

Dr Kobus Herbst

DSI-MRC South African Population Research Infrastructure Network (SAPRIN)



Kobus Herbst is the Director of the DSI-funded South African Population Research Infrastructure Network (SAPRIN). SAPRIN is hosted by the South African Medical Research Council and funds the population and health surveillance at five nodes (Agincourt, Mpumalanga; DIMAMO Limpopo, AHRI KZN, GRT-INSPIRED Gauteng, and C-SHARP WC.

He is a Faculty member and the Director Population Science at the Africa Health Research Institute and the principal investigator of its Population Intervention Programme (PIP). He is honorary professor at the University of Limpopo.

Kobus graduated as a medical doctor from the University of Pretoria in 1979, did a masters in Bioengineering at the University of Cape Town and registered as a public health physician in 1994 following a registrarship at MEDUNSA.

Kobus's passion is information and how information management contributes to the scientific process. In particular the establishment of data repositories to curate datasets and promote the secondary use of research study data. To this end Kobus established the INDEPTH data repository in 2013 containing longitudinal demographic and cause-specific mortality data of more than 3 million individuals from 25 demographic surveillance sites in lower and middle-income countries. This work is extended in a collaborative project with researchers at LSHTM to establish a repository of longitudinal population-based HIV sero-surveillance data from 10 sites in Africa (the Alpha network).

His research goals are: the use of large longitudinal population studies in resource limited settings to explore causes of mortality and obstacles to access care and support through the linkage of population data with service utilisation data; and how to fairly and responsibly improve access by data users to such population data resources.

A list of his research publications can be found at: [ResearchGate](#)