

# Faculty of Veterinary Science

Fakulteit Veeartsenykunde Lefapha la Diseanse tša Bongakadiruiwa

# Doctoral Celebration Programme

Lecture hall 1-35 Arnold Theiler Building

Wednesday, 3 April 2019

Make today matter

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# Programme

08:55 - 09:00	Welcome by the Dean, Prof Vinny Naid
09:00 - 09:20	Prof Martin Schulman introduces <b>Marg</b> Efficacy and safety of recombinant zon current application of native porcine zo
09:20 - 09:40	Prof Lyndy McGaw introduces <b>Ibukun</b> Potential of <i>Eugenia</i> and <i>Syzygium</i> spec pathogens with emphasis on porcine e
09:40 - 10:00	Prof Janusz Paweska introduces <b>Gaby</b> Mutation of adjacent cysteine residues in loss of virulence in a murine model i
10:00 - 10:20	Dr Otto Koekemoer introduces <b>Harry</b> Characterizing the effect of mutation, r diversity of African horse sickness virus
10:20 – 10:4 <mark>0</mark>	Coffee/tea with snacks in foyer
10:40 – 11: <mark>20</mark>	Official photos
11:20 – 11: <mark>40</mark>	Prof Henriette van Heerden introduces Genomic study of <i>Bacillus anthracis</i> and in South Africa
11:40 – 12:00	Prof Christo Botha introduces <b>Hamza</b> Development and evaluation of immur
12:00 - 12:20	Prof Henriette van Heerden introduces Prevalence and characterization of <i>Salr</i> production value chain in Nigeria
12:00 - 12:20 12:20 - 12:40	Prevalence and characterization of Salr

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## rgaret Bethaline Nolan

na pellucida vaccines in domestic horse mares and zona pellucida vaccines in African elephant cows

# Michael Famuyide

cies (Myrtaceae) to combat diarrhoeagenic enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* 

## Ermelindo Roberto Monteiro

es in the NSs protein of Rift Valley fever virus results infection

## Gay Ngoveni

recombination and reassortment on the genetic us genomes

## es Kgaugelo Edward Lekota

nd Bacillus species isolated from anthrax outbreaks

## Ibrahim Isa

unogens for a yellow tulp (*Moraea pallida*) vaccine

## es Nurudeen Olalekan Oloso

Imonella isolates originating from the broiler

ny Naidoo



Faculty of **Veterinary Science** 

#### In Absentia:

**Dorcas Amara Gado** Supervisor: Prof Lyndy McGaw Susceptibility of Salmonella serotypes to plant secondary metabolites with application in infection control

Moise Ondua Supervisor: Prof Lyndy McGaw Anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities of selected southern African medicinal plants with potential application in treating helminth infections

Supervisor: Prof Henriette van Heerden **Angela Buys** Development and evaluation of an inactivated multi-clostridial vaccine for captive bred southern white rhinoceroses (Ceratotherium simum simum)

Shivani Goolab Cell surface display as a potential Brucella antigen delivery system

Supervisor: Prof Henriette van Heerden

Fernando Chanisso Mulandane Supervisor: Prof Luis Neves Epidemiology of drug resistance and evaluation of possible mechanical transmision of Trypanosoma congolense by haematophagous insects in Zambezia Province, Mozambique

**Amanda Beylefeld** Supervisor: Prof Celia Abolnik Genomic comparison of Mycoplasma species isolated from commercial chickens in South Africa

**Agnes Tinuke Laleye** Supervisor: Prof Celia Abolnik Dynamics of highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks: incursion and emergence

**Cindy Kim Harper** Supervisor: Prof Peter Thompson Development and implementation of the Rhinoceros DNA Index System (RhODIS®) for the forensic analysis and biological management of African rhinoceros



**Margaret Bethaline Nolan** 

In her thesis, Efficacy and safety of recombinant zona pellucida vaccines in domestic horse mares and current application of native porcine zona pellucida vaccines in African elephant cows, the promovenda reported that a recombinant zona pellucida (reZP) immunocontraceptive vaccine formulated with novel adjuvants was an effective and safe alternative to porcine zona pellucida (pZP) vaccination in mares. Data collected in randomised controlled studies described mares' ovarian effects, antibody titre responses and safety profiles. Additionally, a retrospective data analysis from elephant populations in South African reserves demonstrated pZP immunocontraceptive vaccination as a successful management tool, informing future implementation. Overall, this work reported novel and improved alternatives for humane veterinary population management of horses, potentially similarly applicable in elephants and other species.

Supervisor Co-supervisor Internal examiner External examiner External examiner

Prof ML Schulman : Prof HJ Bertschinger : Prof VPMG Rutten : Prof B Colenbrander (Utrecht University)



**Prof Martin Schulman** 

: Prof C Herbert (University of Sydney, Australia)



Faculty of



Ibukun Michael Famuyide



**Prof Lyndy McGaw** 



**Gaby Ermelindo Roberto Monteiro** 

In his thesis, Potential of Eugenia and Syzygium species (Myrtaceae) to combat diarrhoeagenic pathogens with emphasis on porcine enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli, the promovendus worked towards providing solutions to the one health issue of antimicrobial resistance via the food chain by investigating replacements for synthetic antibiotics commonly added to livestock feed in the form of medicinal plant extracts. In vitro methods were used to determine the antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities, cellular safety and mode of antibacterial action of nine South African Eugenia and Syzygium medicinal plant species. Plant extracts had noteworthy antibacterial activity against planktonic and biofilm forms of various Grampositive and Gram-negative bacteria as well as good anti-quorum sensing and anti- adhesion activities. The plants had high antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities and low cytotoxicity to mammalian cells. The results provide support for the potential development of some of the selected plants as phytogenic feed additives.

In her thesis on "Mutation of adjacent cysteine residues in the NSs protein of Rift Valley fever virus results in loss of virulence in a murine model infection", the promovenda aimed to investigate the effects of nonstructural protein (NSs) conserved cysteine substitutions on RVFV virulence. RVFV is a mosquito borne zoonotic RNA virus which has a high potential to cause large outbreaks in livestock and humans, resulting in severe health and socio-economic losses. No human vaccines are commercially available. The S segment encodes a NSs, the major virulence factor. NSs gene has five highly conserved cysteine residues at positions 39, 40, 149, 178 and 194. The mutation at cysteines 39 and 40 (C39S/C40S) resulted in attenuated phenotype in BALB/c mice. This study provides a better understanding of RVFV molecular mechanisms governing its virulence and indicates that RVFV attenuated mutant (C39S/C40S) can be used as a safe virus for serum neutralization based assays as well as a potential vaccine candidate.

Supervisor Co-supervisor External examiner External examiner External examiner

: Prof LJ McGaw : Prof IN Eloff : Prof C Franz (University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Austria) : Dr AO Aremu (North-West University) : Dr M Walkenhorst (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland)

Supervisor Co-supervisor External co-supervisor : Internal examiner External examiner External examiner

: Prof |T Paweska : Dr P Jansen van Vuren Dr J Kortekaas (Utrecht University, The Netherlands) : Prof W Markotter

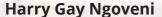


**Prof Janusz Paweska** 

: Prof FJ Burt (University of the Free State) : Prof S Günther (Bernhard-Nocht-Institute for Tropical Medicine, Germany)









**Dr Otto Koekemoer** 



**Kgaugelo Edward Lekota** 

In his thesis, Characterizing the effect of mutation, recombination and reassortment on the genetic diversity of African horse sickness virus genomes, the promovendus made an in depth study of the evolution in the genome of the African horse sickness virus through the application of massively parallel sequencing of the complete genomes of close to 100 viruses, isolated over a period of more than 60 years. It was determined that genetic mutations are under strong purifying selection and that the mean nucleotide substitution rate is lower than is the case for other RNA viruses, a constraint imposed by the necessity to replicate in both the host and insect vector species. Widespread reassortment of genome segments was detected and it was shown for the first time that recombination events occurred within some genome segment. This knowledge will be used in the development of the next generation of vaccines to ensure complete antigenic matching between vaccines and field viruses.

Anthrax is a zoonotic disease that naturally occurs in wild and domestic animals, caused by Bacillus anthracis. Bacillus anthracis and B. endophyticus isolated from anthrax cases in the Northern Cape Province (NCP) had similar microbiological and genetic features. Whole genome sequencing identified the homologous polyglutamate genes present in both species and also identified regions that differentiated *B. anthracis* from *B. endophyticus*. Molecular analysis of the Kruger National Park (KNP) and NCP strains from anthrax outbreaks in animals clustered mostly in the A-clade. The rare B-clade strains were last isolated in the 1990s in KNP. In this study, Genomic study of Bacillus anthracis and Bacillus species isolated from anthrax outbreaks in South Africa, a B-clade strain was isolated from Limpopo province. A Bacillus anthracis genomic database was generated to identify single nucleotide polymorphisms across sequenced and world-wide genomes. Specific novel SNPs were developed into high-resolution melting SNP discriminative assays. This study confirmed the diversity of B. anthracis strains and identified novel sub- clades and branches in South Africa.

Supervisor External co-supervisor : Internal examiner : External examiner External examiner

: Dr JO Koekemoer Dr A van Schalkwyk (ARC - Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute) Dr WC Fick : Prof | Du (Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute, China) : Dr CDJ Labuschagne (Ingaba Biotechnical Industries (Pt)

Supervisor External co-supervisor : External examiner External examiner External examiner

: Prof H van Heerden Dr CA Hefer (ARC - Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute) External co-supervisor : Dr E Madoroba (ARC - Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute) : Prof AR Hoffmaster (Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, USA) Prof L Kenefic (University of Maryland, USA) : Dr S Derzelle (Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire del'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail, France)



**Prof Henriette van Heerden** 





Hamza Ibrahim Isa



**Prof Christo Botha** 



Nurudeen Olalekan Oloso

In his thesis, Development and evaluation of immunogens for a yellow tulp (Moraea pallida) vaccine, the promovendus investigated if a yellow tulp vaccine could be developed to prevent this economically important plant poisoning in livestock. Epoxyscillirosidine, proscillaridin and bufalin were conjugated to different proteins to render them immunogenic. A suitable adjuvant was added before vaccinating rabbits in three different trials. An ELISA was developed to determine antibody response. Antibodies were raised and the antibodies against proscillaridin and bufalin cross-reacted with epoxyscillirosidine. The animal vaccination studies were scaled up and sheep were immunized. Cytotoxic effects of epoxyscillirosidine were evaluated in a rat embryonic cardiomyocyte cell line using cell viability assays and transmission electron microscopy. The cytotoxicity studies demonstrated that epoxyscillirosidine causes cell necrosis. Subsequently, the antibodies raised in sheep were concentrated and purified before evaluation of their in vitro neutralization efficacy. However, the anti-epoxyscillirosidine antibodies failed to prevent cytotoxic effects induced by epoxyscillirosidine.

In his thesis, Prevalence and characterization of *Salmonella* isolates originating from the broiler production value chain in Nigeria, the promovendus investigated the epidemiology and established baseline data in support of the prevalence of Salmonella in the Nigeria broiler production value chain (NBPVC) using South Africa as a reference. The structure of the NBPVC revealed policy inconsistency, uncompetitive pricing and compromised food-safety standards. Biosecurity compliance in broiler-breeder-farms was poor with demonstrable high risk of vertical transmission of salmonellosis. Prevalence of 55% for locations and 23% for samples was observed for multidrug resistant Salmonella linked to unregulated high level of drug usage in animal-human-environments interface. The study demonstrated Salmonella as a neglected zoonotic foodborne pathogen in Africa. Joint continental wise surveillance and national data collection platforms on Salmonella with antimicrobial resistance is imperative to establish good antimicrobial stewardship.

Supervisor Co-supervisor Internal examiner External examiner External examiner

: Prof CJ Botha : Dr JE Crafford Prof JG Myburgh : : Prof SR Gooneratne (Lincoln University, New Zealand) : Prof FN Toka (Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, West Indies)

Supervisor Co-supervisor Internal examiner External examiner External examiner : Prof FO Fasina : Prof H van Heerden Prof CME McCrindle : Prof L Mughini-Gras (RIVM, The Netherlands)



**Prof Dayo Fasina** 

: Dr ES Swai (Department of Veterinary Services, Tanzania)



Facultv o



**Dorcas Amara Gado** 



**Prof Lyndy McGaw** 



**Moise Ondua** 

In her thesis, Susceptibility of Salmonella serotypes to plant secondary metabolites with application in infection control, the promovenda evaluated the antibacterial activity of leaves of ten selected South African medicinal plants. Loxostylis alata was selected for further investigation based on promising preliminary antibacterial and antioxidant activity and low cytotoxicity. The activity of crude extracts of L. alata was evaluated against both susceptible and multi-resistant Salmonella isolates of animal origin in comparison to commercial antibiotics with good results. No genetic relatedness between resistant strains was observed based on pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) analysis of S. Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium isolates. The antibacterial compounds delicaflavone, 5-demethyl sinensetin, methyl gallate and cetene were purified and identified from the leaves of L. alata for the first time. The modes of action via antibiofilm activity and immune modulatory properties of Loxostylis alata leaf extracts and purified compounds were reported for the first time.

In his thesis, Anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities of selected southern African medicinal plants with potential application in treating helminth infections, the *promovendus* investigated the biological activities of eleven southern African plants used in traditional medicine to treat inflammation. Two new compounds with good anti-inflammatory and anthelmintic activities were isolated for the first time from Typha capensis (isorhamnetin-3-O-β-D-glucoside, and isorhamnetin 3-O-rutinoside). Typha capensis had good activity not only against the larvae of the parasitic livestock nematode Haemonchus contortus but also against various inflammatory mediators. This supports the potential of *T. capensis*, the common bulrush, for development into an anthelmintic remedy able to additionally enhance healing of damaged tissues via anti-inflammatory and antioxidant action. There was a strong correlation between *in vitro* antioxidant and anthelmintic activities, suggesting that antioxidant assays may be used in bioassay-guided fractionation for isolation of compounds from plants with activity against helminth parasites.

Supervisor Co-supervisor External examiner External examiner External examiner

: Prof LI McGaw Prof MM Ehlers-van der Zel : Prof V Kuete (University of Dschang, Cameroon) : Prof FM Mahomoodally (University of Mauritius) : Prof | van Staden (University of KwaZulu-Natal)

Supervisor External co-supervisor : Internal examiner External examiner External examiner

: Prof LJ McGaw Dr E Mfotie Njoya (University of Yaoundé, Cameroon) : Prof N Lall



**Prof Lyndy McGaw** 

: Prof J Hohmann (University of Szeged, Hungary) : Dr AR Ndhlala (Agricultural Research Council)



Facultv o



**Angela Buys** 



**Prof Henriette van Heerden** 



Shivani Goolab

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In her thesis, Development and evaluation of an inactivated multi-clostridial vaccine for captive bred southern white rhinoceroses (Ceratotherium simum simum), the promovenda developed a multi-clostridial vaccine using modern single-use technology of C. perfringens type A, C. sordellii, C. novyi, C. septicum and *C. chauvoei*. Fermentation was followed by the development of indirect enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (iELISAs) for antibody detection. Two groups of white rhinoceroses were evaluated consisting of a group vaccinated with a commercial multi-clostridial vaccine for cattle and a group vaccinated with Rhinovax. Post-vaccination antibody titres from Rhinovax vaccinated rhinoceros increased significantly (P ≥ 0.05) except against C. perfringens type A when compared to animals vaccinated with the commercial cattle vaccine. To establish baseline data, sero-surveillance of unvaccinated rhinoceros (n=100) in the Kruger National Park was evaluated. Data showed high titres to C. perfringens type A and C. septicum only. The results contributed to the understanding of serological profiles of rhinoceroses to veterinary important clostridial organisms.

Brucellosis is a challenging, zoonotic disease posing a devastating impact on livestock. A novel vaccination strategy employed the avirulent, Escherichia coli and Yarrowia lipolytica expression systems for the surface display of *Brucella* antigens, Omp16 and Omp19. In her thesis Cell surface display as a potential *Brucella* antigen delivery system, the promovenda investigated whether the incorporation of these homologous lipoproteins in non-pathogenic cells could ultimately protect livestock against common Brucella specie infection. Super resolution localization microscopy confirmed lipoprotein surface distribution, which validated these platforms for use as vaccine "vehicles". This provided insight into *Brucella* lipoprotein spatial distribution and biogenesis. The vaccine efficacy monitored in mice indicated the humoral immune response acquired was supported by a cross-reactive response to the bacterial envelope components. The protection conferred in the immunized model by the avirulent delivery systems, upon Brucella infection was inadequate in comparison to the *B. abortus* S19 vaccine. Nonetheless, these antigen platforms coupled with these lipoproteins may demonstrate potential as booster vaccinations.

Supervisor Co-supervisor External examiner External examiner External examiner

Prof H van Heerden Dr IE Crafford Prof F Uzal (University California, Davis, USA) : : Dr II Hitzeroth (University of Cape Town) : Dr MJ Miller (Stellenbosch University)

Supervisor Co-supervisor External co-supervisor : Dr R Roth (CSIR) Internal examiner External examiner External examiner

: Prof H van Heerden Dr MC Crampton : Prof | Theron



**Prof Henriette van Heerden** 

: Dr G Briones (National University of San Martin, Argentina) : Dr D O'Callaghan (University of Montpellier, France)



Faculty of





Fernando Chanisso Mulandane

**Prof Luis Neves** 



**Amanda Beylefeld** 

Trypanosomosis, a disease transmitted biologically by tsetse flies and mechanically by tabanids, together with trypanocidal drug resistance, has caused a drastic reduction in the cattle population in Zambezia province. In this thesis Epidemiology of drug resistance and evaluation of possible mechanical transmision of *Trypanosoma congolense* by haematophagous insects in Zambezia Province, Mozambigue, drug resistance was assessed through a block treatment experiment. An entomological survey to study the composition of the flies involved in the transmission of trypanosomosis, including the determination of trypanosome infection rates, was also conducted. The study revealed the presence of single and multi- drug resistance in Nicoadala district. It was also demonstrated that there is a small tsetse population surviving in the area as well as a large homogeneous population of tabanids with an overlapping distribution, both contributing to the transmission of trypanosomosis. This information is fundamental when considering the control of trypanosomosis in the area.

In her thesis, Genomic comparison of Mycoplasma species isolated from commercial chickens in South Africa, the promovenda generated complete genome sequence data for 178 mycoplasma isolates, identifying six species in the national flock, including Mycoplasma gallisepticum and M. synoviae, notifiable avian disease agents. Antimicrobial resistance profiles of 70 axenic isolates were correlated to genetic resistance markers, resulting in the identification of novel point mutations in *M. gallingceum* and *M. gallingrum* associated with antimicrobial resistance. The promovenda furthermore assembled, annotated and published the first complete genome sequence of *M. pullorum*. Finally, 26 novel gene targets were identified in a whole genome comparison of 68 axenic mycoplasma isolates that will aid in the development of improved diagnostic assays and future vaccines. The sequencing database of 79 axenic isolates generated in this can be utilised for numerous future mycoplasma related gene studies.

Supervisor Co-supervisor External co-supervisor : Internal examiner External examiner External examiner

Prof LCBGD Neves : Prof MC Oosthuizen Dr V Delespaux (Vrije University Brussel, Belgium) : Dr IIO Koekemoer : Dr DW Berthier (CIRAD, France) : Dr P Holzmuller (CIRAD, France)

Supervisor External examiner External examiner : Prof C Abolnik

Hungary)

: Prof MM Elgazzar (Iowa State University, USA)

External examiner



**Prof Celia Abolnik** 

Prof M Gyuranecz (Institute of Veterinary Medical Research, CAR, HAS,

: Prof MS Marenda (University of Melbourne, Australia)





**Agnes Tinuke Laleye** 



**Prof Celia Abolnik** 



**Cindy Kim Harper** 

In her thesis, Dynamics of highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks: incursion and emergence, the promovenda demonstrated evolutionary relationships between Nigerian H5N1 viruses and Eurasian strains with evidence of co-circulating genotypes and emergence of reassortant strains. She also explored molecular changes involved in the emergence of highly pathogenic viruses from ostrich-origin low pathogenic H5/H7 progenitors in vivo. Deep sequencing data indicated progression towards high pathogenicity by the demonstration of increased basic amino acids at the connecting peptides of the hemagglutinin cleavage sites, and mutations in other gene segments. This work proves that should the low pathogenic viruses spill over from ostriches to chickens, the viruses can mutate into the highly pathogenic forms with a potentially devastating impact on poultry production as well as public health issues. The *promovenda* furthermore developed a standard operating procedure for the propagation of avian influenza virus in ostrich eggs.

In this thesis, Development and implementation of the Rhinoceros DNA Index System (RhODIS®) for the forensic analysis and biological management of African rhinoceros, the development of a technique to individually identify rhinoceros horn through DNA profiling was described. The research utilised the DNA profile and biological data in a database, which includes representative samples of African white and black rhinoceros to support DNA profile matches in rhinoceros forensic cases. The research also applied these data to assist the biological management of extant rhinoceros populations. This study presents the data collected, technical and analytical methods used and shows the overall utility of the RhODIS® system as an important tool in protecting and sustaining rhinoceros populations. The results of this study received international recognition and established a precedent in the use of DNA forensics in wildlife crime cases.

Supervisor Internal examiner External examiner External examiner

: Prof C Abolnik : Prof FO Fasina : Prof N Lewis (Royal Veterinary College, UK) : Dr BZ Löndt (Institute hVIVO, London, UK)

Supervisor Internal examiner External examiner External examiner

:

: Prof PN Thompson External co-supervisor : Prof S O'Brien (St Petersburg State University, Russia) Prof E van Marle-Köster : Prof BS Weir (University of Washington, USA) : Dr OA Ryder (Institute for Conservation Research - San Diego Zoo, USA)



**Prof Peter Thompson** 



Facultv o

# **Master of Veterinary Medicine**

in Pathology	Alischa Henning Nicolize O'Dell	Companion Animal Clinical Studie
in Small Animal Medicine	Anri Celliers	Paraclinical Sciences
Small Animal Surgery	Frans Gericke van Heerden	

# **Master of Science**

Animal/Human/Ecosystem Health	
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**Tropical Animal Health** 

**Veterinary Epidemiology** 

in Veterinary Science

Rauna Ndinelao Athingo Vincent Charl Henwood Tapiwa Margaret Tatiana Makwavarara Dumakude Mpofu Chisanga Twambo Mwamba Nomathamsanga Nogwebela George Tapiwa Sandengu Samantha Kelly Wills-Berriman Olufenke Abeni Nwosu Gillian Declercq Stephen Mandara Rudo Marange Ratselane Daniel Marumo Johan Gerhard Nel Reverend Mooregood Spargo Leandri Strydom **Biance Voigts** Jaison Zanga Lisa Hazel Hiemstra Frederick Kenneth Botha Jolandie Botha Jacques Pieter du Preez Karen Ebersohn Travis Ross Gray Roanda Jacobs Rebecca Eileen Jeal Katembue Kambuyi Mohammed Sulaiman Liman Freddy Mokadi Mabetlela Nomsa Felecia Mabogoane Sekgota Marcus Makgabo Ayanda Manqele Nomawethu Shelly Masina Mologadi Thelma Mokgophi

Matlale Phriskey Mphahlele

Sophie Joan Neller Ntji Shabangu

Gideon Petrus Stemmet

Paidamwoyo Berry Mutowembwa

**Veterinary Science** Anatomy and Physiology

**Veterinary Science Tropical Diseases** 

Chloe Elizabeth Grotto

Roxanne Sheree Emslie Alishahi Majid Khanzadeh Miles John Penfold

Danielle Henn Edward Thato Khunoana Relebohile Juliet Lepheana Thembeka Kim Mtetwa Brad Michael Querl Tahiyya Shaik

Tsireledzo Goodwill Makwarela Xolani Mazibuko Koketso Desiree Mazwi Charlotte Ropafadzo Mupfunya Matshie Phosa

# Notes