

## 2023 ACC / WHF REGISTRATION FUNDING

We definitely are a world of courage, wisdom and progress. From the International Associate of the American College of Cardiology to Fellow of the American College of Cardiology for couple of years now, it felt surreal yet privileged to have been part of this year's face-to-face Congress. Together with the World Congress of Cardiology (ACC.23 / WCC) the event took place on 4 - 6 March 2023, at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Centre in New Orleans, United States of America. The Congress was filled with all the excitement, interacting and networking with fellow experts from every corner of the planet, within and outside the field of cardiology and cardiovascular medicine. I attended and participated in as many sessions as possible, however the main highlights for me were "Women in science" sessions, cardiac imaging, cardio-oncology and, of course, the all-important clinical trials / new discoveries. As an advanced cardiovascular researcher and cardiovascular imaging specialist myself, I must state that there is still a lot to be uncovered and I am here to be among those world experts to invest in addressing cardiovascular disparities and advancing CVS clinical trials. The American College of Cardiology in collaboration with the World Heart Federation are strategically aligned with the main target to compact the prevalence and burden of cardiovascular disease worldwide. In this recent ACC.23 / WCC, the ACC and WHF put forward a formidable amount of work by incorporating ideas about the global and, importantly, relevant current health issues within the programme to raise awareness for the need to work towards one common goal, that is promoting the global health advocacy.

Among hundreds of studies and presentations, these were my highlights:

### CLINICAL TRIALS

- Three-year outcomes after transcatheter or surgical aortic valve replacement in low-risk patients with aortic stenosis.
- Cluster-randomised trial comparing ambulatory decision support tools to improve heart failure care. Phase 2B: Randomised trial of the oral PCSK9 inhibitor MK-0616.
- Randomised trial of anticoagulation strategies for non-critically ill patients hospitalised with COVID-19.



**Prof Mamotabo Rossy Matshela in New Orleans, United States of America.**

- Importantly, the recency of heart failure hospitalisation, outcomes, and the effect of Empagliflozin: An EMPEROR-pooled analysis.

Last but not least, the study "Racial Differences in Atrial Fibrillation Ablation Outcomes in Patients With Heart Failure", touched my heart since I have been working on health disparities related research projects including Atrial Fibrillation. It is something that needs to also be performed within South Africa or on the African continent.

The entire adventure was sealed with the honour of participating during the inauguration and intermingling with other colleagues from all over the world, including the present and recent past Presidents of the ACC. This has been a great experience I'll take with me while embarking on my ongoing MSc clinical trials and hopefully the experience will change my perspectives regarding the future of clinical trials, particularly in South Africa / Africa, whilst aligning with the inclusivity and diversity in both local and international clinical trials.

Thank you for your contribution toward the opportunity to attend.

**Prof Mamotabo Rossy Matshela**