



*Consolato Generale d'Italia  
Johannesburg*

## Italian Research Day in the World

*Johannesburg, 9 May 2025*

**Frank Plani**

Medical Scientist - Surgeon

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WITWATERSRAND



Prof. Frank (Franco) Plani is the **Trauma Director of the NetCare Alberton Hospital** Level 1 Trauma Unit, the immediate past Head of the Trauma Directorate, which incorporates the Trauma Unit and the Burn Unit, of the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital and immediate past co-Chair of the Academic Division of Trauma Surgery of the Department of Surgery at the University of the Witwatersrand.

He was born in Trieste, Italy, in 1954, where he obtained his medical degree from the University of Trieste in 1980.

**INNOVATION:** Plani led several projects in Zimbabwe and South Africa, among them ELSLEO: Emergency Life Support for Law Enforcement Officers), for regional SAPS and Municipal Police Officers (JMPD, TMPD, EMPD) to enable them to provide life-saving interventions to each other and civilian victims while under fire or in other tactical situations when it was not safe for civilian EMS to intervene.

*His main interests are surgical education, tactical medical care, disaster management, new technologies for trauma surgery, burns, and surgical critical care.*

*He is one of the pioneers of **prone position ventilation for ARDS in South Africa**, and extra-peritoneal pelvic packing for pelvic injuries since 1995, and one of the 2 local originators of the **novel technology of REBOA (Resuscitative Endovascular Balloon Occlusion of the Aorta)**, together with Prof George Oosthuizen. Head of Surgery, Stellenbosch University and Tygerberg Hospital since February 2017.*