

## Train the trainers: reflections from Rabat

From 12–15 June 2025, we had the privilege of attending the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) Train the Trainers (TTT) course in Rabat, Morocco, situated on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. Representing South Africa, Dr Vikash Lala, Dr Rahm Makan, and Dr Yonela Qubekile were nominated by the South African Gastroenterology Society (SAGES) to take part in this prestigious program, joining over 50 participants including international faculty.

The WGO TTT is globally recognised for strengthening the teaching and leadership capacity of healthcare professionals. The program was highly interactive and learner-centred, combining short lectures, small-group workshops, breakout sessions, and innovative digital tools such as vodcasts and flipped-classroom demonstrations. Each format had a practical focus—for example, applying Pendleton’s feedback model in mock teaching sessions, critically appraising clinical topics in small groups, and using endoscopic simulations to illustrate modern approaches to skills training.

Participation in this program broadened our perspective on gastroenterology education and leadership. We gained practical skills to improve our teaching, including structured feedback methods and strategies for engaging learners through active participation. Just as importantly, we benefited from cross-cultural exchange and international collaboration, learning from colleagues across Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. The warmth and generosity of our Moroccan hosts created a welcoming environment that fostered both professional and personal connections.

The course reinforced our commitment to advancing gastroenterology education in South Africa. Equipped with new insights and tools, we aim to strengthen mentorship, introduce innovative teaching methods such as flipped classrooms, and contribute to building a more sustainable culture of collaborative learning within our institutions and professional society.

Prepared by:

**Dr Yonela Qubekile**



L-R: Vikash Lala, Yonela Qubekile, Rahm Makan

