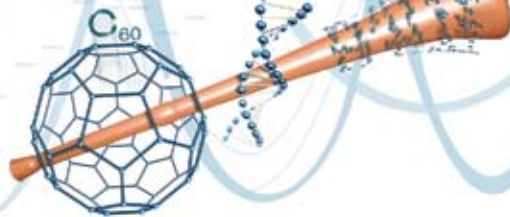




Sound it for our
SETI Stars



**National Science and
Technology Forum
Awards 2009/10**

Press Release 4 May 2010

2009/10 National Science and Technology Forum Award Winners

(For immediate release)

Outstanding contributions towards science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI) were acknowledged at the 12th National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) Awards gala dinner held at Emperors Palace, Kempton Park. The fourteen awards were presented by the Honourable Minister of Science & Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor.

The NSTF Awards event is unique as it affords an opportunity for recognition to all practising scientists, engineers, technologists and innovators across the system of innovation. The Awards Gala Dinner also celebrates the achievements of educators, schools, students and learners who excelled in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Winners in the respective categories announced are:

- **Individual over a lifetime:** **Prof. Pat G Eriksson**, for founding and leading the Global Precambrian Sedimentation Syndicate (GPSS), studying all facets of the Precambrian sedimentary rock record and the history of the Earth prior to ca. 600 million years ago. Nominated by Prof. Johan Malherbe, Head of Department Physics, University of Pretoria.
- **Individual over a lifetime:** **Dr Brian van Wilgen**, for a lifetime contribution to the improvement of natural ecosystem management policies and practices. Nominated by Dr Guy Preston, Leader of Working for Water programme.
- **Research and its outputs over the last 5-10 years or less:** **Prof. Maureen Coetzee**, for her substantial contribution to the understanding and control of malaria in Africa. Nominated by Dr Lizette Koekemoer, Head Vector Control Reference Unit, NICD.
- **Activities other than research and its outputs over the last 5 years or less:** Not awarded.
- **Innovation developed through a corporate organisation or institution:** **The OSCAR-4 Team**, Necsa, for the latest version of the OSCAR reactor calculational software system, OSCAR-4, released in September 2009 which provides fast and accurate nuclear reactor simulations with unparalleled efficiency. Nominated by Simon Connell, Professor of Physics, University of Johannesburg.
- **Innovation developed through a Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise:** **Mr David Reynders**, for his lead role in the Pocit solution; a mobile payment application that is revolutionising the way people pay and receive money in South Africa and has the potential to transform the lives of the 'unbanked'. Nominated by Mr Gerrie van Zyl, CEO, Tradebridge.
- **Innovation developed through a Non-Governmental Organisation, Not-for-Profit Organisation or Community Based Organisation:** **Centre of Materials and Process Synthesis Team**, Wits, for a contribution in innovative chemical process design, unique in the world such that Africa can be seen to be leading the way through pilot plants in China and Australia - solving three problems with one ground breaking approach, for example in oil and food from waste. Nominated by Prof. B Bozzoli, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research, Wits.
- **Eskom award for research capacity development over the last 5-10 years (Female):** **Prof. ME Christine Rey**, for her contribution to research capacity development through the mentoring of MSc and PhD students over the last ten years from both South Africa and many other sub-Saharan African countries. Nominated by Prof. Rob Veale, Head of School of Molecular and Cell Biology, Wits.
- **Eskom award for research capacity development over the last 5-10 years (Male):** **Prof. Deresh Ramjugernath**, for a substantial contribution to the development of research capacity in the field of thermodynamics research. Nominated by Prof. F Takawira, Dean of Engineering, University of KwaZulu-Natal.
- **The NRF sponsored TW Kambule award for a senior black male researcher over the last 5-10:** **Prof. Oluwole Daniel Makinde**, for his success in research in mathematical modelling and computation as well as research capacity development in challenging environments. Nominated by Dr SM Tshehla, Deputy Dean Military Science, University of Stellenbosch.

- The NRF sponsored TW Kambule award for a senior black female researcher over the last 5-10 years: **Prof. Debra Meyer**, for a contribution through research to developing novel HIV treatments, prognostic markers and vaccine components. Nominated by Prof. Jan Verschoor, Head of Department Biochemistry, University of Pretoria.
- The NRF sponsored TW Kambule award for a distinguished young black male researcher over the last 2-5 years: **Prof. Fulufhelo V Nelwamondo**, for a contribution to the solution of the problem of missing data estimation in online control applications. Nominated by Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala, Exec Dean of Engineering and the Built Environment, University Johannesburg.
- The NRF sponsored TW Kambule award for a distinguished young black female researcher over the last 2-5 years: **Dr Rapela Regina Maphanga**, for a contribution to the computational modelling of materials particularly for electrolytic manganese dioxide. Nominated by Prof. Phuti Ngoepe, University of Limpopo.
- The SAASTA sponsored science communicator for public awareness over the last 5 years: **Mr Robert Inglis**, for a contribution to the development of the discipline of science communication through innovative and exciting media. Nominated by Kim de Boer, South African SKA Project and Kevan Zunckel of the Maloti Drakensberg Experience.
- The SAASTA sponsored science communicator for public awareness over the last 5 years: **Mr David Kramer**, for a substantial contribution to the communication of science in innovative ways to a wide audience. Nominated by Fikile Mapela, Sci-Bono Discovery Centre.

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.

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- University of Stellenbosch
- University of the Witwatersrand



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