

2011/12 NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards

Media Release

21 June 2012
(For immediate release)

National Science and Technology Forum
in partnership with BHP Billiton

2011/12 NSTF-BHP Billiton Award Winners

Outstanding contributions to science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI) were acknowledged at the NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards gala dinner (the 14th annual event of this kind) held in Gauteng on 21 June 2012. The 12 awards were presented by the Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor.

The NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards gala dinner also celebrates the achievements of learners who excelled in science and mathematics in 2011 under the Brilliant programme, which promotes the future innovators of the country.

Winners in the respective categories announced were:

To an Individual for an outstanding contribution to SETI over a lifetime:

Professor David Glasser, who is internationally recognised for ground-breaking research in design and reactor theory, and synthesis processes that produce energy from waste.

Nominated by Prof. Diane Hildebrandt, Director of the Centre of Material and Process Synthesis and SARChI Professor of Sustainable Process Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand



To an Individual for an outstanding contribution to SETI through Management and related activities over the last 5 to 10 years or less:

Professor Bongani M Mayosi, whose work in building, managing and leading capacity development in research in the context of the Groote Schuur hospital, which has achieved very significant output, has led to the discovery of genetic causes and prevention of heart disease and clinical features of pericardial tuberculosis.

Nominated by Prof. Karen Sliwa, Professor of Cardiovascular Research and Director of the Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa, University of Cape Town



TW Kambule Award: To an Individual for an outstanding contribution to SETI through Research and its Outputs over the last 5 to 10 years – sponsored by the National Research Foundation (NRF):

Professor Leon MT Dicks for research on lactic acid bacteria, antimicrobial peptides and probiotics, leading to applied research towards the development of industrial products.

Nominated by Dr Therina Theron, Senior Director: Research and Innovation, University of Stellenbosch



TW Kambule Award: To an Individual for an outstanding contribution to SETI through Research and its Outputs over the last 5 to 10 years – sponsored by the NRF:

Professor Heather J Zar for her research leading to important advances in the understanding and management of childhood pneumonia, TB and asthma.

Nominated by Dr Marilet Sienaert, Director: Research Office, University of Cape Town



TW Kambule Award: To an Emerging Researcher for an outstanding contribution to SETI through Research and its Outputs – over a period of up to six years after award of a PhD or equivalent in research – sponsored by the NRF:

Professor Yahya Choonara, who designs new commercialisable pharmaceutical products that focus on prototyping novel and advanced drug delivery systems to provide superior treatment of infectious, hereditary or lifestyle diseases.

Nominated by Prof. Viness Pillay, Professor of Pharmaceutics, NRF Research Chair: Pharmaceutical Biomaterials and Polymer-Engineered Drug Delivery Technologies, Director: Wits Advanced Drug Delivery Platform and Head: Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Research, University of the Witwatersrand



TW Kambule Award: To an Emerging Researcher for an outstanding contribution to SETI through Research and its Outputs – over a period of up to six years after award of a PhD or equivalent in research – sponsored by the NRF:

Dr Amanda Weltman, for the development of the Chameleon Mechanism, which has provided a locally testable theory explaining the mysterious force causing the universe to accelerate – so-called Dark Energy.

Nominated by Prof. George Ellis, University of Cape Town



To a Researcher (female), for an outstanding contribution to SETI through Research Capacity Development over the last 5 to 10 years – sponsored by Eskom:

Professor Jolanda Roux, for capacity building in Africa in tree health management and mycology.

Nominated by Prof. Brenda Wingfield, Deputy Dean, Research and Post Graduate Studies, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Science, University of Pretoria



To a Researcher (male), for an outstanding contribution to SETI through Research Capacity Development over the last 5 to 10 years – sponsored by Eskom:

Professor Jakobus (Kobus) Eloff, for his supervision of 49 – MSc (28) and PhD (21) – mainly black (84%) students during the past 10 years.

Nominated by Prof. Jacobus Coetzer, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria



To an Individual or a Team for an outstanding contribution to SETI through Science Communication for Public Awareness over the last 5 years – sponsored by the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA):

Professor Valerie A Corfield, who produced a package of innovative SETI-based public engagement activities which she shares with other scientists and science communicators through training workshops and printed/electronic/DVD resources.

Nominated by Dr Therina Theron, Senior Director: Research and Innovation, University of Stellenbosch



To an Individual or a Team for an outstanding contribution to SETI through Research leading to Innovation in a Corporate organisation or Institution: **Pavement Design and Construction Team, Built Environment Division, CSIR**, for finding solutions to large and complex road and airport pavement problems benefiting the transport infrastructure industry and ultimately road users.

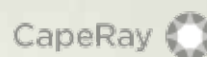
Nominated by Ms Hilda van Rooyen, CSIR Strategic Communications and Stakeholder Relations, CSIR



To an Individual or a Team for an outstanding contribution to SETI through Research leading to Innovation in a Small, Medium or Micro-Enterprise (SMME):

The PantoScanner Team – CapeRay Medical (Pty) Ltd, for enhancing clinicians' ability to diagnose breast cancer by combining the best of low dose X-rays and ultrasound.

Nominated by Dr Andrew Bailey, Intellectual Property Manager, University of Cape Town



To an Individual or a Team for an outstanding contribution to SETI through Research leading to Innovation in an NGO or CBO or NPO Organisation: **Namaqualand Restoration Initiative Project and its supporting organisation Nurture, Restore, Innovate**, for using extensive and ongoing ecological research, and business and socio-economic nous to design and implement systems that restore globally important biodiversity and generate livelihoods through the rehabilitation of degraded lands.

Nominated by Ms Sarah Frazee, CEO, Conservation South Africa



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- University of the Free State
- University of the Witwatersrand, Department of Research Development
- University of the Witwatersrand, Faculty of Health Sciences

Community Support (Seats)

- University of KwaZulu-Natal
- University of Limpopo

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