

# MSA Annual Report 2025

by Dr Jackie Phahlamohlaka

(covering the period 31 August 2024 to 31 August 2025)

**Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa (IITPSA®)**

## **Overview of Society / Institute (IITPSA)**

IITPSA (Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa), formerly Computer Society South Africa (CSSA), is a professional body, recognised by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). Established in 1957, the Institute has a long and proud history of service to, and representation of, South Africa's ICT professionals and practitioners, attracting a broad and active membership from all levels of the ICT Industry. IITPSA is the only South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) recognised and IFIP IP3 accredited professional body for ICT Practitioners in South Africa

## **Society / Institute's vision/mission statement**

**Vision:** "To be an inclusive community of ICT professionals that leads the promotion and development of a thriving digital society"

**Mission:** "Leading ICT Professionalism and Ethical Digital Transformation"

## **Society / Institute's Website**

Our Institute's main website is [www.iitpsa.org.za](http://www.iitpsa.org.za)

## **IITPSA Highlights 2024-25**

Two of South Africa's outstanding academics and leaders in Information Security, Prof Basie Von Solms and Rossouw Von Solms were awarded the *Isaac L. Auerbach Award* and the *IFIP Fellow Award* respectively in 2024. The Isaac L. Auerbach Award, named in memory of the founder of IFIP, is awarded by the IFIP General Assembly in even years for extraordinary support of IFIP in its mission.

IFIP Fellow Award is the most prestigious IFIP's technical distinction Award , which is conferred by the IFIP General Assembly on a current or past member of an IFIP body (e.g. WG, TC, GA, Domain Committee, IP3) in recognition of outstanding contributions in the field of information processing, in the role of a Technical Leader, Scientist, Engineer, or Educator. The IITPSA is very proud of the achievements by these leading academics coming from within its ranks.



Prof Basie Von Solms



Prof Rossouw Von Solms

The IITPSA has released the research findings of 2024 IITPSA ICT Skills survey. The full report can be accessed here <https://www.iitpsa.org.za/ict-skills-survey/>. The IITPSA ICT Skills Survey is one of the flagship projects of the IITPSA. Tracking the South African ICT skills landscape for over 15 years, the survey is the local ICT industry's trusted, comprehensive source of information on ICT skills demands and gaps. The survey polls both employers and ICT practitioners to determine current and emerging skills required in the market, as well as trends and topical issues such as gender gaps in ICT, and the impact of remote work on workforce supply and demand.

Dr Jackie Phahlamohlaka Chief Researcher, CSIR , presented an IITPSA SIGCyber webinar on 03 October 2024, titled "*RSA National Efforts in Building Cybersecurity Capabilities - A quick check on Formal Cybersecurity Qualifications*". The video of the webinar can be accessed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOluHils7j4>

## **Technical Committee Involvement**

IITPSA has appointed country representative in 9 Technical Committees: TCs 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

TC 14 – Prof Gunther Drevin (NWU)

TC 13 – Prof Paula Kotze (UP) & Prof Janet Wesson, NMU

TC 12 – Prof Terence Van Zyl (UJ)

TC 11 – Prof Lynn Futcher (NMU)

TC 9 – Dr Jabu Mtsweni (CSIR)

TC 8 – Vacant (waiting for feedback from IITPSA Nominations Committee)

TC 6 – Dr Moshe Masonta (CSIR)

TC 3 – Prof Riana Steyn (UP)

TC 2 – Prof Bruce Watson (US)

IFIP GA Representative - Dr Jackie Phahlamohlaka (CSIR)

Some of the highlights from the involvement of the Technical Committee members are the following:

### **TC 13 – Prof Paula Kotze (University of Pretoria )**

#### **Prof Paula Kotze:**

*"Chair of IFIP TC13 (until September 2025):*

- Chair the IFIP TC13 Executive Committee meetings (bimonthly and when issues to be discussed arise).
- Chair IFIP TC13 Business Meetings (27 March 2025 (virtual), July 2025 (virtual), 13 September 2025 (in-person, Belo Horizonte (Brazil))
- Serve on the INTERACT Conference Steering Committee (ex-officio as TC13 Chair):  
Several meetings to take place during 2025 since it is a Conference year (INTERACT 2025 – see <https://interact2025.org/>), and commencement of the organisation of INTERACT 2027.

- Lead the IFIP TC13 process for nominations for the IFIP Fellow Award, IFIP Silver Core, IFIP Service Award, and IFIP TC13 Pioneer Award. Serve on the committee to decide on the “IFIP TC13 Pioneers’ Award for Best Doctoral Student Paper”.

*Attend INTERACT 2025, the 20th IFIP TC13 International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction, from 8 - 12 September 2025, in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil.*

- Serve on the Programme Committee for INTERACT 2025 as Sub-Committee Chair for the HCI in Education and Education in HCI” stream.
- Conduct the opening and closing ceremonies for INTERACT 2025 and handover to the INTERACT 2027 organisers.
- Conduct the TC13 Awards ceremony at the Conference.

*Attend the IFIP Technical Assembly (17 September 2025) and IFIP General Assembly (18 and 19 September 2025) in Neon, Switzerland.*

*Attend other IFIP Technical Assembly Virtual Meetings (17 April 2025, July 2025).*

*Member of TC13 Working Group WG 13.8 and WG 13.11/12.14; Observer WG 13.6”*

### **TC 11 – Prof Lynn Futcher (Nelson Mandela University)**

- **IFIP TC 11 AGM:** Prof Kerry-Lynn Thomson (virtual) and Prof Lynn Futcher (in person) attended the TC11 AGM on Tuesday, 20th May 2025 (Maribor, Slovenia).
- **WISE 2025:** Prof Jacques Ophoff, Prof Lynette Drevin, Prof Wai Sze Leung and Prof Sune von Solms have been actively involved in organising the 17th IFIP WG11.8 World Conference on Information Security Education (WISE 2025) in Maribor, Slovenia that took place from 21st to 23rd May 2025.
- **HAISA 2025:** A number of South Africans have submitted papers to the 19th IFIP International Symposium on Human Aspects of Information Security and Assurance (HAISA 2025) hosted by the University of the Aegean, Mytilene, Greece from the 7th

to 9th July 2025. We are anticipating good participation from South African academics at this conference.

- **IFIP-CSIR-UNIVEN International Conference in Cybersecurity:** The University of Venda (UNIVEN) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) are jointly organizing this conference under the auspices of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP). The conference will take place from 11th to 12th December 2025 at the CSIR ICC, Pretoria South Africa and aims to address the main cybersecurity challenges, including human factors, AI-driven cyberattacks, ransomware, and nation-state threats. It will also explore advanced defense mechanisms such as quantum security, blockchain, and zero-trust models to secure critical infrastructure, enhance cyber resilience, and leverage AI and machine learning for threat detection and automation. This conference is targeting practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and professionals from academia, industry, and government. Active TC members involved in the organization of this committee include Dr Jackie Phahlamohlaka, Prof Kerry-Lynn Thomson and Prof Lynn Fletcher

#### **TC 9 – Dr Jabu Mtsweni (CSIR)**

- Co-hosting together with the University of Venda an IFIP Joint International Conference in Cybersecurity to be held on 10-11 December 2025 at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria.
- Attended a few DEC meetings, mostly virtually as well as invited IFIP members for the CSIR 80th Conference focusing on the theme of Safety and Security

#### **TC 6 – Dr Moshe Masonta (CSIR)**

- Sponsored best paper award and student travel grant through the IFIP TC6 budget for capacity development in developing countries.

#### **TC 3 – Dr Riana Steyn (University of Pretoria)**

- WCE to be hosted by the University of Pretoria in South Africa in 2026, to be held at the Kruger National Park

- Presented at the new lecturers' induction on innovative teaching and learning, to create collaboration with new upcoming lecturers and to expand TC3

### **Key activities**

IITPSA hosts numerous Chapter and Special Interest Group events throughout the year, with its flagship event being the Annual President's Awards, usually held in November. The President's Awards for 2024 was held in line with the annual plan.

### **Social Responsibility**

IITPSA supports a number of learners each year at secondary education level by enabling them to study the subject Information Technology online as their schools do not offer IT as a subject. IITPSA also offers a bursary for tertiary undergraduate study to a deserving student,

### **Stakeholder Management & Engagement**

As part of its key strategic initiative of "Stakeholder Engagement", the Institute continues to engage with key stakeholders on an ongoing basis. They include various Government departments, academic institutions, corporates, key ICT event providers, and other professional bodies and industry associations.