

George

WESTERN CAPE



Learn



Connect



Grow



Explore





WELCOME TO THE FOURTH UBUNTU PROTEOMICS SUMMER SCHOOL!

It is a privilege to welcome you to the beautiful Garden Route for our 2026 gathering in George. As we celebrate the fourth year of this initiative, we reflect on how far we have come—from our beginnings to this incredible community that continues to push the boundaries of proteomics.

An event of this scale is a collective achievement, and we must first extend our deepest gratitude to those who make it possible:

- **DIPLOMICS:** For their steadfast backing and commitment to connecting researchers with world-class omics facilities.
- **Our Corporate Sponsors:** Specifically ReSyn Biosciences, Evosep, IonOpticks, ACGT, ThermoFisher Scientific, Separations, D-CYPHR, and Bruker. Your valued financial contributions and technical expertise are the bedrock of this school.
- **Our Facilitators:** Who have traveled from across the globe to donate their time, sharing their knowledge to support your learning and networking experience.
- **Our Organizing Committee & Partners:** A special thank you to our logistics partner, MagicMonkey Productions, and our dedicated team—including Kelly Jordaan, Samantha Carter, Carol Sviridov, Molati Nonyane, Stoyan Stoychev, Justin Jordaan and Previn Naicker—for their tireless efforts in pulling this week together.
- **To our attendees:** you are the heart of this school. Over the next few days, we urge you to embrace the four pillars of the Ubuntu spirit:
 - **Learn:** Engage with leading experts to master the concepts and applications of modern proteomics.
 - **Connect:** Build the critical capacity and relationships needed to advance research in medicine, biotechnology, and agriculture.
 - **Grow:** Use the round table discussions and "meet-the-expert" sessions to explore new collaborative horizons.
 - **Explore:** Take a moment to breathe in the beauty of the Western Cape and the scenic Garden Route.

We have seen this school change lives—from post-docs finding career-defining opportunities to PhD students forging partnerships they once only dreamed of. Those stories started exactly where you are sitting today.

Engage deeply, ask the difficult questions, and let's continue to push proteomics forward as a community. On behalf of the organizing committee, we are excited to see your journey unfold here in George.

Liam Bell, PhD
ON BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Sunday 1 February 2026

12:00 -16:00	Register & Check-in Delegates to arrive at Protea Hotel by Marriott® King George
16:00 -16:30	Facilitators Program review VENUE: REGENCY HALL
16:30 -17:30	Tea Break
17:30 -18:00	Official Welcome & Opening of UPSS 2026 LIAM BELL VENUE: REGENCY HALL
18:00 -18:30	Emerging Researcher ANDREA ELLERO
18:30 -19:30	Delegate Flash Introductions
19:30 - 20:30	Dinner

We are excited for you to



Learn

Facilitated by leading experts in proteomics from academia and industry



Connect

Build critical capacity to advance proteomics driven research for biotechnology, medicine and agriculture



Grow

Network and explore collaborative opportunities with meet-the-experts and round table discussions








Explore

Visit and explore the Garden Route in the beautiful Western Cape




Monday 2 February 2026

TIME	TRACK 1 - CONCEPTS VENUE: REGENCY HALL	TRACK 2 - APPLICATIONS VENUE: CHARLOTTE ROOM
7:00 - 8:30	Breakfast	
8:30 - 10:00	Proteomics intro + Quantitative LCMS proteomics methods (Part I) UTE DISTLER	Pros / Cons of relative quantitation approaches BERNHARD KÜSTER
10:00 - 10:30	Tea Break	
10:30 - 12:30	Sample collection & preparation basics UTE DISTLER & STOYAN STOYCHEV	Specialized topic: Plasma Proteomics STEFANIE HAUCK
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 - 15:00	Quantitative LCMS proteomics methods (Part II) STEFANIE HAUCK	Scaled-down proteomics JESPER OLSEN
15:00 - 15:30	Tea Break	
15:30 - 17:00	Career Journey Session MARIETTE MATONDO, UTE DISTLER, JESPER OLSEN, LIAM BELL VENUE: REGENCY HALL	
17:00 - 19:00	Round Tables	
19:00 - 20:30	Dinner	
20:00 - 22:00	Quiz Night VENUE: REX TAVERN	

Tuesday 3 February 2026

TIME	TRACK 1 - CONCEPTS VENUE: REGENCY HALL	TRACK 2 - APPLICATIONS VENUE: CHARLOTTE ROOM
7:00 - 8:30	Breakfast	
8:30 - 10:00	Peptide and protein identification (Part I) STEFANIE HAUCK	Case Study: MSStats application DEVON KOHLER
10:00 - 10:30	Tea Break	
10:30 - 12:30	Peptide and protein identification (Part II) LARS JUHL JENSEN	PTM analysis JESPER OLSEN & PREVIN NAICKER  RESYN BIOSCIENCES
12:30 - 13:00	Vendor Sponsored Session BART VAN PUVELDE VENUE: REGENCY HALL	 
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 - 15:30	Introduction into biostatistics & experimental design DEVON KOHLER	Case study: Data Interpretation and Quality Control BRIAN SEARLE
15:30 - 16:00	Tea Break	
16:00 - 18:00	Parallel Workshops:	
	Immunopeptidomics & Open MS MARIETTE MATONDO & TOM MÜLLER 	Practical considerations for dealing with large-scale systems biology and clinical research studies JESPER OLSEN, NICOLAI BACHE & STOYAN STOYCHEV 
18:00 - 19:30	Poster Sessions VENUE: CHARLOTTE & REX TAVERN FOYERS	
19:30 - 22:00	South African Traditional Braai Dinner VENUE: OUTSIDE BY THE POOL	

Wednesday 4 February 2026

TIME	TRACK 1 - CONCEPTS VENUE: REGENCY HALL	TRACK 2 - APPLICATIONS VENUE: CHARLOTTE ROOM
7:00 - 8:30	Breakfast	
8:30 - 10:00	Peptide quantification BRIAN SEARLE	DIA focus JESPER OLSEN
10:00 - 10:30	Tea Break	
10:30 - 12:30	Introduction to network biology for proteomics data LARS JUHL JENSEN	Study: Ion mobility data examples UTE DISTLER
12:30 - 13:30	Vendor Sponsored Session DANIEL VLACIL VENUE: REGENCY HALL	
		
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00 - 18:30	Half Day Excursion & Team Building <p>A day of outdoor fun, laughter and learning is the perfect way to form long lasting relationships. The Garden Route is renowned for its beautiful coastline, lush forests, and dramatic scenery!</p> <p>Our team building adventure is set to take place at Kaaimans Rivermouth, located in a small town called Wilderness, and will include options to kayak, hike, and participate in a variety of beach games.</p> <p>We recommend comfortable clothing, costumes and towels, and please remember to pack a hat and sunscreen (SPF30+).</p> <p>VENUE: KAAIMANS ADVENTURES IN WILDERNESS</p> <div>    </div>	
19:00 - 20:30	Dinner	

Thursday 5 February 2026

TIME	TRACK 1 - CONCEPTS VENUE: REGENCY HALL	TRACK 2 - APPLICATIONS VENUE: CHARLOTTE ROOM
7:00 - 8:30	Breakfast	
8:30 - 10:00	Interpreting bottom-up proteomics data visualizations MARIETTE MATONDO	Case Study: Network visualization of proteomics data LARS JUHL JENSEN
10:00 - 10:30	Tea Break	
10:30 - 12:30	Chromatography focus BERNHARD KÜSTER & JARROD SANDOW <i>ionopticks</i>	Isobaric / Isotopic tagging focus BERNARD DELANGHE ThermoFisher SCIENTIFIC
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 - 15:30	Networking Session SESSIONS TO BE PRE-BOOKED WITH EVENTS TEAM	
15:30 - 16:00	Tea Break	
16:00 - 18:00	Parallel Workshops: Transition from discovery to targeted analysis BRIAN SEARLE & DANIEL VLACIL BRUKER	
18:00 - 19:30	Poster Sessions VENUE: CHARLOTTE & REX TAVERN FOYERS	
19:30 - 22:00	Dinner Pool Party, Drinks & Live Music VENUE: OUTSIDE BY THE POOL	

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Friday 6 February 2026

TIME	TRACK 1 - CONCEPTS VENUE: REGENCY HALL	TRACK 2 - APPLICATIONS VENUE: CHARLOTTE ROOM
7:00 - 8:30	Breakfast	
8:30 - 10:00	MS data validation: Did your experiment succeed? BRIAN SEARLE	Case Study: Interactomics MARIETTE MATONDO
10:00 - 10:30	Tea Break	
13:00 - 12:30	Biotech commercialization panel Q&A VENUE: REGENCY HALL	
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 - 15:00	Closing lecture: AI in Omics LARS JUHL JENSEN VENUE: REGENCY HALL	
15:30 - 16:00	Tea Break	
16:30 - 19:00	Free Time	
19:00 - 22:00	Dinner FOR STUDENTS & FREE TIME	
19:00 - 22:00	Facilitator & Sponsor Thank You Dinner VENUE: OFF-SITE	

Saturday 7 February 2027

7:00 - 8:30	Breakfast
9:00 - 10:00	Check out and various shuttles to the airport

DIPLOMICS

CONNECTING RESEARCHERS & WORLD CLASS OMICS FACILITIES

This DIPLOMICS initiative would like to thank our valued corporate sponsors for making this event possible



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Protea Hotel by Marriott® King George

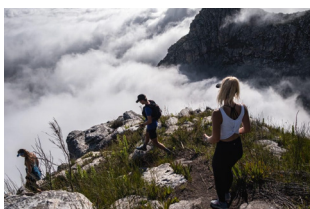
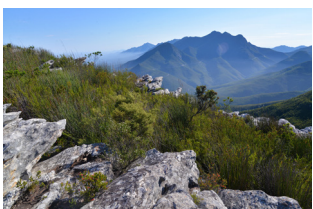
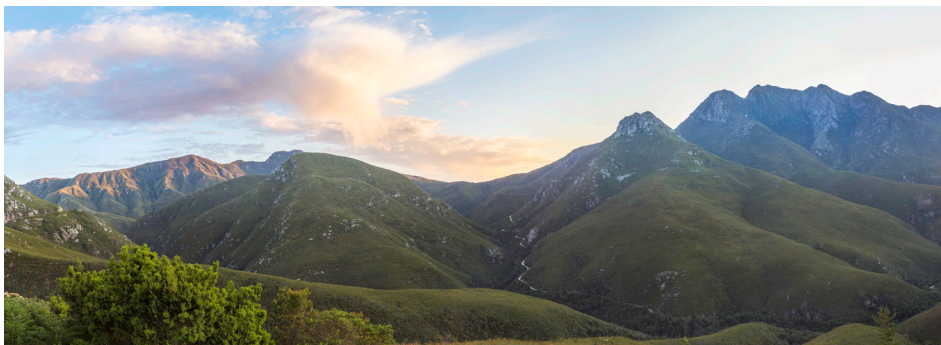
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RECEPTION

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Welcome to beautiful George

PART OF THE SCENIC GARDEN ROUTE IN WESTERN CAPE



#UPSS2026

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Ubuntu Proteomics Summer School

