



Webinar

World Birth Defects Day

Date: 03 March 2026

Time: 10h00 – 12h00



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 Sebotse Ngake

Director: Child & Youth Health and her responsibilities include ensuring that children, adolescents, and youth survive through enhancing the delivery of child, youth and school health services at community, primary health care, and hospital levels.

Qualifications: Master of Public Health (Wits), B Tech Community Nursing (TUT), Diploma Nursing Education and Management (NWU), Certificate: Occupational Nursing (TUT), Diploma: Nursing (general, community and psychiatry) and Midwifery



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





Time	Topic	Facilitator
10h00-10h10	Welcome and Objectives	Ms. Sebotse Ngake
10h10-10h25	Understanding the burden of congenital disorders in South Africa: data, trends, and implications	Prof Helen Malherbe (sScan & University of North West)
10h25-10h45	Prevention of congenital disorders	Dr Njabulo Mabaso (SASHG-Medical Genetics Group Chair)
10h45-11h00	Common congenital disorders in South Africa	Dr Njabulo Mabaso (SASHG-Medical Genetics Group Chair)
11h00-11h15	Genetic Counselling in Practice: Supporting Individuals and Families	Ms Monica Araujo (SASHG-Genetics Counsellor Group Chair)
11h15-11h30	BD Surveillance and the importance of collecting good-quality data	Dr Di Lavies (Ubomi Buhle)
11h30-11h45	Teratogens and congenital disorders	Prof Ushma Mehta (Ubomi Buhle)
11h45-12h00	Q & A	Ms Sebotse Ngake
12h00	Closure	



Prof Helen Malherbe

An Extraordinary Associate Professor at the Centre for Human Metabolomics, North-West University, South Africa. Her work focuses on strengthening genetic services, improving access to care, modelling congenital disorder burden and NBS cost-effectiveness, and advancing patient-led research.

Qualifications: BSc (hons), MSc, PhD



Dr Njabulo Mabaso

A Medical Geneticist currently based at the NHLS and Wits University, he works in clinical diagnostic services, supervises genomic research, and is a senior lecturer in Medical Genetics.

Qualifications: MBChB, MBA, FCMG (SA), MMed (Med Genetics)



Ms Monica Araujo

A registered genetic counsellor and lecturer in the Division of Human Genetics at the National Health Laboratory Service and the University of the Witwatersrand.

Qualifications: BSc (Wits), BHSc (Hons) (Wits), MSc (Med) Genetic Counselling (UCT)



Dr Di Lavies

A General Practitioner, a senior researcher at the University of Cape Town and Project Manager of the Ubomi Buhle Pregnancy Exposure Registry (UBPER) of South Africa since 2020.

Qualifications: MBCHB, DMH



Prof Ushma Mehta

Is the Co-lead of the UBOMI BUHLE Pregnancy Exposure Registry and associate professor at the Division of Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Cape Town.

Qualifications: B.Pharm, Pharm.D, DrPH



Thank you for attending this webinar.

The session recording and all the presentations will be shared on the Knowledge Hub <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinars>

THANK YOU