

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Unisa to hold Symposium of Consortium of Oncology Clinicians and Scientists to unravel the Impact of diet on Cancer Management**

**Approved for Public Release**

**Date: Monday, 24 November 2025**

The global rise in cancer cases is a distressing trend that demands immediate attention. To address these challenges, the University of South Africa (Unisa)'s College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences will hold a symposium of Consortium of Oncology Clinicians and Scientists to unravel the Impact of diet on Cancer Management on Friday 28, November 2025 at Unisa Science Campus in Florida, Johannesburg.

A group of molecular oncology researchers at Unisa, led by a biotechnologist, Prof Ntwasa, has been studying the impact of diet on cancer progression. The group investigated whether a carbohydrate-rich diet influences cancer management to the extent that dietary behaviour among cancer patients requires adjustment.

Using a colorectal cancer animal model, the scientist has reached a significant milestone and are ready to present their findings to a consortium of top oncologists to pave ways for human study.

The symposium will present opportunities to discuss the animal study, strategize the clinical research and examine the impact of diet on all cancers.

In South Africa, intriguing socio-economic trends for colorectal cancer (CRC) have emerged. Until around 2010, it was most prevalent amongst Whites, Asians, and mixed-race people. However, since 2010, there has been a steady rise in cases amongst Black people. This alarming trend coincides with South Africa's transition in the Human Development Index (HDI), indicating a significant shift in people's lifestyles around 2010.

This study, led by Prof Ntwasa, is critical, as it underscores the need for people to make necessary lifestyle adjustments. It is crucial to inform individuals about the precautionary measures they should take in their daily lives to reduce their risk of cancer.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the symposiums to be held as follows:

**Date :** Friday, 28 November 2025

**Time :** 09:00 – 13:00

**Venue :** Council Chamber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, NB Pityana Building, Unisa Science Campus Corner Christiaan de Wet and Pioneer Street, Florida, Johannesburg.



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For RSVPs and interview requests, please contact Unisa Senior Media Officers: Mr Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981 / [humartm@unisa.ac.za](mailto:humartm@unisa.ac.za) OR Mr Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 3981 / [ratheme@unisa.ac.za](mailto:ratheme@unisa.ac.za)

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