

**NITheCS Colloquium**  
**Monday, 13 December 2021, 16h00 – 17h00**  
Dr Cari van Schalkwyk (SU)

**“The potential for cervical cancer elimination in South Africa”**



## **ABSTRACT**

In 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) published a strategy to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health concern. In South Africa, despite having a national screening policy in place since 2000, diagnosed cervical cancer incidence has shown no signs of decline. We extend a previously developed individual-based model for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and human papillomavirus (HPV) infection to include progression to cervical cancer. The model accounts for future reductions in HIV incidence and prevalence and includes a detailed cervical cancer screening algorithm, based on individual-level data from the public health sector. We estimate the impact of the current prevention programme and alternative screening scenarios on cervical cancer incidence over the next century.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Dr Cari van Schalkwyk works as a researcher at the DSI/NRF Centre of Excellence in Epidemiological Modelling and analysis (SACEMA) at the University of Stellenbosch and holds a PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from UCT.

She has worked on projects related to HIV, tuberculosis, Covid-19, human papillomavirus,

malaria and cervical cancer, which will be the focus of this talk. The model and results presented were included in the WHO's Cervical Cancer Elimination Modelling Consortium's project on the prospects of elimination of cervical cancer in settings with generalised HIV epidemics.

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