



Office of Global Policy and Strategy

OGPS STATEMENT

August 29, 2023

FDA Meets with South African Health Products Regulatory Authority

Today, FDA officials led by Associate Commissioner for Global Policy and Strategy Mark Abdo hosted a delegation from the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority ([SAHPRA](#)) at the FDA's headquarters in White Oak, Maryland. Among the topics discussed were the FDA's strategic priorities for Africa, the agency's ongoing collaboration with SAHPRA, and SAHPRA's own regulatory priorities.

The South African delegation also met with the FDA's Chief Medical Officer and experts from the FDA's Office of Security and Emergency Management to learn about the FDA's emergency operations management and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. The delegation also met with the FDA's Chief Information Officer to discuss each other's digital transformation initiatives.

Leading the South African delegation was SAHPRA Chief Executive Officer Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela and Portia Nkambule, Chief Regulatory Officer. Other members of the delegation included Silverani Padayachee, Senior Manager, Pharmaceutical Evaluation Management; Dimakatso Mathibe, Senior Manager, Medical Devices; Tohlang Sehloho, Senior Manager, Clinical Evaluation Management; Mukona Mphidi, Office Manager; Gontse Moutloatse, Office Manager; Bongani Ngcobo, Legal Advisor; and Simphiwe Matsabe, Financial Manager.

Other FDA officials participating in the meetings included Douglas Shaffer, Senior Advisor, OGPS; Ravi Bharwani, Principal Policy Advisor, OGPS; Kristan Callahan, Public Health Advisor, OGPS; Anna Ferus, International Policy Analyst, OGPS; Azada Hafiz, Team Lead, International Arrangements, OGPS; Sema Hashemi, Senior International Policy Advisor, OGPS; Barr Weiner, Senior Program Advisor, OGPS; Jessica Stewart, Program Advisor, OGPS; Harinder Chahal, Senior Public Health Advisor and Researcher, Office of Public Health Strategy and Analysis; Lionel Carter, Director, Office of Security and Emergency Management; Mark Russo, Director, Office of Emergency Management, OEM; Valerie Hall, Director, Program Operations and Coordination Staff, OEM; Joshua Simms, Program Manager, Office of Emergency Operations, OEM; Hilary Marston, Chief Medical Officer; and Vid Desai, Chief Information Office, Office of Digital Transformation.

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