



Current Challenges in Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Systems in South Africa (SA)

13-14 August 2024

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) is hosting a discussion forum on issues around 'Current Challenges in RDI Systems in SA' in collaboration with the Science Councils and Statutory Bodies sector.

Programme

Day 1: 9:00 to 14:00

Time starting	Time ending	Topic	Speaker/ Organisation
9:00	9:10	Welcome to participants and introductions; programme, outputs, and intended outcomes	Prof Norman Maiwashe , Agricultural Research Council (ARC); Chairperson: NSTF Science Councils Sector; and Ms Jansie Niehaus , Executive Director: NSTF
09:10	09:40	Challenges in Cancer Research and Innovation	Prof Mike Sathekge , CEO, Nuclear Medicine Research Institute (NuMeRI); Head: Nuclear Medicine Department, University of Pretoria (UP); and 2024 NSTF-South32 Innovation Award Winner: Corporate Organisation
09:40	9:50	Q&A	ALL
9:50	10:10	Changing the innovative mindset at our State Owned Entities	Dr Pradish Rampersadh , Group Executive: Nuclear

			Energy Corporation of South Africa (NECSA)
10:10	10:30	Challenges in commercialisation	Dr Cynthia Motsi , Senior Manager: Intellectual Property and Commercialisation, ARC
10:30	10:50	Research Infrastructure as a barrier to RDI	Ms Sipehelele Mafuleka , Research Infrastructure and Integrity Officer: Mintek
10:50	11:05	Q&A (15 Min)	ALL
11:05	11:25	Challenges in RDI system in SA: Space Science (SANSA)	Ms Zama Katamzi-Jospeh , Researcher: South African National Space Agency (SANSA)
11:25	11:45	Challenges in commercialisation: Early-stage tech instruments	Ms Brigitte Binneman , Innovation Priorities and Instruments; Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)
11:45	12:05	Innovation at the Council for Geoscience (CGS)	Dr Patrick Cole , Chief Scientist: Council for Geoscience (CGS)
12:05	12:20	Q&A	All
12:20	12:30	Break (10 min)	
12:30	12:50	Research and Development at the South African Environmental Observation Network	Dr Mary Jane Bopape , Managing Director: South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), National Research Foundation (NRF)
12:50	13:10	Innovation Ecosystem-areas to celebrate and to improve on	Ms Jetane Charsley , Chief Director: National Intellectual Property Management Office (NIPMO)
13:10	13:25	Q&A	All
13:25	14:00		All

Day 2: 9:00 to 14:00

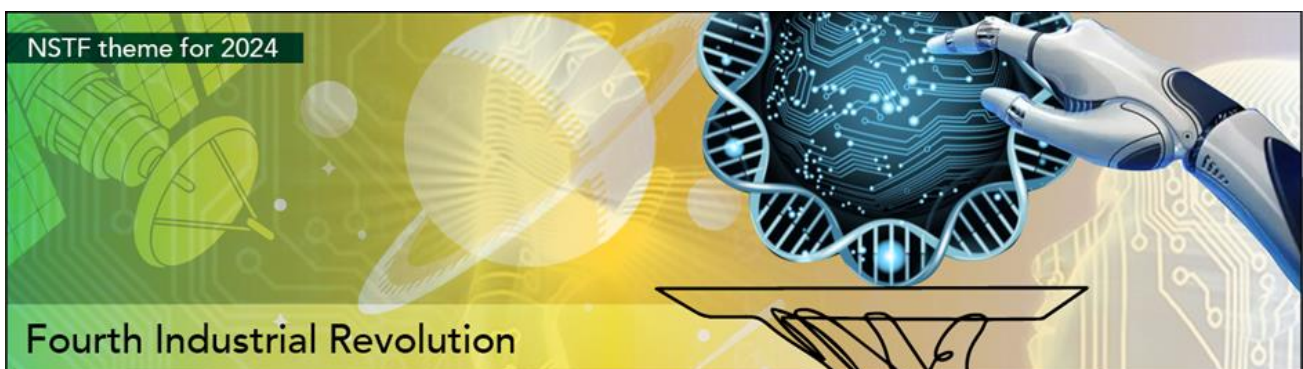
Time starting	Time ending	Topic	Speaker/ Organisation
09:00	9:10	Welcome to participants & introductions	Ms Jansie Niehaus , Executive Director: NSTF
9:10	9:40	The STI Indicators and what they tell us about challenges to RDI in SA	Dr Nazeem Mustapha , Chief Research Specialist, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
9:40	9:50	Q&A	ALL
9:50	10:10	Perspectives of Research, Development, and Innovation challenges for wildlife biodiversity conservation in South Africa	Dr Desire Dalton , Lecturer: Teesside University, United Kingdom
10:10	10:30	Strengthening the Water RDI sector for improved water security (challenges, opportunities, and recommendation	Dr Mamohloding Thagale , Head of International and Stakeholder Engagement: Water Research Commission (WRC)
10:30	10:50	Capacity development for research and innovation management	Ms Rosemary Wolson , Director: Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA)
10:50	11:05	Q&A (15 minutes)	
11:05	11:25	Barriers to commercialisation	Dr Sean Perry , Chief Executive Office: Sean Perry
11:25	11:45	Challenges in Scholarly Publishing	Dr Nokuthula Mchunu , Deputy Director: NRF
11:45	12:05	Challenges in RDI in biophotonics	Prof Patience Mthunzi-Kufa , Research Group Leader: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); and 2024 NSTF-South32 TW Kambule Researcher Award Winner

12:05	12:20	Q&A	All
12:20	12:30	Break	
12:30	12:50	Challenges in RDI at national public health sector	Dr Babatyi Malope-Kgokong , National Manager: Academic Affairs and Research, National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS)
12:50	13:10	South African Educational Research Association (SAERA) supporting young minds: Strengths and Challenges	Prof Melanie Luckay , President: South African Education Research Association (SAERA)
13:10	13:25	Q&A	
13:25	14:00	Discussion	

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National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)

SET for socio-economic growth

- Independent non-profit stakeholder body and network
- Voice for the science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation community
- Includes private and public sectors
- Promoting SET and innovation in South Africa since 1995

