



From the Director's Desk – Dr André Rose

Welcome to the third edition of the SAPRIN Connection Newsletter. There have been exciting new developments in the population science space which we unpack here for you.

Perhaps the most notable has been the expansion of our network to include a seventh Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) node, BAMBISHO in the North West province. Reaching our goal of seven nodes, signals the start of the next phase in advancing SAPRIN's vision of achieving equitable health and social wellbeing through its network of longitudinal population-based nodes in under-resourced communities across South Africa.



SAPRIN has worked tirelessly to craft the SAPRIN 2025 – 2030 strategy which will be launched at the upcoming Annual SAPRIN conference in July.

Another momentous development has been the formal launch of the African Population Cohorts Consortium (APCC) in June. This is indeed a pioneering initiative that aims to bring together large-scale population cohorts across Africa to mobilise longitudinal data for research, policy, and societal impact. We wish them well as they go about establishing a permanent APCC Secretariat hosted by the Science for Africa Foundation.

Sadly, we bid farewell to SAPRIN Director, Dr Kobus Herbst and Co-Director, Professor Mark Collinson at the end of March. The role that they played in conceptualising and establishing SAPRIN has been inspiring. They are leaving behind a legacy of a strong foundation for the continued vision of SAPRIN. We are extremely grateful for their contribution to growing and nurturing the network.

Earlier this year we released the [Individual Surveillance Episodes 2024 Datasets](#). The release consists of three types of datasets viz; Basic Dataset, Age-Year Dataset and Age-year Delivery Dataset. These are available to the public. To complement these datasets we have added three new licensed datasets, the Labour Episodes, Individual Household Status Episodes, and Partner Episodes datasets. Access to the new datasets require registration and approval. These are invaluable datasets and we encourage students, scientists and academics to visit our repository.

The annual SAPRIN conference takes place in Cape Town from 21 – 23 July under the theme, “*Advancing*



Health and Social Wellbeing through Population Science.” Our conference continues to evolve and this year the call for abstracts was open to the public, not just the SAPRIN nodes. We are excited about the conference and will report on the outcome in the next edition of our newsletter.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI) HDSS. 25 years of collecting longitudinal data is a remarkable milestone. AHRI is a founding node of SAPRIN and has contributed immensely to science. By 31 December the population of the AHRI HDSS was 156,464. We wish them well for the future.

We congratulate the C-SHARP HDSS node on registering 100,000 individuals earlier this year. This accomplishment makes C-SHARP the first SAPRIN HDSS node to reach the minimum target population of 100,000 individuals within approximately one year of baseline enumeration.

Community and stakeholder engagement remains crucial to the SAPRIN model. The nodes continue to actively engage with communities and stakeholders. This can be evidenced by the recent USINGA RISE stakeholder engagement, the DIMAMO health awareness campaign and the GRT-I's Elderly Exercise Programme.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter.

Dr André Rose

Director (Acting): SAPRIN

