



MEDIA RELEASE

SAHPRA Strengthens Regulatory Excellence: Celebrating the 2025 Graduates of the Clinical Assessors Programme

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Pretoria, 24 March 2025 – The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), in partnership with Pharmacometrics Africa and the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology at the University of the Witwatersrand, proudly announces the graduation of the fourth cohort from the Clinical Assessors Short Course — a flagship programme aimed at upskilling professionals within African Regulatory Agencies.

The 14-week certified course continues to play a pivotal role in addressing the growing demand for regulatory science expertise across the continent, ultimately contributing to improved patient safety, access to quality medicines, and regulatory efficiency. The programme, accredited by Wits University, is a collaborative effort that bridges academia, regulatory agencies, patient advocacy groups, and industry.

Participants in this year’s cohort included assessors from National Regulatory Authorities in Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe demonstrating a growing pan-African commitment to advancing regulatory science.

“As we mark the fourth cycle of this impactful programme, we are reminded that investing in regulatory training is an investment in patient safety. These graduates are shaping a healthier, safer future for the continent,” said Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela, CEO of SAHPRA.

“This training course has once again brought together a diverse group of regulators, academic experts, and industry professionals to engage in honest, solutions-oriented dialogue. The outcomes speak directly to better patient access and improved therapeutic interventions,” added Professor Colin Pillai, CEO of Pharmacometrics Africa.

Professor Yahya E. Choonara of the University of the Witwatersrand emphasised, “We are proud to continue our leadership role in regulatory science education provided by our Pharmacy Practice team and the WITS Pharmacy Regulatory Sciences Hub. This programme not only strengthens technical skills but also fosters cross-border collaboration, vital for regulatory harmonisation in Africa.”

Alumni Unathi Mgogi addressed the graduating class aptly: “Contributing to a more efficient regulatory process, ultimately benefits patients who rely on timely access to safe and effective medicines. In regulatory science, learning does not stop at graduation.” Unathi’s sentiments were echoed by Tirhani Maluleke, a private sector participant, who provided insights on how the course facilitated exchange of perspectives from sponsor and regulator to benefit patients.

The course content is designed to fill critical knowledge gaps in the evaluation of clinical sections of regulatory submissions dossiers data, with a focus on the risk-benefit assessment of medicines. Graduates leave the programme equipped with the tools to enhance the quality, speed, and consistency of decision-making in marketing authorisation processes.

A recording of the graduation ceremony can be found here [\[https://youtu.be/eGpjkJicM7k\]](https://youtu.be/eGpjkJicM7k).

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About SAHPRA

SAHPRA is tasked with regulating (monitoring, evaluating, investigating, inspecting and registering) all health products. This includes clinical trials, complementary medicines, medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics (IVDs). Furthermore, SAHPRA has the added responsibility of overseeing radiation control in South Africa. SAHPRA's mandate is outlined in the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 101 of 1965, as amended, as well as the Hazardous Substances Act, 15 of 1973.

SAHPRA has three pillars to ensure that medicines, medical devices and IVDs meet the requisite standards to protect the health and well-being of all who reside in South Africa:

- Safety
- Efficacy
- Quality

It is these three pillars that define the ethos of SAHPRA.

About Pharmacometrics Africa

Pharmacometrics Africa is a not-for-profit company registered in South Africa as a platform for interested groups to establish and run open access quantitative clinical pharmacology educational programs in partnership with local research organizations and academic groups.

About the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology at Wits

The Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology at the University of the Witwatersrand is home to a dynamic and innovative community of academic and support staff, postgraduates, undergraduates and postdoctoral fellows. As leaders of pharmacy education and research in South Africa, the key areas of pharmaceutical formulation and drug delivery technology, regulatory sciences, pharmaceutical entrepreneurship, management of drug therapy, counselling on the use of medication, monitoring drug therapy outcomes and pharmacology lie at the heart of our activities. We are dedicated to providing high-quality research-led teaching and supervision that can change the world we live in.