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Media Release

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

National Science and
Technology Forum

Prof Shabir Madhi receives well-deserved top science award

[Prof Shabir Madhi](#) received the prestigious 2022 NSTF-South32 [Lifetime Award](#) for his leadership in research on vaccines against life-threatening diseases in Africa and globally, and he has been at the cutting edge of research in this area since 1997. He is the Dean: Faculty of Health Sciences; and Professor: Vaccinology, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits); and Director: South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) Vaccine and Infectious Diseases Analytics Research Unit (Wits-VIDA); and Co-Director: African Leadership in Vaccinology Expertise, Wits.



The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#) announced the 15 [winners](#) of the 2021/2022 [NSTF-South32 Awards](#) for excellence in science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation in South Africa. The [Gala Event](#) of the prestigious NSTF-South32 Awards took place on Thursday, 21 July 2022. The awards are known as the '[Science Oscars of South Africa](#)' and was celebrated for the 24th time.

Prof Madhi says: “Using our experience from the past 27 years, we transitioned to undertaking the first COVID-19 studies on the African continent including the AstraZeneca vaccine, which is currently the most widely-used vaccine against COVID-19. We did the studies around this vaccine and the Novavax vaccine and it gave us the insights we needed to recalibrate our expectations around COVID-19 vaccines. Over the past 18 months, we’ve uncovered that the virus

The **National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)** is the largest national non-profit stakeholder body for all science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation organisations in South Africa, in both the public and private sectors. The NSTF’s functions include:

- Conceptualising and organising [discussion events and consultative forums](#), on topics of relevance to the SET community, including policy consultations.
- Honouring, celebrating and publicising outstanding contributions to SET and innovation in South Africa through the [NSTF-South32 Awards](#).
- Youth outreach: including the NSTF Share 'n Dare Programme, where [award winners](#) are profiled to the youth and the public as

has developed antibody evasiveness and none of the vaccines provide sustainable protection against mild to moderate COVID-19 as a result.”

[role models.](#)

The pandemic impacted the world in several ways. It moved work, teaching and learning into virtual spaces, while worsening the digital divide. Lockdowns reduced crime and road accident statistics while leading to an alarming prevalence of gender-based violence and mental health challenges. It caused devastation of economies and livelihoods, and large numbers of deaths. The success stories that define the award winners, such as for Prof Madhi, stand out for many reasons, among others:

How science can play a significant role in saving lives, driving sustainable development, improving quality of life, and connecting people and communities.

Join the NSTF’s conversations on social media:

- Facebook: [@NSTFSA](#)
- Twitter: [@NSTF_SA](#)
- Instagram: [@nstf_sa](#)
- LinkedIn: [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#)
- YouTube: [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#)
- TikTok: [nstf_sa](#)

DID YOU KNOW? NSTF is keeping up with the times! Join us on TikTok profiling STEM careers where we post 1-5 minute video clips suitable to the tastes of young people. Most of the NSTF’s TikTok videos are adapted from 15 minute videos, professionally created for the [NSTF’s Share ‘n Dare outreach programme](#). The programme provides a platform for [NSTF-South32 Award winners](#) to act as role models and ambassadors for STEM and innovation.

About the NSTF

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF), established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation organisations in South Africa, which seeks to influence policy formulation and delivery.

The NSTF Awards are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals, teams and organisations to SET and innovation.

The science bursaries page provides information on bursaries and bursary providers for science, engineering and related studies.

STEMulator.org attracts learners and students to the exciting world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It provides a virtual world full of stimulating content to excite and inform the youth, including STEM career guidance. Established under the auspices of the NSTF proSET membership sector (Professionals in *science, engineering and technology*).

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