



Dear Friends and Colleagues around the world,

It is with a feeling of immense excitement that I cordially invite you to attend the upcoming XXVIII International Symposium on Morphological Sciences (ISMS). The Anatomical Society of Southern Africa will be hosting this meeting at the Graduate School of Business of the University of Cape Town, set in the heart of the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront in Cape Town, Republic of South Africa, from the 5th to the 8th of August, 2023.

South Africa has hosted a meeting of the ISMS in the past, and just over ten years ago we hosted a meeting of the parent body, the IFAA, at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. Now it is an opportunity for us to host another meeting of the ISMS. This remains a truly remarkable event where you can meet and interact with hundreds of delegates from Anatomical Associations around the world. It is an ideal opportunity to gain and share your knowledge within the community of teaching and research professionals. We extend a special invitation to our younger colleagues and both undergraduate and postgraduate students to participate in this meeting and showcase the work that you are all doing.

The overall theme of the meeting of the ISMS is Vision 2023 & Beyond – Excellence in Research and Education, firmly grounded on the bedrock of the 4th Industrial Revolution. The main components of the meeting are listed below, and we encourage potential delegates to begin planning their participation in these broad fields, whether they be oral presentations or poster presentations:

- Excellence in Education
- Art in Anatomy
- Forensic Anthropology
- Neurosciences
- Clinical Anatomy
- Ethics
- Evolutionary Biology, Comparative Anatomy
- Cell Biology, Histology, Embryology, Developmental Biology

Oral sessions will include keynote speakers who are internationally recognised for their expertise in these fields of knowledge.

There will be several poster sessions spread over the duration of the Symposium.

Workshops: These will be run before, during and after the meeting

- Strategising teaching and assessment practices
- A Workshop of teaching things (Art in Anatomy)

- Others will be announced in due course

Special slots:

- Emergent anatomists' event
- Students: getting to know you, workshops, social function, roles
- Others will be announced in due course

At this point in time, we are all fully aware of the multiple issues relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, and so I will not address any of these items here. No one knows for sure what the global picture will look like in the next year or two. For this reason, we are planning a hybrid event for August, 2023, whereby we will be hosting the meeting in both face-to-face and online / remote formats. The Graduate School of Business and the Conference Management Centre are fully capable of running such a hybrid event. We encourage those of you who envisage travelling to Cape Town to begin planning your time frames for 2023. For those of you who prefer to attend the meeting online, we will endeavour to offer you the best "virtual" experience possible. We will be setting up our website during the course of next year and you will be able to register for this event and submit your abstracts, in time. The website will also explain the details relating to travelling to South Africa, visa requirements and accommodation.

I am convinced that in the beautiful coastal atmosphere of Cape Town we will appreciate together the irreplaceable value of personal meetings and working friendships for the further development of our special chosen disciplines within every country and all over the world. Please do not hesitate to write to me at the following email address until we set up our formal channels through the official website for ISMS XXVIII. Graham.Louw@uct.ac.za

With my best wishes,

Graham Louw

Chair: Local Organising Committee of ISMS 2023

Cape Town, Republic of South Africa