlikely to secure adequate leave in order to attend the course online for all five days. As such, very few participants were able to attend the online format for a minimum of 3 hours on average per day, limiting the number of certificates issued. It is our hope that by making course materials available on our [website](#), alumni will be able to engage with content they may have missed.



VACFA's vision is, "an Africa free of vaccine preventable diseases"

In addition to the limited funding available for this course, delayed disbursement and processing of awarded grants also pose a significant challenge to the organization of the AAVC. These delays impacted timelines for participants to apply for visas, which had a knock-on effect on booking flights, resulting in inflated airfare costs, limited flight options, and in some instances, participants not being able to attend the course altogether. Of the 55 successful applicants selected this year, only 47 were able to attend the course in-person.

Looking ahead to the 20th anniversary of the AAVC

As we close the curtain on the 19th AAVC, VACFA is encouraged by the continued positive feedback. We highly regard participants' suggestions for improvement. The Course Organizers remain committed to further developing the online pre-course content with the aim of establishing a dedicated online vaccinology course that extends the reach and maximizes the impact of the AAVC. In addition, VACFA will continue partnering with AAVC alumni and partners to strengthen the development of vaccinology expertise in Africa. Together with our partners, we look forward to an improved 20th AAVC in 2025.



Looking toward the next two decades of the AAVC, VACFA remains steadfast in its mission to shape the future of vaccinology in Africa. The ever-changing landscape of vaccines and immunization systems on the continent demands innovative approaches, strengthened partnerships, and unwavering commitment to equity and resilience. The 20th AAVC in 2025 will mark not just a milestone but a renewed pledge to empower the next generation of African vaccinologists. Together with our alumni, partners, and stakeholders, VACFA envisions a future where Africa leads in advancing immunization technologies, fostering sustainable systems, and achieving vaccine equity for all. With collaboration and forward thinking, the AAVC will continue to be a catalyst for transformative change in the fight against vaccine-preventable diseases, building a healthier and more resilient Africa for generations to come.



To a successful 19th Annual African Vaccinology Course in Cape Town, South Africa!

Acknowledgements

The success of the 19th AAVC was made possible through the collective efforts and contributions of many individuals and organizations.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the **Organizing Committee, Scientific Programme Committee, Independent Selection Committee, Session Chairs, and Faculty Members** for their dedication, expertise, and commitment to delivering a world-class learning experience.

We are deeply grateful to our venue partner, **Southern Sun Newlands**, for providing a conducive environment for the course, and to our travel agency, **Club Corporate**, for their efficient support in managing travel logistics. Our thanks also go to the **University of Cape Town**, particularly the **Office of the Dean** and the **Finance and Administrative Offices** within the **Faculty of Health Sciences**, as well as the **Office of the Director of Legal Services**, for their invaluable support.

We would like to specially acknowledge the **Directorship of VACFA** and **VACFA staff and students**, whose hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment were the backbone of this successful event.

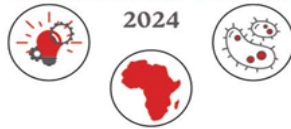
We extend our warmest congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the **participants of the 19th AAVC**. Your enthusiasm, engagement, and dedication to advancing vaccinology across Africa were at the heart of this course's success.

The 19th AAVC was made possible through generous donations and independent educational grants from the following partners:



Appendix: 19th AAVC programme

The 19th Annual African Vaccinology Course

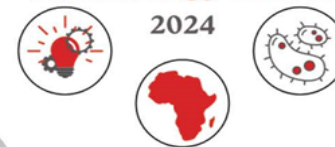


19th Annual African Vaccinology Course (AAVC)

"Building Vaccinology Expertise in Africa"



The 19th Annual African Vaccinology Course



Message from the conveners

The Annual African Vaccinology Course (AAVC) is organized by the Vaccines for Africa Initiative (VACFA) and convened by A/Prof Benjamin Kagina, Prof Rudzani Muloiwa, & Dr Edina Amponsah-Dacosta, with Prof Gregory Hussey as Senior Advisor. The AAVC is a popular training program for diverse individuals working in the field of vaccines and immunisation services across Africa. Cumulatively, over 1000 participants have attended this course since its inception in 2005. It is a pleasure to welcome you all to the 19th AAVC in 2024.

Welcome to Cape Town, and welcome to South Africa!

Day 1 (4 November 2024): New Insights on Vaccine Preventable Diseases in Africa			
Time	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator	Chairperson
0800-0830	Registrations (in person & virtual)	Xolie Ndlela, University of Cape Town, SA	Benjamin Kagina, University of Cape Town, SA
0830-0900	Welcome & Opening address	Benjamin Kagina, University of Cape Town, SA	
0900-0930	History of the AAVC & course objectives for 2024	Edina Amponsah-Dacosta, University of Cape Town, SA	
0930-1000	Introductions	All	
1000-1030	Coffee/Tea Break		
1030-1110	Emerging trends in vaccinology & implications for Africa	Gregory Hussey, University of Cape Town, SA	Gregory Hussey, University of Cape Town, SA
1110-1120	Discussions	All	
1120-1200	Mpox: Lessons from recent outbreaks and strategies for future preparedness	*Nicaise Ndembu, Africa CDC, Ethiopia	
1120-1200	Discussions	All	
1210-1250	Cholera in Africa: Outbreaks, public health response, and the role of vaccines	Beverley Cowper, The Biovac Institute, SA	
1250-1300	Discussions	All	
1300-1400	Lunch		
1400-1430	Warm up/energizer		Elizabeth Oduwole, University of Cape Town, SA
1430-1510	Immunisation during crises: Navigating humanitarian, conflict, and climate challenges	*Muhammad Farid, World Health Organization, Somalia	
1510-1520	Discussions	All	
1520-1600	Resilience & innovation: Building stronger immunisation programs in Africa's dynamic landscape	Edina Amponsah-Dacosta, University of Cape Town, SA	
1610-1700	Preparations for Think-Tank Session	All	
17:00-1730	Close of Day 1	All	
1800-2100	Dinner & networking session		

*Remote Speaker

Day 2 (5 November 2024): Essentials of Vaccinology			
Time	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator	Chairperson
0800-0830	Basic principles of immunology & applications in vaccinology	Elisa Nemes, University of Cape Town, SA	Imen Ayouni Ep Labidi, University of Cape Town, SA
0830-0840	Discussions	All	
0840-0920	Introduction to Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI)	Mike Gold, University of Adelaide, Australia	
0940-1000	Discussions	All	
0930-1000	Evolution of National Immunisation Programs in Africa: Past, present & future	Gregory Hussey, University of Cape Town, SA	
1000-1010	Discussions	All	
1010-1030	Coffee/Tea Break		
1030-1110	The Immunisation Agenda 2030 (IA2030)	Anthony Hawkridge, University of Cape Town, SA	Christine Ritchie, University of Cape Town, SA
1110-1120	Discussions	All	
1120-1200	GAVI funding models: Supporting sustainable immunization programs in Africa	*Michelle Jimenez, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance	
1200-1210	Discussions	All	
1210-1250	RSV vaccines & prevention of illness in infants - where are we now?	Heather Zar, University of Cape Town, SA	
1250-1300	Discussions	All	
1300-1400	Lunch		
1400-1430	Warm up/energizer		Tshepiso Mbangiwa, University of Cape Town, SA
1430-1510	Vaccine equity: Addressing gaps & challenges in vaccine access and implementation	Rudzani Muloiwa, University of Cape Town, SA	
1510-1520	Discussions	All	
1520-1600	Tackling cVDPV2 outbreaks in Africa: The role of nOPV2 in strengthening polio eradication efforts	Ananda Badyopadhyay, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USA	
1600-1610	Discussions	All	
1610-1650	TB Vaccines: Progress, challenges, and opportunities in Africa	Thomas Scriba, University of Cape Town, SA	
1650-1700	Discussions	All	
1700-1730	Close of Day 2		

Day 3 (6 November 2024): Manufacturing & delivering new / underused vaccines in Africa

Time	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator	Chairperson
0800-0830	Advances in local & regional vaccine manufacturing capacity: Experiences from the mRNA Hub, Afrigen	Pia Steigler, Afrigen Biologicals & Vaccines, SA	Anthony Hawkrigde, University of Cape Town, SA
0830-0840	Discussions	All	
0840-0910	Meningococcal vaccines: Progress, challenges, and opportunities in Africa	Lauren Geraty, Sanofi, SA	
0910-0920	Discussions	All	
0920-0950	Hepatitis B birth-dose vaccination in Africa: Scaling up for impact	Micheal Besong, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Switzerland	
0950-1000	Discussions	All	
1000-1030	Coffee/Tea Break		
1030-1110	Maternal immunisation in Africa: Progress & challenges	Clare Cutland, University of Witwatersrand, SA	Susanne Noll, University of Cape Town, SA
1110-1120	Discussions	All	
1120-1200	HIV vaccines: Progress, challenges, and the way forward for Africa	Erica Andersen-Nissen, HIV Vaccine Trials Network, SA	
1200-1210	Discussions	All	
1210-1250	Targeted vaccination: Travellers	Albie de Frey, South African Society of Travel Medicine, SA	
1250-1300	Discussions	All	
1300-1400	Lunch		
1400-1430	Warm up/energizer		Benjamin Kagina, University of Cape Town, SA
1430-1510	New vaccine introductions: Principles and operational considerations	Jason Mwenda, Kenya	
1510-1520	Discussion	All	
1520-1600	HPV vaccination in Africa: Expanding coverage and overcoming barriers	Julie Copelyn, University of Cape Town, SA	
1600-1610	Discussion	All	
1610-	Close of Day 3		

*Remote Speaker

Day 4 (7 November 2024): Vaccinating under-served populations in Africa

Time	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator	Chairperson
0800-0840	Life course vaccination: Ensuring continuity and equity in immunisation for all	Sipho Dlamini, University of Cape Town, SA	Rudzani Muloiwa, University of Cape Town, SA
0840-0900	Discussions	All	
0900-0940	Vaccine production in Africa: Charting a sustainable way forward	Morena Makhoana, The Biovac Institute, SA	
0940-1000	Discussions	All	
1000-1030	Coffee/Tea Break		
1030-1110	Malaria vaccines: SAGE recommendations and the way forward for Africa	*Opokua Ofori-Anyinam, GSK, SA	Hilary Basson, University of Cape Town, SA
1110-1120	Discussions	All	
1120-1200	Considerations for vaccination during mass gatherings	Salim Parker, South African Society of Travel Medicine, SA	
1200-1210	Discussions	All	
1210-1250	Vaccines as tools to combat antimicrobial resistance: Protecting under-served African populations	Eloise Du Toit, University of Cape Town, SA	
1250-1300	Discussions	All	
1300-1400	Lunch		
1400-1500	Think-tank on a topical vaccinology issue relevant to Africa	All	Liza Rossi, University of Cape Town, SA
1500-1530	Reflections on the think-tank session	All	
1530-1600	AAVC 2024 e-learning: Experiences and lessons learnt	Alana Keyser & Saleem Satardien, University of Cape Town, SA	
1600-1630	Close of Day 4		

*Remote Speaker

Day 5 (8 November 2024): Vaccine decision-making & communication in Africa			
Time	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator	Chairperson
0800-0830	NITAG Support Hub (NISH): Strengthening evidence-based decision-making in Africa	Benjamin Kagina, University of Cape Town, SA	Anthony Hawkridge, University of Cape Town, SA
0830-0840	Discussions	All	
0840-0920	Leveraging health systems strengthening to enhance immunisation policy & implementation in Africa	Duduzile Ndwandwe, South African Medical Research Council, SA	
0920-0930	Discussions	All	
0930-0950	A case study of vaccine decision-making ecosystem in Southern Africa	Adelaide Ngina Masu, University of Cape Town, SA	
0950-1000	Discussions	All	
1000-1030	Coffee/Tea Break & Photography Session		
1030-1110	Strategies to understand & improve vaccine confidence in Africa	Hannelie Meyer, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, SA	Penka Marthe, University of Cape Town, SA
1110-1130	Discussions	All	
1130-1210	Communication & media engagement for vaccinologists	Adele Baleta, Freelance Journalist, SA	
1210-1230	Discussions	All	
1230-1300	Closure & issuance of certificates	Edina Amponsah-Dacosta, University of Cape Town, SA	
1300	Lunch & Close of Day 5		

*Remote Speaker



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