

New Approaches in Science

Working Towards Animal Replacement Together



Venue: University of Pretoria, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Old Soutpans Road, Onderstepoort, Pretoria, Gauteng

Date: 15 - 16 September 2026. Time: 8:00 for 8:30 - 16:30

Register Now

The South African Association for Laboratory Animal Science NPC (SAALAS) invites you to a unique fully funded in-person workshop that focuses on practical new approaches that enhance scientific quality and improves research outcomes while reducing reliance on animals. Hosted at University of Pretoria, Onderstepoort, this two-day event, being held on 15 & 16 September 2026, will bring together local and international experts to share real-world, implementable non-animal models and technologies that can provide more robust, scientifically relevant data.

This initiative is made possible through the generous support of RSPCA, Humane World for Animals South Africa, and the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science, enabling free attendance for participants.

Importantly, this programme recognises that animal use cannot always be immediately replaced in every area of science. Instead, the focus is on identifying feasible, locally relevant opportunities where scientifically advanced approaches — including non-animal models — can improve data quality and strengthen research outcomes using existing and/or accessible skills and resources.

Day 1

Cell culture methods in science

This programme provides a foundational and practical introduction to advanced cell culture models in South Africa, exploring how technologies such as 3D cultures, organoids, and iPSC systems are driving more predictive, human-relevant, and locally representative research. Participants will gain insight into current South African expertise, model selection, ethical considerations, and emerging applications that are shaping the future of biomedical science.

Day 2

Non-animal-derived antibodies

This programme explores the growing use of non-animal-derived antibodies and their potential to improve scientific reliability, reproducibility, and ethical research practices. Participants will gain an overview of emerging technologies, current applications in research and diagnostics, validation considerations, and the role of recombinant and synthetic antibodies in advancing modern biomedical research. An international perspective as well as local case studies demonstrating successful implementation in South Africa will be discussed.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND This event is ideal for:

- Scientists and researchers
- Academic staff and postgraduate students
- Diagnostic laboratories
- Ethics committee members
- Laboratory animal technologists, animal health technologists, veterinary technologists
- Study directors and protocol designers
- Anyone involved in laboratory animal research and oversight

Travel & Accommodation Scholarships are Available

- Awarded based on a motivational letter and completion of a google application form (<https://forms.gle/NG5ZXsiR2FFUHq8Q7>)
- Deadline for applications 15 July 2026
- Allocation dependent on available funding
- Kindly sponsored by ICLAS

Register Now