

Beyond Girls: Advancing HPV Vaccination for Boys in Africa

WCPH 2026 Pre-Congress Roundtable

Saturday 5 September 2026 • 1:00–4:00 PM • The Westin Hotel, Cape Town

About

HPV vaccination is one of the world's most effective cancer prevention tools. While increasing momentum has rightly focused on expanding access for girls to eliminate cervical cancer, a growing body of evidence shows that routine universal HPV vaccination—protecting both girls and boys—is essential for achieving equitable, sustainable prevention across Africa. The 2025 UN Political Declaration on NCDs recognised this strategic importance, signalling a global shift toward gender-neutral vaccination as a cornerstone of cancer elimination.

Men across Africa experience substantial burden of HPV-related diseases, including penile, anal, and oropharyngeal cancers, as well as genital warts. Gender-neutral vaccination protects boys' health, strengthens herd immunity, simplifies public health messaging, reduces stigma, and builds community acceptance. As African countries move beyond cervical cancer elimination toward broader HPV prevention, this roundtable examines the epidemiological evidence, implementation experience from early adopter countries, community attitudes, and practical policy pathways for integrating boys into national immunisation strategies.

Registration

Free for WCPH 2026 delegates

Link: <https://forms.gle/yJxrBw7VqZ91f7ED8>

Speakers & Chairs

Peter Baker • Chief Executive, Global Action on Men's Health

Damian Naidoo • CAPRISA, Durban

Amon Lukhele • Chief Executive, Outreach Scout Foundation, Malawi

Prof. Kaymarlin Govender • University of KwaZulu-Natal

Government representatives • Eswatini and Rwanda

UNFPA South Africa • Sexual and reproductive health

Contact

Tim Shand • Global Action on Men's Health • tim.shand@gamh.org