

Dr André Rose Appointed as SAPRIN Director

23 JUNE 2026



Dr André Rose has been appointed as the Director of the South African Population Research Infrastructure Network (SAPRIN), effective from 1st June 2026.

André is a medical doctor and public health medicine specialist, with a PhD in Public Health. He is a transdisciplinary researcher with significant experience in international development and leadership. André excels in coordinating complex engagements with various stakeholders, including public health departments, academic institutions and local communities.

Dr André Rose – SAPRIN Director

André has held the position of Deputy Director at SAPRIN since 2022 and served as the interim Director from 2025. During this period, André played a key role in guiding and developing the 2025–2030 SAPRIN Strategic Plan. He managed the annual budgeting processes and acted as a vital liaison with various stakeholders, providing leadership and mentoring to his team. Under his guidance, the seventh SAPRIN Health and Demographic Surveillance System node, BMMISHO, was established.

During his tenure at the University of Free State, he played a crucial role in teaching, curriculum development, and the management of the Department of Community Health. He was deeply dedicated to improving community engagement through various university initiatives and actively mentored and coached students.

His broad experience is also reflected in his management of COVID-19 vaccine roll-out efforts in the Northern Cape and measles vaccination in Gauteng, where he developed strategies to improve coverage and tackle vaccine hesitancy.

André has held several notable leadership roles, including serving as President and Treasurer of the Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA). He currently sits on the editorial board of the Journal of Occupational Health Southern Africa and is part of the organising committee of the World Federation of Public Health Associations for the upcoming 18th World Congress on Public Health.

He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute in the USA, where he represented the Fellows Committee and contributed to diversity and transformation initiatives. His global experience

includes serving as an exchange student at IS Global, the Institute for Global Health in Barcelona, and serving as a Fellow of the Salzburg Global Seminar. He is also a recent alumnus of the Kofi Annan Global Health Leadership Programme, which aims to develop senior health leaders in Africa. André is also a visual activist, using his lens-based art practice to amplify social and public health issues.



Photograph by André Rose

Title: Children of the !Xun and the Khew

Year: 2023

Medium: Photograph on Hahnemühle paper Ed 1/1

This work holds a landscape at the edge of recognition, where form dissolves into water and sky. It reflects on the !Xun and the Khew, whose histories persist yet fade from view. What remains is a fragile trace, something still there, even as it disappears.

Professor Liesl Zühlke, Vice-President of Extramural Research and Internal Portfolio at the SAMRC said, “On behalf of the Executive Management Committee, we congratulate André and wish him well in his new role. We look forward to utilising his extensive experience and expertise to foster new partnerships between public and academic institutions, with the aim of producing high-quality research.”

"I am honoured to be appointed Director of SAPRIN. This appointment affirms my longstanding commitment to the network and brings a renewed sense of stability and purpose as we enter a critical phase of implementing our strategic plan. Our focus is on strengthening trusted relationships with our collaborators and forging new partnerships that expand our reach. Through this, we aim to elevate SAPRIN's relevance and position it as a nationally anchored, regionally connected, and internationally recognised hub for population health research," said Dr André Rose.