USANA 2026 Programme (subject to change)

Small Signals and Big Stories

Misty Hills Country Hotel and Conference Centre, Muldersdrift, Gauteng

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2026 (PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS)

07:45-08:00	Registration for Morning Workshop	Venue: Pelindaba
08:00-12:00	**MORNING WORKSHOP:**	
	Vascular POCUS **View Vascular POCUS Here**	**Venue: Pelindaba 1**
12:00-13:00	Lunch and registration for afternoon workshops	Restaurant
13:00-17:15	**AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS (PARALLEL):**	
	1. Cardiac POCUS **View Cardiac POCUS Here**	**Venue: Pelindaba 1**
	2. Ventilation **View Ventilation Here**	**Venue: Pelindaba 2**

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

07:30-08:30	Registration	Venue: Exhibition Hall
07:15-08:15	**ECOMED SPONSORED BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM (OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED DELEGATES)** Non-invasive respiratory monitoring in the NICU with transcutaneous monitoring: the South African experience	Venue: Impala Yaseen Joolay
08:30-10:45	**PLENARY SESSION 1: Small Signals, Lasting Effects** | Neonatal Immunity and Inflammation	Venue: Pelindaba 1 & 2 Chair: Lino Sono
08:30-08:40	Welcome and Opening of Congress	Firdose Nakwa
08:40-09:10	RSV Protection Reframed: Vaccines, Monoclonals and the First Season	Ziyaad Dangor
09:10-09:40	Microbial Beginnings: The Newborn Microbiome and Immunity	Carolyn McGann
09:40-10:10	Multidrug-resistant (MDRO) Gram-Negative Sepsis	Reenu Thomas
10:10-10:40	Inflammation and the Developing Lung: Signals Toward BPD	Carolyn La Vita
10:40-10:45	Summary and Close of Session	
10:45-11:15	Tea/Coffee	Venue: Exhibition Hall
11:15-13:00	**PLENARY SESSION 2: Reading the Signals | Feeding, Haemodynamics and Critical Care**	Venue: Pelindaba 1 & 2 Chairs: Mantoa Mokhachane and Mnqobi Nxumalo
11:15-11:40	Why Are We Still Waiting? Early Enteral Feeding in Preterm Babies	Shakti Pillay
11:40-12:05	Small steps: Big potential - Neocritical care - where are we now?	Firdose Nakwa
12:05-12:30	Neonatal Shock: From Haemodynamic Signals to Evidence-Based Support	Muneerah Satardien
12:30-12:55	Neonatal POCUS: Where are we and where could we go?	Carolyn McGann
12:55-13:00	Summary and Close of Session	
13:00-14:00	Lunch and Poster Viewing	Venue: Exhibition Hall
14:00-15:45	**PLENARY SESSION 3: Signals, Standards and Better Outcomes | From Data to Decisions**	Venue: Pelindaba 1 & 2 Chairs: Lerusha Naidoo and Nosiphiwo Mandla
14:00-14:25	Standardising Neonatal Care: South Africa's First National Neonatal Guidelines	Joyce Mahuntsi
14:25-14:50	Benchmarking Neonatal Outcomes: Insights from African VON Data	Alex Stevenson
14:50-15:15	Why Babies Still Die: Signals from CHAMPS and MITS	Ziyaad Dangor
15:15-15:40	District Health Systems -Do Hospital-Wide Throughput Indicators Track Neonatal Service Demand?	Roopesh Bhoola
15:40-15:45	Summary and Close of Session	
15:45-16:15	Tea/Coffee & Poster Viewing	Venue: Exhibition Hall
16:15-17:15	**SANOFI SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM** (Chair: Roopesh Bhoola) RSV : The First Infection, The Lasting Impact. From acute bronchiolitis to childhood respiratory outcomes	Venue: Pelindaba 1 & 2 Gary Reubenson Omolemo Kitchin
17:20-18:15	**USANA Biennial General Meeting**	Venue: Pelindaba 1 & 2
18:15-20:00	Welcome Function with Trade	Venue: Exhibition Hall

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2026

07:30-08:30	Registration	Venue: Exhibition Hall
07:15 - 08:15	**BAXTER SPONSORED BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM (OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED DELEGATES)**	Venue: Impala
	Parenteral Nutrition in Neonates	Andrew van Eck
08:30-10:15	**PLENARY SESSION 4: Respiratory Signals | Small Breaths, Big Consequences**	Venue: Pelindaba 1 & 2 Chairs: Loshnee Nair and Roopesh Bhoola
08:30-08:55	Air or Oxygen? Delivery Room Resuscitation in the Preterm Baby	Sithembiso Velaphi
08:55-09:20	First Pass Matters: Videolaryngoscopy and Neonatal Intubation	Peter Reynolds
09:20-09:45	Beyond the Tube: Newer Strategies for Surfactant Delivery	Carolyn McGann
09:45-10:10	Ventilation Without Injury: Protecting the Preterm Lung	Carolyn La Vita
10:10-10:15	Summary and Close of Session	
10:15-10:45	Tea/Coffee & Poster Viewing	Venue: Exhibition Hall
10:45-12:30	**PLENARY SESSION 5: Infection and Inflammatory Signals | Detect, Decide, Prevent**	Venue: Pelindaba 1 & 2 Chairs: Khomotso Masemolo and Thembisile Zwane
10:45-11:10	Update on Neonatal Antiretroviral Therapy	Adrie Bekker
11:10-11:35	Immunization against Klebsiella pneumoniae – is there a pipeline?	Ziyaad Dangor
11:35-12:00	Neonatal Oral Antibiotics at Home (NOAH): Is the Evidence Ready for Practice?	Peter Reynolds
12:00-12:25	Probiotics in Neonatal Care: Promise, Evidence and Uncertainty	Joy Fredericks
12:25-12:30	Summary and Close of Session	
12:30-13:30	Lunch and Poster Viewing	Venue: Exhibition Hall
13:30-15:00	**PLENARY SESSION 6: Thresholds and Daily Decisions | Recalibrating Practice**	Venue: Pelindaba 1 & 2 Chairs: Harisha Naidoo and Thomas Mailulu
13:30-13:55	Jaundice Thresholds Revisited: National Recalibration after 20 Years	Alan Horn
13:55-14:20	Transfusing Preterm Babies: How Low Should We Go?	Khomotso Masemolo
14:20-14:45	Kangaroo Care: An Opportunity for Reciprocal Innovation	Carolyn McGann
15:00-17:20	**PARALLEL SESSION: Adjudicated Free Papers: Oral Abstract and Digital Poster Presentations**	
15:00-17:20	**ORAL ABSTRACTS**	Venue: Impala Adjudicators: Mantoa Mokhachane and Jabu Maphake
	Each presenter will be allocated a 10-minute slot comprising eight minutes for presentation and two minutes for questions	
15:10-15:20	Implementing surveillance for healthcare-associated infections in a South African neonatal unit: the NeoIPC surveillance toolkit	Refilwe More
15:20-15:30	Genomic epidemiology of invasive and colonising Klebsiella pneumoniae in young infants	Nicholas Dean
15:30-15:40	Clinical characteristics and outcomes of invasive antimicrobial-resistant infections in infants <90 days of age	Raheema Adam
15:40-15:50	Early predictors of adverse short-term outcome following therapeutic hypothermia for hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy in a South African tertiary neonatal unit: Developing a multivariate model	Thomas Butler
15:50-16:00	Mortality and morbidity in neonates with hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy managed with therapeutic hypothermia in a low-resource setting	Lee-Anne Naicker Presenter Firdose Nakwa
16:00-16:10	Minimal impact of feed intolerance during therapeutic hypothermia for hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy in a South African cohort with a standardised feeding regimen	Ilhaam Samaai
16:10-16:20	Differences in causes of death in low versus normal birthweight infants in Soweto, South Africa	Siobhan Johnstone Presenter Kimberleigh Storath
16:20-16:30	Mortality and readmission rates of very low birth weight neonates discharged from a tertiary hospital in South Africa	Cristy Victor
16:30-16:40	Injury Prevention in Neonatal Intensive Care: A Quality Improvement Initiative from South Africa	Sandi Holgate
16:40-16:50	Illuminating the management of light intensity in a neonatal intensive care unit: an educational intervention	Charl Botha
16:50-17:00	Kangaroo mother care implementation, barriers and training needs in South African hospitals: a clinician and nurse survey	Daniel Benjamin Presenter Firdose Nakwa
17:00-17:10	Prevalence and Short-Term Outcomes of Hypothermia in Infants Weighing Less Than 1500 g in the First 72 Hours of Life at a South African Tertiary Hospital	Faith Linda
17:10-17:20	South African reference values for neonatal renal ultrasound measurements: provisional findings from a prospective cohort	Jacques-Robin Steyn
15:00-16:15	**POSTER PRESENTATIONS**	Venue: Elephant Adjudicators: Radhika Singh and Cecelia Makiwane
	Twenty rapid digital poster presentations will be displayed sequentially on a single screen. Each presenter will be allocated three minutes. and 2 mins for Q&A. All posters must be submitted in advance and preloaded in presentation order. Each presenter will provide a brief overview of the poster to the adjudicators, followed by questions and discussion.	
15:00-15:05	Outcomes of Very Low Birth Weight Infants in a South African Tertiary Neonatal Unit: A VON-Based Cohort Studey	Meera Ooka
15:05-15:10	Improving Patient Outcomes in NICU Using VON KMC Quality Improvement Standards Lenmed Randfontein Private Hospital, Gauteng, South Africa	Agnes Nyamande
15:10-15:15	Twenty-five years of participation in the Vermont Oxford Network within a private healthcare group: have we fully utilised its potential?	Aliné Hall
15:15-15:20	Using Vermont Oxford Network data to monitor and improve weight gain of NICU admission at Mediclinic Vereeniging	Gerda Labuschagne
15:20-15:25	Improving Compliance with Blood Glucose Monitoring in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Through Standardised Documentation and Audit Feedback Processes	Lorraine Rambau
15:25-15:30	Neurodevelopmental Outcomes at 3–12 Months Corrected Age in Predominantly Enteral-fed Very Low Birth Weight Infants in a Resource-Limited South African Setting	Muneerah Satardien
15:30-15:35	Enteral feeding in small for gestational age premature neonates at a Tertiary hospital in the Free State, South Africa: A retrospective, analytical, study	Aimee Uwineza
15:35-15:40	Admission Hypothermia in Very Low Birth Weight Infants: Incidence, Outcomes, and Associated Risk Factors in a South African Quaternary Hospital	Matshidiso Mphale
15:40-15:45	Evaluation of a Novel Biomarker Test for Early Detection of Neonatal Sepsis: A Pilot study	Tshiamo Mogajane Presenter Natalie Paulse
15:45-15:50	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Regarding Neonatal Jaundice Among Nursing Staff in Cape Town, South Africa: A Cross-Sectional Study	Mnqobi Nxumalo
15:50-15:55	MRI brain findings in children aged 0-5 years with hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy: Diagnostic and prognostic factors from two South African tertiary hospitals	Bogadi Mack
15:55-16:00	The experiences of mothers and nurses in care-by- parent interventions in a neonatal intensive care unit of a regional hospital in Gauteng	Ntombikayise Kgosana
16:00-16:05	Primary Acalvaria: A case of a rare cranial vault defect	Nayestha Singh
16:05-16:10	Neonatal survival of a pump twin following twin reversed arterial perfusion sequence: a case report	Joy Blaise Bucyibaruta
16:10-16:15	Neonatal pneumocephalus: a rare case in a preterm infant	Noela H.B Kamanga
19:00	USANA Dinner and Awards (Dress code: Elegant)	Pelindaba 1 & 2

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2026

08:00-09:00	Registration	Venue: Exhibition Hall
09:00-10:30	**PLENARY SESSION 7: Signals at the Threshold of Viability (Panel Discussion)** **This plenary session will examine the complex clinical, ethical, and health-system considerations surrounding birth at the threshold of viability**	Venue: Pelindaba 1 & 2 Chair: Joy Fredericks
	The Changing Face of Neonatal Viability in South Africa: A Historical and Ethical Review	Mantoa Mokhachane
	At the Edge of Viability: Integrating Palliative Care into Periviable Decision-Making	Nicolette Brown
	Panellists: Mantoa Mokhachane, Nicolette Brown, Alan Horn, Alex Stevenson and Alet Rheeder	
10:30-11:00	Tea/Coffee	Venue: Exhibition Hall
11:00-12:15	**PLENARY SESSION 8: Research Signals | Green and Rotten Apples** **Rapid-fire presentations showcasing novel local neonatal research, innovations, and updates**	Venue: Pelindaba 1 & 2 Chairs: Muneerah Satardien and Thandeka Khoza
11:00-11:20	Neonatal Nursing Specialisation at Last	Mariana Scheepers
11:20-11:30	The NiCHE trial (Neuroprotective Caffeine Co-Treatment with Therapeutic Hypothermia for Neonatal Hypoxic–Ischaemic Encephalopathy)	Alan Horn
11:30-11:35	Bespoke Online NeoNatal Education for Transfers (BONNETs)	Shakti Pillay
11:35-11:40	Immediate KMC	Natalie Paulse
11:40-11:45	NeoSep study	Adrie Bekker
11:45-11:50	Cool HUGS QI	Firdose Nakwa
11:50-11:55	Siyakhula project	Firdose Nakwa
11:55-12:00	Summary and Close of Session	
12:00-12:15	Close of Conference	New President
12:15	Farewell Lunch and Departures	