

WORLD LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE — WCPH 2026, Cape Town**Tuesday 8 September | 11:15 | Auditorium 1****The Convergence Imperative: From Innovation to Implementation Equity in Ending TB and HIV**

Tuberculosis and HIV remain among the world's most significant public health challenges, disproportionately affecting low- and middle-income countries and vulnerable populations. In high-burden settings across sub-Saharan Africa, TB and HIV are not separate epidemics but a syndemic, interacting with poverty, health system gaps, and social exclusion to produce preventable illness and death. At the same time, artificial intelligence, digital health, advanced diagnostics, vaccine innovation, therapeutics, and disease modelling are creating new possibilities for accelerating progress. Late-stage TB vaccine development, AI-enabled diagnostics, long-acting prevention and treatment technologies, and renewed attention to primary health care create a unique opportunity to shift from fragmented disease programmes to integrated, equity-oriented delivery.

Tool innovation alone will not end TB and HIV. It should be matched with delivery innovations, so that scientific breakthroughs are translated into equitable access through strong primary health care systems, community-based services, sustainable financing, effective governance, locally relevant data, digital inclusion, and meaningful engagement with affected communities. The Gates Foundation has been a leading global partner in advancing innovation across vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics and delivery innovations (artificial intelligence, digital health, and other health systems strengthening interventions) to optimise and transform delivery systems. As one of the Congress's flagship leadership dialogues, this session will examine how these innovations can be embedded in health systems to accelerate progress towards ending TB and HIV while advancing equity, inclusion, and sustainability.

Facilitator**Dr. Lwando Maki** — Facilitator; leads session introductions and conclusion**Speakers****Professor Linda-Gail Bekker (TBC)** — The Convergence Imperative: From Innovation to Accessible and Effective TB and HIV Control**Professor Yogan Pillay** — Re-imagining a Primary Health Care System in the 4th Industrial Revolution**Dr. Liesl Page-Shipp** — Session Key Messages**Discussants** — South African National Department of Health; Africa CDC; digital health/AI expert