

26 May 2009

**Dear NSTF Stakeholder**

Re: 2008/09 National Science and Technology Forum Award Winners

Outstanding contributions to science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI) were acknowledged this evening at the 11<sup>th</sup> NSTF Awards gala dinner, held at Emperors Palace, Kempton Park. These Awards are unique in that they recognise all SETI practitioners across the system of innovation, including not only researchers, but also individuals who have contributed in other ways; teams who have developed innovations through organisations and institutions; individuals who have played a valuable mentorship role for young researchers, and science communicators.

Our motto for some years now, **Today's research – Tomorrow's innovation**, emphasises the contribution that dedicated individuals or teams can make in improving the quality of life for current and future generations. Our winners demonstrate that South African SETI, with its outstanding outputs, can stand tall in the world. We salute the winners:

- **Individual over a lifetime – Prof. Pieter Steyn** - for his lifetime contribution to linking fungi to diseases, and developing mechanisms for control of these in food and feeds.
- **Research and its outputs over the last five years or less – Prof. David Richardson** - for his fundamental contributions in the rapidly emerging field of biological invasion ecology.
- **Activities other than research and its outputs over the last five years or less – Mr Robert (Bob) Pullen** - for his contribution to the regulation of the engineering professions, and to civil engineering and environmental practice.
- **Innovation by a corporate organisation or institution – The Diamond Research Laboratory, Element Six, Ekurhuleni** - for research and development (R&D) into state of the art materials for a variety of purposes employing diamonds.
- **Innovation by a Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise – Altis Biologics (Pty) Ltd, Drs N Duneas and N Pires, Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria** - for the development of innovative products for the treatment of bone injuries and voids.
- **Innovation by a Non Governmental Organisation/ Not-for Profit Organisation or Community Based Organisation – the Marang Centre for Maths and Science Education** - for pioneering a new approach to the teaching of science and mathematics in schools.
- **Eskom Award for Research Capacity Development over the last 5-10 years (Female) – Prof. Mary Scholes** - for her contribution to the training of students and her own innovative work on grasslands and forests.
- **Eskom Award for Research Capacity Development over the last 5-10 years (Male) – Prof. Hendrik C Swart** - for his significant contribution to the development of students in a niche area of nanophysics.
- **The TW Kambule NRF Award for a Senior Black Male Researcher over the last 5 to 10 years – Prof. Shabir Madhi** - for intense research into the killer diseases of children.
- **The TW Kambule NRF Award for a Senior Black Female Researcher over the last 5 to 10 years** – not awarded.
- **The NRF TW Kambule award for a Distinguished Young Black Male Researcher over the last 5 to 10 years – Dr Odireleng M Ntwaeaborwa** - for his contribution to the understanding and harnessing of light emitting nanomaterials for practical applications.
- **The TW Kambule NRF award for a Distinguished Young Black Female Researcher over the last 5 to 10 years – Dr Monique Zaahl** - for her programme of research into disorders resulting from iron overload.
- **The SAASTA Science Communicator for Public Awareness over the last 5 years – Dr M Shaheed Hartley** - for his work in promoting science and technology as a career in schools in the Breederiver-Overberg region.
- **A special award, recognising an outstanding contribution to Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation – Mr Case Rijdsdijk** - for enthusiastic communication of physics and astronomy to learners over a lifetime.

The NSTF Awards represent a collaborative effort by the SETI community of South Africa, made possible by the participation and sponsorship of a number of stakeholders.

**We congratulate and thank you all.**

**The NSTF Secretariat**

Tel: 012 841 3987  
Fax: 012 841 3025  
e-mail: [nstf@scientia.co.za](mailto:nstf@scientia.co.za)  
[www.nstf.org.za](http://www.nstf.org.za)

[www.nstfawards.org.za](http://www.nstfawards.org.za)



Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors

