



Webinar

World Optometry Day and Week Commemoration 23-27 March 2026

Date: 26 March 2026

Time: 10h00 – 12h00



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Thank you for your interest in this webinar

- The chat has been disabled for the attendees.
- **Please use the Q&A box to post questions for our panel of experts.**
- The session is recorded and will be shared with all the presentations on the Knowledge Hub.
- Register in advance for the webinars (24 hours before).
- CPD certificates.
- E-mail: Knowledgehub@health.gov.za



Ms Caroline Mongale

Is the Chief Director for Non-Communicable Diseases at the National Department of Health. She coordinates national programmes addressing the growing burden of chronic diseases, mental health, organ transplantation, and renal dialysis services.

Qualifications: PDG Public Health: UNISA, Hons Bachelor of Arts Health Studies: UNISA, PDG Perioperative Theatre Nursing Science: Ga Rankuwa Nursing College, Advanced Management Diploma: Milpark Business School



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Time	Item	Speaker
10:00- 10:10	Opening and Welcome (10 minutes)	Ms Caroline Mongale Chief Director: Non-Communicable Diseases Cluster National Department of Health
10:00 – 10:20	World Health Organisation: Eye Health Overview and linkages to NCDs (10 minutes)	Dr Joseph Mwangi World Health Organisation South Africa
10:20-10:40	WHO SPECS2030: Global Progress and the Road Ahead (20 minutes)	Prof Tuwane Rasengane WHO SPECS2030 Workforce Workstream HOD of Optometry, University of Freestate Director of Optometry: Universitas Academic Hospital
10:40-11:00	Keratoconus (20 minutes)	Dr Roland Höllhumer Head of Corneal Unit: Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital Medical Director of The Cornea Foundation Tissue Bank in Johannesburg
11:00-11:10	An integrated screening model for UNIVERSAL vision screening in children: Leveraging public-private partnerships to scale up vision screening in Grade R (10 minutes)	Dr Noxolo Gqada Strategy lead, Hold My Hand Accelerator for Children and Teens
11:10- 11:20	Working Together for A Clearer Tomorrow (10 minutes)	Ms Mita Pema-Keshaw Optometrist & Sport Vision Consultant Project Manager: Small Projects Foundation – Umbono Vision Program, supported by the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)
11:20-11:40	Detection of Vision Problems Among School-Going Children & Teacher Education (10 minutes)	Prof Thokozile Metsing South African Optometry Association (SAOA) -Public Health Director Associate Professor: University of Johannesburg
11:40- 11:50	Lived Experience (10 minutes)	Ms Ntsikie Loteni National Secretary: National Albinism Task Force (NAFT) Director: Transformation, University of Pretoria
11:50- 12:00	Closure and Vote of Thanks (10 minutes)	Dr Busisiwe Ndlovu Director: Chronic Diseases, Disabilities & Geriatrics National Department of Health





Dr. Kibachio Joseph Mwangi

Is currently the Cluster Lead; Health Promotion & Disease prevention and Control Cluster as well as the Medical officer and Advisor for Non Communicable Diseases and Mental Health at the World Health Organization (WHO) South African country office.

Qualifications: PhD - Global Health -University of Geneva MPH - University of London MSC Field epidemiology - (FELTP) JKUAT/CDC MBChB – Moi University PGDip in Public Health - LSHTM



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Professor Tuwani Rasengane

Is Head of Optometry at the University of the Free State and Director of Optometric Service, Universitas Academic Hospital. She serves as Co-Chair of the WHO SPECS2030 Workforce workstream.

Qualifications: BOptom, PhD



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Dr Roland Höllhumer

Is an ophthalmologist with a subspecialist focus on corneal and anterior segment disease.

Qualifications: MBChB, FC Ophth (SA), MMed, MBA, PhD



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Dr Noxolo Gqada

Is the Strategy Lead for the Hold My Hand Accelerator for Children and Teens, a nationwide initiative that supports the National Strategy to Accelerate Action for Children and drives the Hold My hand campaign.

Qualifications: MBChB (UCT), DipPEC (SA), MBA (UCT) with *Behavioural Science Elective at Yale School of Management*



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Ms Mita Pema-Keshaw

Is the Project Manager for the Program at Small Projects Foundation which it has become a driven and impactful community initiative in the Eastern Cape.

Qualifications: B. Tech Optometry (Wits Technikon), Sports Vision Course (RAU)



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Professor Thokoziwe Metsing

Is appointed as an associate professor in the Optometry Department at the University of Johannesburg.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Optometry (UL), Masters in Optometry (UJ), Doctor of Philosophy in Optometry (UJ)



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Ms Ntsikie Loteni

Currently serves as a Director: Transformation at the University of Pretoria and also plays a significant role in civil society work.

Qualifications: Honours degree in Industrial Psychology from Fort Hare University and a Masters in Management from Wits.



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Dr Busisiwe Ndlovu

Is employed as the Director for Non-Communicable Diseases, responsible for all Non-Communicable diseases, Disability & Rehabilitation, Geriatrics, Palliative care and Eye Health care, Ear and Hearing at the National Department of Health.

Qualifications: PhD-Public Health-DUT, Master's degree-Nursing-UKZN, BCom (Hons)-Strategic Management and Marketing-UKZN, BTech-Occupational Health and Safety-DUT, B.A. Nursing (PHC)-University of Southern Queensland-Australia.



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Slide 13

