



From the Director's Desk – Dr André Rose

As SAPRIN continues to evolve as South Africa's national population health research infrastructure, we have reached several important milestones this year. Foremost among these is the release of the Individual Surveillance Episodes 2025 Datasets, which for the first time includes data from our urban HDSS node, GRT-INSPIRED. This expansion strengthens our ability to generate high-quality longitudinal evidence across both rural and urban communities. By bringing together data from both rural and urban populations, SAPRIN is uniquely positioned to provide evidence that supports research excellence, informs policy and strengthens public health planning across South Africa.



Congratulations to Professors Kathleen Kahn and Stephen Tollman of the SAMRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt) for winning the Special Annual Theme Award on Healthy Ageing at the prestigious 2025/2026 NSTF-South32 Awards. This honour truly reflects their commitment to advancing population-based science on the crucial issue of rural healthy ageing. SAPRIN is proud to have them within our network.

The SAPRIN network is proud to celebrate the appointment of Professor Geoffrey Setswe as CEO of the Aurum Institute, South Africa. This recognition reflects his longstanding contribution to public health leadership and further strengthens the visibility of expertise within the SAPRIN family.

This year we also bid farewell to valued colleagues Dr Zoh Mvuyane and Mr Tinofa Mutevedzi. Their contribution to SAPRIN's development and success has been substantial, and we remain grateful for their dedication and service. We wish them every success in their future endeavours. While we celebrate these achievements and transitions, we remain equally committed to developing the next generation of scientists.

Nurturing the next generation of scientists remains paramount to SAPRIN. SAPRIN continues to play a key role in coordinating the SAMRC's Generation Science Durban programme for high school learners. We collaborate with the Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI) to ensure learners have an immersive laboratory experience.



Community engagement remains at the heart of the SAPRIN model. Across the network, nodes continue to work closely with communities through health promotion initiatives, outreach programmes and active Community Advisory Boards. Whether through asthma and tuberculosis awareness campaigns in DIMAMO or community-responsive health initiatives led by GRT-INSPIRED, these activities reinforce our commitment to conducting research with communities rather than merely within them.

We also congratulate USINGA on contributing the chapter on Maternal Mortality to the 2024/25 Health Systems Trust District Health Barometer, an important national publication that informs health policy and planning.

My appointment as Director of SAPRIN represents both a personal privilege and a responsibility to steward this remarkable national resource into its next phase of growth. As we implement our strategic plan, we remain committed to strengthening trusted partnerships, expanding our collaborations and enhancing the impact of our research. Together, we will continue advancing SAPRIN as a nationally anchored, regionally connected and internationally recognised leader in population health research

Dr André Rose
SAPRIN Director

