



DNA FORENSIC SYMPOSIUM

VICTORIA FALLS | ZAMBIA | 21-23 MAY 2024

- WHERE JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND HUMANITY INTERSECT -

DNAforAFRICA, ICRC, UNODC, and UCT are proud to present the 4th Forensic DNA Symposium, a groundbreaking event supported by the **Zambian Government**, bringing together African and International Forensic Experts.



ICRC



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This year's format will exclusively offer in-person attendance. The event has been organised into two pivotal tracks, which will run concurrently. Participants will select the track where their expertise will contribute most effectively to the engagements.

SYMPOSIUM TRACKS

DNA DATABASE - TRACK

DNA DATABASE Sessions

A Regional Approach to DNA Databases:

Strengthening Collaboration

1. **DNA DATABASES:**
Functionality, Differentiation and Software Solutions
2. **POPULATION ALLELE FREQUENCY DATABASES:**
Purpose, Current Status in Africa and Resource Requirements
3. **CHALLENGES IN RESOLVING UHR/MP CASES:**
Current Workflows, Regional Challenges, Key Stakeholders in Human Identification
4. **WHY REGIONAL COLLABORATION?**
The Need for Regional Transnational Cooperation and Current Projects
5. **KEY LEGAL AND POLICY**
Considerations for Regional DNA Data Sharing
6. **I-FAMILIA EXPLAINED:**
Technical Review, Profile Submission and Anticipated Challenges

GBVF - TRACK

DNA & GBVF Sessions

Improving Access to Justice for GBVF Victims:

The Role of Forensic DNA and Regional Collaboration

1. **ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR VICTIMS:**
A Holistic Approach
2. **OPTIMISING SERVICE PROVISION:**
Reporting and Collection of Forensic Evidence
3. **DEVELOPING REGULATED FORENSIC NURSE TRAINING IN AFRICA:** Addressing the Need
4. **GBVF Amidst Conflict,**
Climate Disasters, and Mobility Challenges
5. **DNA COURT CHALLENGES:**
Interventions to Improve Competency in Court
6. **DNA LEGISLATION AND DNA DATABASES:**
Strengthening Justice in GBVF Cases

Enjoy this exceptional opportunity to connect, learn, and contribute to advancements in developing forensic capacity and regional platforms in Africa.

FOR MORE INFO

www.dnaforafrica.com/4fdnas2024



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Dear Delegates,

We warmly welcome you to the 4th Forensic DNA Symposium, set against the majestic backdrop of Victoria Falls in Zambia from May 21st to 23rd, 2024. We are excited to announce UCT as our new event partner, alongside Interpol joining as a key stakeholder. We are further grateful for the wonderful support we have received from the Zambian Government, working with us to ensure we host a world-class event. Their contributions are invaluable in facilitating critical engagements to progress our proposed initiatives.

We extend sincere thanks to our generous sponsors whose support has made this symposium a reality, uniting the forensic DNA community in Africa and advancing our mission of leveraging forensic DNA for humanitarian and justice efforts across the continent.

From modest beginnings during the COVID era, our journey has led to this significant juncture—a fully subscribed and internationally renowned event firmly establishing Africa on the global map. Throughout the week, we will showcase the splendour of our continent and demonstrate our unparalleled expertise and unwavering commitment to effecting positive change.

Through collaborative efforts and mutually beneficial partnerships, we are better equipped to realise our objectives, guided by a survivor-centric ethos. This year, in addition to sharing knowledge, we have crafted an agenda aimed at sustainable outcomes and concrete implementation plans for forensic capacity development in our region. We encourage each of you to actively engage with our panelists, presenters, and colleagues, both familiar and new, to achieve this goal.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to each participant, our champions of DNA, whose presence symbolises our collective dedication to driving change on our continent.

YOURS IN FORENSICS,
Vanessa, Stephen, Linda and Laura



DR VANESSA LYNCH

Dr. Vanessa Lynch, Regional Director for DNAforAfrica, leads nationwide DNA policy initiatives and collaborates with governments to drive legislative and DNA policy changes. She is recognised as a key opinion leader and founded The DNA Project as well as DNAforAfrica to advocate for DNA databases in Africa.



MR STEPHEN FONSECA

Mr Stephen Fonseca, Manager at ICRC's African Centre of Expertise on Missing Persons and Forensic Systems (ACMS), brings extensive experience in death investigation and humanitarian forensics. From Coroner to Regional Forensic Manager, Stephen led initiatives to enhance justice systems. As an ICRC Forensic Unit Global Management Team member, he shapes global forensic policies.



DR LINDA NAIDOO

Dr. Linda Naidoo, an expert in Child Protection, Clinical Interventions, Criminal Justice, and Gender-based Violence, currently coordinates Gender-based Violence at UNODC in the SADC Region. Formerly holding roles such as Executive Director and Lecturer, she has published numerous articles and presented globally, informed by both local and global perspectives.



A/PROF. LAURA HEATHFIELD

A/Prof. Laura Heathfield, Head of the Biomedical Forensic Science Unit at UCT has expertise in lecturing, supervision and research in Forensic Genetics, and leads the Molecular Forensics Research Group at UCT as Principal Investigator. She is skilled in molecular laboratory methods, including next generation sequencing, and has a particular interest in post-mortem human identification, degraded DNA analysis, molecular autopsies and research ethics



Dear esteemed participants and guests,

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that we extend to you a warm welcome to the 4th Forensic DNA Symposium. We are profoundly grateful to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, whose able leadership has been pivotal in fostering a conducive environment for the advancement of forensic DNA policy in the country. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to DNA for Africa, ICRC, UNODC, and UCT for extending to us this rare opportunity to co-host a world-class event. This year's 4th Forensic DNA Symposium brings together forensic DNA experts and representatives of agencies and institutions from across Africa and beyond, and the diverse panel of experts and participants brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to this platform. We have no doubt that this gathering will be a catalyst for innovation and collaboration that propels the field of forensic science in our region to new frontiers.

As you immerse yourselves in this rich scientific discourse over the course of the next two days, we invite you to explore the rich cultural and tourism offerings of our host city, Livingstone. From the iconic landmarks such as the spectacular Victoria Falls, to the local culinary delights, there is something for every discerning visitor.

As we come together to explore new horizons in forensic science, let's seize this chance to build lasting collaborations and drive positive change in our field.

Brig. Gen. Prof. Lawson Simapuka
Executive Director
National Forensic Authority - ZAMBIA



BRIG. GEN. PROF. LAWSON SIMAPUKA

Brig. Gen. Prof. Lawson Simapuka is an experienced Medical Director with a demonstrated history of working in the hospital & health care industry. Skilled in Epidemiology, Program Evaluation, Disaster Response, Operational Planning, and Organizational Leadership. Strong business development professional with a Master of Science in Clinical Research and Master of Public from University of Liverpool, United Kingdom And University of Zambia respectively. Also holds a Fellowship in Infectious Diseases Epidemiology and Tropic Medicine from the German Naval Medical Institute, Kroshagen - Deutschland.



07h30 - 08h00

REGISTRATION

08h00 - 08h10

WELCOME and Introduction to Event Committee Team

Dr Vanessa Lynch

08h10 - 08h30

OBJECTIVES over 2-day Event

Mr Stephen Fonseca

08h30 - 09h15
[45mins]

PANEL DISCUSSION 1

DNA DATABASES:
Functionality, Differentiation and Software Solutions

PANEL DISCUSSION 1 - LED BY: Dr Vanessa Lynch
PANEL: Brig. Joe Smith, Dr Aaron Amankwaa,
Mr John Mungai, Prof. Bruce Budowle,
A/Prof. Laura Heathfield

09h15 - 10h00
[45mins]

PANEL DISCUSSION 2

POPULATION ALLELE FREQUENCY DATABASES:
Purpose, Current Status in Africa and Resource Requirements

PANEL DISCUSSION 2 with Presentation slides combined
LED BY: A/Prof Laura Heathfield
PANEL: Ms Donna-Lee Martin, Mr Innocent Makasa,
Lt. Col. Sharlene Otto, Ms Eva Aluvaala Nambati
Mr Yasin Farah

10h00 - 11h00
[1 hr]

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY
Zambian Ministry

COFFEE / TEA
Will Be Available

11h00 - 11h30
[30 min]

INTERACTIVE SESSION:
Audience participation via Wooclap Platform

LED BY: Adv Vaughn Rossouw

11h30 - 12h15
[45 mins]

PANEL DISCUSSION 3

CHALLENGES IN RESOLVING UHR/MP CASES:
Workflows, Regional Challenges,
and Key Stakeholder in Human Identification

PANEL DISCUSSION 3 with Presentation slides combined
LED BY: Adv Vaughn Rossouw
PANEL: Ms Vonita Thompson, A/Prof Laura Heathfield,
Mr Stephen Fonseca, Dr Adam Mucheleng'anga

12h15 - 13h00
[45 mins]

PANEL DISCUSSION 4

WHY REGIONAL COLLABORATION?
The Need for Regional Transnational Collaboration
in DNA Data Sharing for Human Identification Initiatives:
Current Projects

PANEL DISCUSSION 4
LED BY: Mr Stephen Fonseca
PANEL: Dr Francois-Xavier Laurent,
Ms Brittany Graham, Dr Vanessa Lynch,
Ms Lucinda Evert, Mr Innocent Makasa

13h00 - 14h00

LUNCH

LUNCH

14h00 - 14h45
[45mins]

PANEL DISCUSSION 5

KEY LEGAL AND POLICY
Considerations for Regional DNA Data Sharing

PANEL DISCUSSION 5 with Presentation slides combined
LED BY: Dr Vanessa Lynch
PANEL: Brig. Joe Smith, Prof. Marion Mutugi,
Mr John Mungai, Dr Aaron Amankwaa
Prof. Bruce Budowle

14h45 - 15h30
[45mins]

I-FAMILIA EXPLAINED:
Technical Review, Profile Submission and Anticipated Challenges

PRESENTATION: Dr Francois-Xavier Laurent

1. Criminal Case Profile Submission
2. Humanitarian Case Profile Submission
3. Legal Issues When Reaching Across Borders
4. Logistical Issues When Reaching Across Borders

15h45

SUNSET RIVER CRUISE



08h00 - 08h30
[30mins]

OVERVIEW OF DAY ONE

Presentation Slides Showing Discussions of Day 1, Overview of What Was Discussed, Drawing on These Outcomes

PRESENTATION: Ms Donna-Lee Martin

08h30 - 09h15
[45mins]

'AFRICA':

Accelerating Forensic Regional Identification Capacity in Africa

PRESENTATION: A/Prof Laura Heathfield

09h15 - 10h00
[45mins]

REGIONAL DATABASES

Developing a Basic Infographic on the Workflow of Humanitarian Case DNA Profiling and the Use of I-Familia
– Asking for Audience Feedback
Infographic Feedback to Demonstrate Understanding of National Workflows and Identify Ways to 'Connect to Protect' Transnationally

PRESENTATION: Dr Francois-Xavier Laurent

10h00 - 10h30

COFFEE / TEA

COFFEE / TEA

10h30 - 12h00
[1hr + 30min]

BREAKAWAY WORKING GROUPS

Groups Tasked with Recommending and Drafting: Guidelines for Submitting DNA Profiles to I-Familia; Standard Operating Procedures for Sharing (UHR/MP) Case DNA Profiles with INTERPOL's I-Familia

LED BY: Mr Stephen Fonseca

12h00 - 13h00
[1 hr]

FEEDBACK: Groups to Provide Feedback on Recommendations for Points 1 and 2 Above

LED BY: Mr Stephen Fonseca
Dr Francois-Xavier Laurent

13h00 - 14h00

LUNCH

LUNCH

14h00 - 15h00
[1 hr]

FINAL PANEL DISCUSSION

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Reflections and Action Points
Regional Collaboration
Future Meetings
Consultative Processes

FINAL PANEL DISCUSSION

LED BY: Dr Vanessa Lynch
Panel: Dynamic

15h00 - 15h30

WRAP UP (ALL TRACKS)

Event Committee Team



4#FDNAS - SCAN QR CODE FOR DETAILED PROGRAMME AND EVENT INFORMATION

THANK YOU TO OUR VALUED SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE



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SEPARATIONS
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07h30 - 08h00	REGISTRATION	
08h00 - 08h10 [10mins]	WELCOME and Introduction to Event Committee Team - Objectives of 2-day Event	Dr Linda Naidoo
08h10 - 08h30 [20mins]	How GBVF Presents in Various Contexts	Dr Linda Naidoo
08h30 - 09h15 [45mins]	PANEL DISCUSSION 1 Examining How Essential Services are Provided to Victims of GBV: Current Practices	PANEL DISCUSSION 1 LED BY: Dr Carolyn Hancock PANEL: Dr Linda Naidoo, Ms Marissa Pledger, Adv Monde Chizongo
09h15 - 10h00 [45mins]	PANEL DISCUSSION 2 What Are the Challenges in Current Service Provision, Reporting, and Collection of Forensic Evidence?	PANEL DISCUSSION 2 with Presentation slides combined LED BY: Dr Carolyn Hancock PANEL: Dr Kizzie Shako, Dr Itumeleng Molefe, Dr Rukaiyah Ginwalla, Brig. Fikile Hlalele, Ms Marissa Pledger
10h00 - 11h00	OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY Zambian Ministry	COFFEE / TEA Will Be Available
11h00 - 12h15 [1 hr 15mins]	PANEL DISCUSSION 3 Addressing the Need for Developing Regulated Forensic Nurse Training in Africa	PANEL DISCUSSION 3 with Presentation slides combined LED BY: Dr Carolyn Hancock PANEL: Dr Kizzie Shako, Dr Itumeleng Molefe, Dr Rukaiyah Ginwalla, Lt Col. Sharlene Otto
12h15 - 13h00 [45mins]	GBVF Amidst Conflict, Climate Disasters and Mobility Challenges	PRESENTATION: Ms Marissa Pledger
13h00 - 14h00	LUNCH	LUNCH
14h00 - 14h45 [45mins]	PANEL DISCUSSION 4 DNA Court Challenges: What Interventions Are Needed to Improve Competency in Court?	PANEL DISCUSSION 4 LED BY: Ms Jakkie Wessels PANEL: Adv. Monde Chizongo, Lt Col. Sharlene Otto, Brig. Fikile Hlalele
14h45 - 15h30 [45mins]	PANEL DISCUSSION 5 How Does DNA Legislation and DNA Databases Strengthen Justice in GBVF Cases?	PANEL DISCUSSION 5 with Presentation slides combined LED BY: Dr Vanessa Lynch PANEL: Ms Jakkie Wessels, Prof. Marion Mutugi, Dr Carolyn Hancock, Brig. Joe Smith, Prof. Bruce Budowle
15h45	SUNSET RIVER CRUISE	

08h00 - 08h30
[30mins]**OVERVIEW OF DAY ONE** Presentation Slides Showing Discussions of Day 1, Providing an Overview of What Was Discussed, and Drawing on These Outcomes**PRESENTATION:** Dr Carolyn Hancock08h30 - 09h30
[1 hr]**FEEDBACK SESSION:** Discussion and Documenting Proposed Solutions for Providing Holistic Essential Services to GBV Victims Informed by Panel Discussion on Day 1**LED BY:** Dr Linda Naidoo
Groupwork09h30 - 10h30
[1hr]**FEEDBACK SESSION:** Documenting Best Practices for Optimising Service Provision, Reporting, and Collection of Forensic Evidence Informed by Panel Discussion on Day 1**LED BY:** Dr Kizzie Shako

10h30 - 11h00

COFFEE / TEA**COFFEE / TEA**11h00 - 12h00
[1hr]**FEEDBACK SESSION:** Discussing and Documenting Next Steps to Develop Regulated Forensic Nurse Training in Africa**LED BY:** Dr Carolyn Hancock12h00 - 13h00
[1 hr]**FEEDBACK SESSION:** Discussing and Documenting Interventions to Improve 'DNA' Competency in Court**LED BY:** Mrs Jakkie Wessels

13h00 - 14h00

LUNCH**LUNCH**14h00 - 15h00
[1 hr]**FINAL PANEL DISCUSSION****FINAL PANEL DISCUSSION:** Dynamic**WHERE TO FROM HERE?**
Menti Administration and Analyses
Reflections and Action Points
Regional Collaboration
Future Meetings
Consultative Processes

15h00 - 15h30

WRAP UP (MOVE TO TRACK 1 ROOM)**EVENT COMMITTEE TEAM****4#FDNAS - SCAN QR CODE FOR DETAILED PROGRAMME AND EVENT INFORMATION****THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR EVENT SUPPORT****ThermoFisher**
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**SEPARATIONS**
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INFO

Northumbria University
A/Prof. Aaron Amankwaa



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INFO

Forensic Medicine, Uni. of Helsinki
Prof. Bruce Budowle



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INFO

ICRC
Mrs Lucinda Evert



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INFO

Somalia NFE
Mr Yasin Farah



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INFO

ICRC
Mr Stephen Fonseca



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INFO

ICITAP
Mrs Brittany Graham



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INFO

Pediatric HIV specialist
Dr Rukaiyah Ginwalla



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Angels Care
Dr Carolyn Hancock



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UCT
A/Prof Laura Heathfield



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Interpol
Dr François-Xavier Laurent



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INFO

State Forensic Pathologist
Dr Adam Mucheleng'anga



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DNAforAfrica
Dr Vanessa Lynch



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UCT
Ms Donna-Lee Martin



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Zambian FSL
Mr Innocent Makasa



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KNCHR
Prof. Marion Mutugi



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INFO

OFPI
Dr Itumeleng Molefe



Consultant ICITAP
Mr John Mungai



UNODC
Dr Linda Naidoo



KEMRI
Mrs Eva Aluvaala Nambati



FSL SAPS
Lt Col. Sharlene Otto



PANZI
Ms Marissa Pledger



ICRC
Adv Vaughn Rossouw



SGBV Forensic Advisor
Dr Kizzie Shako



FDM
Brig. Joe Smith



OFPI
Ms Vonita Thompson



Regional Court President, Limpopo
Ms Jakkie Wessels



NPA, GBV Dept.
Adv Monde Chizongo



SAPS
Brig. Fikile Hlalele

We extend our heartfelt thanks
to our sponsors for their support,
which has been instrumental
in making this event possible.



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