

47th World Hospital Congress, International Hospital Federation, Rio de Janeiro 09 - 12 September 2024

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The 2024 World Hospital Congress (WHC) in Brazil, hosted by the International Hospital Federation (IHF), included the South African National Department of Health as a member. The 47th IHF World Hospital Congress served as a unique global forum connecting leaders and decision-makers from hospitals, health services and healthcare organisations worldwide to:^[1] (a) share knowledge and good practices in leadership, management and service delivery; (b) exchange new ideas and innovations and (c) network with other senior executives from across the international healthcare community.

As the only organisation connecting hospital managers and health systems worldwide, the IHF provides a unique opportunity for a 360-degree learning and networking experience with peers worldwide through its congress. A research abstract from Tembisa Provincial Tertiary Hospital was submitted and accepted for a poster presentation at the 2024 congress in Rio. The study evaluated the obstetrics specialist outreach programme implemented by the hospital to support referring clinics and Maternity Obstetrics Units (MOUs). Presenting the poster to a diverse audience of delegates from across the globe provided an excellent opportunity for knowledge exchange and facilitated meaningful engagement and networking with other hospital leaders.

The 47th IHF World Hospital Congress, organised by the IHF in collaboration with the Brazilian Hospital Federation, was held from 10 - 12 September 2024 at the Windsor Convention & Expo Center in Rio de Janeiro. The event welcomed over 1 250 delegates from 65 countries and territories, who participated in various activities including expert-led plenary and parallel sessions, invitational forums, workshops, masterclasses and poster presentations.^[1] Attendees explored innovative ideas at the i-to-i Innovation Hub and exhibition space. More than 200 speakers shared their insights, expertise and experiences across 50+ scientific sessions, while over 230 posters highlighted good practices and innovations from around the world. The congress also included the IHF Awards Gala Dinner, where over 400 healthcare leaders gathered to celebrate this year's outstanding projects and programmes. Delegates also had the opportunity to visit some of the leading hospitals in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. Overall the congress offered abundant opportunities for knowledge exchange, the exploration of cutting-

edge innovations and invaluable networking with peers from across the global healthcare community.^[1]

The IHF offers the Young Executive Leaders (YEL) Program annually. In 2024, 47 YEL candidates from 32 countries including Canada, Zambia, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Qatar, Norway, Kenya, Philippines, Egypt, Germany, Morocco, Australia, Switzerland, Tanzania and Saudi Arabia, were selected from 251 applications.^[2] The YEL Programme is designed to enhance the management and leadership skills of selected young executives while fostering networking and knowledge sharing within a global community. It is a global experience for young healthcare leaders, delivered in partnership with Kaiser Permanente.^[2] Between March and September 2024, the YEL participants attended a series of masterclasses in key healthcare leadership areas including Navigating Net Zero in Healthcare, Global Communication and Media Innovation, Self-awareness and Leadership Influence, Patient Safety, Health Financing, The Role of Global Organisations in healthcare and Human resource management. The programme concluded at the annual World Hospital Congress, where a graduation ceremony was held.

On 9 September 2024, the Congress kicked off with the graduation of the YEL 2024 cohort, a Geneva Sustainability Centre mini masterclass, and a 'bring a challenge' workshop for the Innovation Hub innovators. The Joint Commission International (JCI) Leadership Summit brought together hospital leaders from around the world to reflect on the safety and quality journey of JCI-accredited organisations. The first day concluded with a welcome reception in the exhibition hall, where the winners of the Best Poster presentation were announced, and attendees experienced the vibrant culture of Brazil.^[1] The Congress ended on 12 September 2024 with the final reflections on the current status of generative AI in healthcare, strategies for creating financially sustainable healthcare system and good practices to improve maternity care in hospitals throughout the IHF community. A motivational message underscored the potential of health sector leaders to improve health outcomes in their local communities through the knowledge exchanged during the event.^[1] On the final day, a tour was undertaken to Super Centro

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Carioca de Saude, a specialised tertiary hospital public hospital in Rio de Janeiro. This visit provided insights into the Brazilian public health system, its challenges, best practices and an opportunity to benchmark against the public hospitals in South Africa.

1. World Hospital Congress. 2024 World Hospital Congress, 2024 <https://worldhospitalcongress.org/previous-congresses/2024-world-hospital-congress-2/> (accessed October 2024).
2. International Hospital Federation. Young Executive Leaders, 2024. <https://ihf-fih.org/what-we-do/young-executive-leaders/> (accessed October 2024).

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