

Programme

Research and Innovation Week

25 - 29 May 2026

Muckleneuk and Science Campuses

**MEET OUR
SPEAKERS**

Define tomorrow.

UNISA


college of
agriculture and
environmental sciences

Programme

Research and Innovation Week

25 - 29 May 2026

Muckleneuk and Science Campuses

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Biography of Dr Maphuti Madiga

Dr Maphuti Madiga is Deputy Director at the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI), where she oversees programmes that support emerging researchers, provides policy and strategic oversight, and promotes women's participation in science through her coordination of the South African Women in Science Awards (SAWISA).

With more than sixteen years of experience in higher education, science councils, and government, Dr Madiga has built expertise in research management, grant making, project management, and stakeholder engagement. She holds a PhD in Public Health from Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University with over 15 peer reviewed articles, 1 100+ citations, and a Google Scholar h index of 8. Dr Madiga is committed to advancing systemic transformation and excellence in science.

Programme

Research and Innovation Week

25 - 29 May 2026

Muckleneuk and Science Campuses

SPEAKER



Biography of Dr Bathabile Ramalapa

Dr Ramalapa leads the Biotherapeutics Formulation and Delivery platform at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), where her team develops drug delivery systems for diabetes, breast cancer, and antimicrobial resistance, engineered for African climate conditions and affordability. She holds two PhDs, in Chemical Sciences from the University of Liège and in Experimental and Analytical Pharmacology from the University of Angers, completed under an Erasmus Mundus dual PhD fellowship. Dr Ramalapa is also an Extraordinary Senior Lecturer in the Research Focus Area: Material Science Innovation and Modelling at North West University (NWU), where she contributes to postgraduate training, research supervision, and capacity development in biomaterials and health technologies.

Her career carries an Africa Oxford Fellowship in Health Innovation and Entrepreneurship from Oxford University, a Novartis Research Fellowship in Switzerland and a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation visiting scholar grant training at the School of Pharmacy in Nottingham university. She has recently been appointed as a domain expert in Biotherapeutics and Commercialization at MARATTO.

Dr Ramalapa leads collaborative programmes involving academia, industry, small and medium enterprises (SMMEs), and international partners to accelerate technology translation and strengthen regional biomanufacturing capacity. Her work is driven by a commitment to developing sustainable, locally manufactured health solutions that improve equitable access to medicines and advanced therapies across Africa. She serves as an emissary of the Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa where she advocates for African science diplomacy, fostering global partnerships and promoting science-informed health policy.