S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

# National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)

# eNews

## South African-led HIV vaccine trial marks a significant moment for science and public health

***Opinion piece by Prof Theresa Rossouw, Professor in the Department of Immunology at the University of Pretoria (UP)***
Reprinted with permission. First published in the Conviction.co.za

South Africa (SA) has taken a historic step in the fight against HIV with the launch of the BRILLIANT 011 clinical trial, the first African-led, first-in-human HIV vaccine study. Conducted by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) in partnership with the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation and the Wits Health Consortium, the trial is testing innovative vaccine components designed to target HIV strains common in Southern Africa. This breakthrough places African scientists at the forefront of global HIV vaccine research and offers renewed hope for millions affected by the epidemic. While still in its early stages, the trial marks an important milestone toward developing a safe and effective HIV vaccine for future generations. Read more…

## NSTF News

### Nominees announced: 2026 'Science Oscars' of South Africa

Join the NSTF membership of over 150 organisations involved in science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation, and pioneering partners and sponsors in applauding the 2025/2026 nominees contending for this year's NSTF-South32 Awards. These are individuals, teams and organisations, who are nominated for an outstanding contribution to SET and innovation in South Africa (SA) under the 16 categories now comprising the Awards. Follow the NSTF on social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, X, YouTube, Instagram and TikTok) where the nominees are publicised, and join us in publicly congratulating them. Look out for people and institutions you know who are in the running for national recognition. See the public announcement here.

***#NSTFawards2026***

### Welcome to new members

The NSTF is pleased to welcome two new members at the start of 2026!

- South African Institute of Marine Engineers and Naval Architects (SAIMENA) under the pro*SET* sector
- Gold Fields under the business sector (Corporates)

Join the NSTF's existing cohort of 151 member organisations across six membership sectors involved in science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation in South Africa (SA). Visit the membership section on the website for more information on membership.

About the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF):

- Independent non-profit stakeholder body and network
- Voice for the SET and innovation community
- Includes private and public sectors
- Recognising, promoting and profiling SET and innovation in SA since 1995
- Promotes STEM subjects and careers to the youth (STEM = science, technology, engineering and mathematics)

***SET for socio-economic growth***

### NSTF Discussion Forum news

The media release on the NSTF Discussion Forum on 'Quantum Science and Technology in South Africa (SA),' of 19-20 November 2025, has been distributed in honour of World Quantum Day, 14 April. To learn more about the expected impact of quantum technology and the ground-breaking work taking place in SA, access the media release here. The presentations of the 13 expert speakers are also on the website and can be watched in your own time.

Explore more insights and articles published on quantum technology and this discussion forum by IOL News: here and IT Online: here.

The Indigenous Knowledge (IK)-Based Technology Innovation Investment Summit takes place on 2-4 June 2026 in Gauteng. The summit is hosted by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) in partnership with the NSTF, The Innovation Hub (TIH), the Universities of Limpopo (UL), North-West (NWU), and Venda (UNIVEN). The event will bring together stakeholders, entrepreneurs, students, researchers, policymakers, investors, and industry to showcase and advance entrepreneurship rooted in IK. Watch your email inbox for further details on the summit, which will also be live-streamed.

***Follow for deeper insights and make your voice heard!***

### STEMulator.org just hit your feed!

A digital era requires a digital solution - STEMulator.org is it! It shows you where STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) is used and how things work, and even teaches you curriculum content in these subjects.

And now, at STEMulator.org we are turning everyday mindless scrolling into an opportunity for discovery. With content meant to entice you, you can treat our social media pages as your daily STEMulator.org newsletter. Follow on Instagram, Facebook and TikTok, (and even LinkedIn) to enjoy the world of STEM in a fun, colourful way. STEMulator's social media presence reflects its guiding philosophy: **from childhood to career.** The content on STEMulator.org assists you through school and introduces you to the many different STEM career options.

**The STEMulator mascot: *What's my name?***

Being visible on social media keeps the STEMulator.org accessible to everyone. Your likes, comments, and shares show that you're engaging with STEM and with the STEMulator. If you're at school, visit a new page of STEMulator.org every day, follow on social media, and download the app via the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. We dare you to find the **Hidden World Revealed** with STEMulator.org.

For more information or queries, feel free to contact Ms Zimkhitha Trom or Mr Karabo Ramodike.

STEMulator

***SET to Explore > Discover > Learn***

### Meet our Innovation Award (Corporate) winner

**Innovation and Commercialisation Unit** at Stellenbosch University (SU) won the Innovation Award: Corporate Organisation at the 2025 NSTF-South32 Awards. They received this prestigious award for creating a solid and functional innovation and entrepreneurship platform, identifying exciting research outputs, working with research teams to ensure that technologies respond to market needs, filing patents, presenting investment opportunities to commercial and industrial partners and nurturing spin-out companies. Ms Anita Nel represents the team as the Chief Director. Read their award-winning story here produced by media sponsor, Mail & Guardian.

***Today's research … tomorrow's innovation***

### Meet our Innovation Award (SMME) winner

**Prof Namrita Lall** won the Innovation Award: Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMME) at the 2025 NSTF-South32 Awards. She received this prestigious award for developing and commercialising several innovative pharmaceuticals and cosmeceuticals from medicinal plants with a novel mode of action, and for establishing viable spin-off companies and promoting entrepreneurship amongst her graduates. Prof Lall is a Research Chair at the University of Pretoria (UP). Read the Mail & Guardian article.

***Today's research … tomorrow's innovation***

### Meet top performer in maths and science: Tshegofatso Mmatsiane Komane

**Tshegofatso** is a 2025 Brilliants Programme Student. She is studying medicine at the University of Cape Town (UCT). She matriculated at Marobathota High School in Boyne, Moria, Limpopo province. Tshegofatso would like to see equal distribution of services among people, whether in rural or urban areas, particularly access to healthcare services. Read her story and see her self-recorded video of inspiration.

*"Never doubt your dreams and know that every dream is valid."*

***SET for life!***

### Meet top performer in maths and science Rinono Nkateko Mushwana

**Rinono** is a 2025 Brilliants Programme Student. He is studying medicine at the University of Cape Town (UCT). He matriculated at E.P.P. Mhinga Secondary School, in Malamulele, Limpopo province. Rinono would like to see healthcare systems in disadvantaged communities improve, supported by professional, highly trained, and skilled medical professionals. Read his story and see his self-recorded video of inspiration.

*"Socio-economic background and circumstantial challenges should not be our limitation, but rather our inspiration to bring about change."*

The NSTF Brilliants Programme recognises the top performers in matric physical science and mathematics. The programme is sponsored by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI), South32 and the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP).

***SET for life!***

### Commemorating World Quantum Day, and the award-winning work of Prof Andrew Forbes

As the global community celebrated World Quantum Day on 14 April, the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) highlights the growing importance of quantum science and technology in driving innovation, economic competitiveness and scientific advancement. Quantum research is rapidly transforming fields such as secure communication, advanced computing and precision measurement, positioning it as a cornerstone of future technological development.

In recognition of this international day, the NSTF proudly honours **Prof Andrew Forbes**, Distinguished Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and winner of the 2025 Special Annual Theme Award: Quantum Science and Technology of the 'Science Oscars' of South Africa (SA), the highly acclaimed NSTF-South32 Awards.

Read the media release of his work.

### Celebrating World Water Day, and the award-winning work of Prof Bongani Ncube

Observed annually on 22 March, World Water Day raises awareness about the importance of freshwater and the need for sustainable water management. As the world marks this significant day, the NSTF recognises the role of science in addressing water challenges by honouring **Prof Bongani Ncube**, winner of the 2025 NSTF-Water Research Commission (WRC) Award of the 'Science Oscars' of South Africa (SA), the highly acclaimed NSTF-South32 Awards.

Read the media release of her work.

***Today's research … tomorrow's innovation***

### Bursaries available

Visit the NSTF Bursary Directory for the latest available bursaries in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

**Undergraduate bursaries:**

- Allan Gray Orbis Fellowship Bursary (Deadline: 30 April 2026)
- Trans Hex Bursary South Africa (Deadline: 30 April 2026)

### Power South Africa's future: Fuel the next generation of STEM innovators

The NSTF Bursary Fund is gaining strong momentum, fast approaching the R350,000 milestone – and with your support, we can accelerate the journey to our R1 million goal. Every contribution is more than a donation; it's a strategic investment in high-potential science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) talent poised to shape South Africa (SA)'s future.

**To enquire or apply for any of the bursaries, *contact the bursary providers directly.*** (**Bursary providers**: you're invited to notify Ms Seipati Moleleki of any STEM-related bursaries that you provide, to feature free of charge on the popular NSTF Bursary Directory, here in the NSTF eNews and on all NSTF social media platforms!)

***SET for life***

**Why donate?** STEM education equips young people to solve local challenges, urban or rural, from improving nutrition and agricultural productivity, to accessing clean water and energy. It also drives innovation and entrepreneurship, creating opportunities for sustainable economic growth and reducing inequality in our country.

The Fund invests in exceptional STEM talent, including participants in the prestigious NSTF Brilliants Programme – top Grade 12 achievers in mathematics and physical science who are now advancing their studies in STEM fields. Their journeys are powerful proof that the right support at the right time can unlock extraordinary potential.

Be part of shaping SA's future by empowering the next generation of STEM leaders. Partner with us — **contribute** to the NSTF Bursary Fund and help turn promise into impact.

***SET for our future professionals!***

pro*SET* (Professionals in Science, Engineering and Technology) is a sector of the NSTF currently representing at least **52 professional and learned societies**. This section shares news about current members and introduces new members of the pro*SET* sector. Know who the proSET members are and find out more about who to network with in the 'SET Professionals Who's Who' booklet.

- **Enderun Boys mathletes divide and conquer in AMESA Olympiad:** The Enderun Boys College Mathematics team, known as the Mathletes or Prime Minds, has brought pride to the school by participating in the first round of the Association of Mathematics Education in South Africa (AMESA) Mathematics Olympiad on 11 March. A total of 28 learners from Gr 4-9 represented the school, carefully selected for their maths thinking and academic excellence. Read more.
- **UJ Engineer Dr Bonginkosi Thango recognised for driving socially responsive innovation:** The University of Johannesburg (UJ) continues to strengthen its reputation for impactful, future-focused research, as Dr Bonginkosi Thango has been honoured with the Emerging Engineering Practitioner Award at the 2026 ECSA Engineering Industry Awards. Presented on 26 March 2026 at Galleria, Sandton, as part of the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) × South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE) Engineering Symposium, the award recognises rising professionals whose work is shaping the engineering profession through innovation, leadership, and real-world impact. Read more.
- **Peco Power wins prestigious Empower a Billion Lives competition:** The University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) spin-out company has been named the Energy Supply Track Winner in this competition from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). The IEEE Empower a Billion Lives competition is a global initiative recognising scalable solutions that expand access to electricity for underserved communities worldwide. Launched in 2019 it addresses one of the world's most urgent development challenges: more than one billion people still live without reliable access to electricity. Read more.
- **Denise Mukozho appointed WIIT Chapter Chairperson:** Denise Mukozho has been appointed chairperson of the Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa (IITPSA) Women in IT (WIIT) Chapter. Denise is a digital and product delivery leader with over a decade of experience shaping complex, regulated programmes across financial services, insurance, and Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG). She is known for turning regulatory and data complexity into practical solutions that deliver real business value. Read more.
- **Integrity in Science - March edition (Volume 3 – 2026):** The March edition of the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) newsletter features updates, including a message from the CEO; delivering impact through partnerships; SheSTEAM 2026: Expanding science engagement through practice; and professionalising the public sector by building scientific capability in government, among other important updates from the council. Read more.
- **South Africa moves to act against scientists acting 'improperly':** Natural scientists working in South Africa are under a "mandatory obligation" to report unprofessional or improper conduct by their peers, according to guidance issued this week by the body that regulates the country's natural scientists. The South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) published the notice to clarify scientists' reporting duties and to outline the investigative and disciplinary process for alleged wrongdoers—a move that arrives as the government separately overhauls the legislative framework governing the profession. Read more.
- **WISA participates in Limpopo Water and Wastewater Roadshow to strengthen municipal capacity and compliance:** In celebration of National Water Week, Water Institute of Southern Africa (WISA) participated in a provincial Water and Wastewater Workshop Roadshow, hosted by the Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA), with the support of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA). The roadshow took place from 16–20 March 2026, across the five districts of the province. Sessions were held in Thohoyandou for the Vhembe District, Polokwane for the Capricorn District, Tzaneen for the Mopani District, Bela-Bela for the Waterberg District, and concluded in Groblersdal for the Sekhukhune District. Read more.
- **The SANIRE Newsletter (Volume 12, Issue 1, April 2026)** provides updates on the activities, initiatives, and developments of the South African National Institute of Rock Engineering (SANIRE). It contains a message from the institute's president addressed to its members, as well as quarterly updates, an education blog, and much more. Read more.

**SET-related policies currently open for public comment**

***Keep informed and have your say!***

- Draft Regulations on Management of Learner Pregnancy in Schools (Comment by 24 April 2026)
- Natural Scientific Professions Draft Bill (Comment by 15 May 2026)
- Draft South Africa National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy (Comment by 10 June 2026)

## SET-related policy news

*Some articles included in the section below are opinion pieces. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSTF Executive Committee, Directors, Secretariat or Members.*

**4IR and information technologies**

- BBBEE ICT Sector Council reviews ICT Sector Code, publishes updated EEIP application framework (engineeringnews.co.za)
- SA's AI policy moves to comment phase (itweb.co.za)

**Agriculture**

- Policy certainty, infrastructure key to unlocking agricultural investment (sanews.gov.za)
- State of sector undermines master plan objectives - Safda (engineeringnews.co.za)

**Basic education**

- Concerns raised over 'ambitious' history curriculum overhaul (msn.com)
- Special delivery: SA's new plan to keep pregnant pupils in school (citizen.co.za)

**Energy**

- Calls mount for urgent action as policy misalignment stalls gas-to-power (energize.co.za)
- Reviewed electricity pricing policy to be released for comment within weeks (engineeringnews.co.za)

**Environment and climate change**

- Climate policy will not constrain growth but define the next era of industrialisation (africannewsagency.com)
- From rigid rules to risk-based decisions: Rethinking South Africa's EIA system (engineeringnews.co.za)
- South Africa needs R250-billion just to meet basic climate adaptation needs over the next decade (polity.org.za)

**Health**

- Can talks save South Africa's NHI from a courtroom war? (bhekisisa.org)
- South Africa's new parental leave policy is designed for equality – but it could do better (theconversation.com)

**Higher education**

- South Africa's underperforming education system (businessday.co.za)

**Mining**

- North West raises alarm over illegal mining, chrome wash plants (sanews.gov.za)
- Policy failures blight South Africa's mineral wealth (miningmx.com)

**Transport**

- National rail and airport development plans released for comment (engineeringnews.co.za)

**Water**

- How trade policy can change where water flows (blogs.worldbank.org)

*The events posted below are correct as far as we could establish at the time of preparing this newsletter. Please check the relevant websites for changes to dates and venues.*

- World Corrosion Awareness Day 2026, Midrand, Gauteng, 24 April 2026
- Ndoni Mcunu Annual Lecture on African Climate Change, Johannesburg, Gauteng, 30 April 2026
- Workshop: Applying Conversation Analysis in Health and Social Care, Online, 5 May 2026
- Water Governance Training, Paarl, Western Cape, 5-7 May 2026
- Africa Tech Week, Western Cape, Cape Town, 12 May 2026
- Re-Imagining Diversity and Inclusion 2026 Showcase, Rosebank, Gauteng, 12 May 2026
- Enlit Africa 2026, Cape Town, Western Cape, 19-21 May 2026
- Advanced Nuclear Science and Technology Techniques Workshop (ANSTT6), Cape Town, Western Cape, 18-22 May 2026
- Engineering 2.0: Advancing Engineering Through artificial intelligence, Hybrid (Online and in-person), Westville, KwaZulu-Natal, 20 May 2026
- Communicating Astronomy with the Public Conference 2026, Hybrid (Online and in-person), Yerevan, 25-29 May 2026
- Redefining security in the face of AI-driven attacks, fragile supply chains and a global skills gap, Cape Town, Western Cape, 26 May 2026
- SAIMM Pyrometallurgy International Conference 2026, Pretoria, Gauteng, 26-28 May
- Workshop: Applied Machine Vision for Robotic Applications, Hybrid (Online and in-person), Stellenbosch, Western Cape, 29 May 2026
- ITWeb Security Summit 2026, Sandton, Gauteng, 2-3 June 2026
- Agbiz Congress 2026, Gqeberha, Eastern Cape, 3-5 June 2026
- South Africa Infrastructure Expo, Johannesburg, Gauteng, 9-11 June 2026
- International Engineering Alliance Meetings, Cape Town, Western Cape 7-12 June 2026
- Innovating for Impact: Advancing Sustainable Futures through IEM, Johannesburg, Gauteng, 23 June 2026
- Manufacturing Indaba 2026, Johannesburg, Gauteng, 14-15 July 2026
- 61st Annual Congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa, Grabouw, Western Cape, 20-24 July 2026
- African Data Science Conference, Johannesburg, Gauteng, 24-26 June 2026
- 67th edition of the London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF), United Kingdom (UK), 19 July-1 August 2026
- Annual National Conference 2026, Stellenbosch, Western Cape, 25-28 August 2026
- SAGA Conference 2026, Cape Town, Western Cape, 12-16 October 2026

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### Science Councils and Statutory Bodies

- **ARC:** Local vaccine breakthrough strengthens fight against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (businessreport.co.za)
- **ASSAf:** Exploring partnerships with township-based organisations to promote STEM (assaf.org.za)
- **ASSAf:** Six South African scientists selected for Prestigious Nobel Laureate meeting in Germany (assaf.org.za)
- **CSIR**: CHPC facilitates rollout of the new national coding and robotics curriculum (csir.co.za)
- **CSIR**: From sewers to signals: CSIR scientists turn wastewater into an early outbreak warning system (csir.co.za)
- **CGS**: Council for Geoscience: Unlocking critical minerals potential (miningreview.com)
- **HSRC:** Youth mental health in focus: Global insights on life stressors in LMICs (hsrc.ac.za)
- **Mintek:** Mintek spearheads National Critical Minerals Strategy through rare earth recovery (mintek.co.za)
- **NERSA:** Eskom seeks NERSA approval for 62 c/kWh smelter tariff (energize.co.za)
- **NRF:** The Presidential PhD Programme: From Doctoral research to innovation impact (nrf.ac.za)
- **SAEON:** SAPRI deploys first Slocum ocean gliders on Agulhas Bank (saeon.ac.za)
- **SAMRC:** SAMRC invests in the future of health by establishing seven new research units to drive innovation and save lives (samrc.ac.za)
- **SAMRC:** SAMRC to host global Outcomes Finance Alliance summit to advance innovative health financing in South Africa (samrc.ac.za)
- **SANBI:** Turning leaves into life: Natural composting at Thohoyandou National Botanical Garden (sanbi.org)
- **SANSA:** Building resilient communities through earth observation: sansa mapping of air pollution priority areas (sansa.org.za)
- **TIA:** SMU and TIA launch local skin innovation (smu.ac.za)
- **TIA:** SA Technology Innovation Agency moves to curb innovation fragmentation through new partnerships (channelafrica.co.za)
- **USAf:** More degrees, less readiness: Inside South Africa's postgraduate dilemma (usaf.ac.za)

### Higher Education Institutions

- CUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal appointed as Chairperson of the THENSA Board of Directors (ednews.africa)
- DHET partners with Google to integrate AI and digital skills in education sector (ednews.africa)
- From access to impact: Why African universities must lead societal transformation (ednews.africa)
- Nano-Environment Incubation Programme leads Water Week awareness campaign in Disaneng Village (news.nwu.ac.za)
- NWU launches a community-based initiative, set to open career opportunities in mining and engineering (ednews.africa)
- Professor Jansen challenges set practices in postgrad education in SA universities; Calls for a renewal (ednews.africa)
- TTIS showcases NWU innovation at inaugural South Africa Innovation Week (news.nwu.ac.za)
- UFS appoints visionary academic to drive global strategy and institutional innovation (ednews.africa)
- UKZN occupational therapy academics shine at Global WFOT Congress in Bangkok (ednews.africa)
- Unisa postgrads awarded prestigious aerospace internship in China (unisa.ac.za)
- Unisa surges ahead in global subject rankings and national creative outputs (unisa.ac.za)
- UP-led study challenges global claim of 73% decline in wildlife populations (ednews.africa)

### 4IR and information technologies

- AI is not built for African users, exposing a governance chasm (wits.ac.za)
- How AI can tackle youth unemployment in South Africa: Insights from UCT researcher (Business Report)
- Icasa data confirms the scale of South Africa's pay-TV collapse (techcentral.co.za)
- SAPS moves forward with body-worn cameras amid decade-long delays (iol.co.za)
- Trust will make or break AI voice agents (engineerit.co.za)

### Agriculture and food security

- Agri SA says court ruling of State-controlled FMD vaccine procurement must be respected (engineeringnews.co.za)
- On plant health and embracing new plant-breeding techniques in South Africa (wandile.substack.com)
- South Africa's farmers aren't yet replacing chemical fertilisers with sustainable alternatives – this is why (theconversation.com)
- Why silver three-legged pots may be more dangerous (Sowetan)

### Basic education

- Department of Basic Education warns over 'chuffing' trend among learners (iol.co.za)
- R95 million initiative launched to combat GBV in schools (iol.co.za)
- New SA history curriculum: What's changing — and what could quietly disappear (iol.co.za)
- Over 22,000 Western Cape learners still not registered for Grade 8 for 2027 (iol.co.za)
- 20 top schools advance to next level of 2026 solve for tomorrow competition (ednews.africa)

### Defence and security

- Airbus drone-intercepting drone successfully demonstrated (engineeringnews.co.za)
- Drone developments boast uptake (engineeringnews.co.za)
- Sky Robots showcases integrated drone security model for mines, other high-value assets (engineeringnews.co.za)

### Earth sciences and geology

- 260-Million-Year-Old Apex Predator Discovered in South Africa (nationaltoday.com)
- Sault Ste. Marie library to screen Earth Day documentary (nationaltoday.com)

### Energy

- Energy Council South Africa backs phased Eskom unbundling (greenbuildingafrica.co.za)
- Necsa seeks partners to develop small modular reactor technology in South Africa (iol.co.za)
- One government decision that could end in disaster for South Africa (businesstech.co.za)
- SAPVIA welcomes Eskom's extension of solar registration fee waiver (engineeringnews.co.za)
- Sleepy Free State mining town to get the second biggest solar plant in South Africa (mybroadband.co.za)
- Smart meters central to plan to eliminate load reduction, Ramokgopa says (energize.co.za)
- Unions rally behind Eskom smelter tariff deal as lifeline for jobs and industrial revival (msn.com)

### Engineering

- Engineering stability requires reliable NECRTs to protect SA's power network (energize.co.za)

### Environment, water and climate change

- A 2026 horizon scan for biodiversity conservation in South Africa (springer.com)
- As coal chokes Johannesburg, South African scientists launch pollution warning app (reuters.com)
- Carbon capture in rural South Africa: projects show how fighting climate change can create rural jobs – research (theconversation.com)
- Beyond the taps: Water professionalisation as a human rights imperative (infrastructurenews.co.za)
- Cape Town's dam levels drop to 51.8%: Urgent call for water conservation amid heatwave (iol.co.za)
- Global trade in wild birds is poorly monitored – the risks to wildlife, ecosystems and human health (theconversation.com)
- Heatwaves will be worst for rural parts of Africa – new model shows tens of millions face dangerous warming by 2100 (theconversation.com)
- Ice Shock is a novel about passionate love in a time of climate crisis (theconversation.com)
- Planting trees to remove carbon can harm the environment – or protect it: study highlights tradeoffs (theconversation.com)
- SA Plastics Pact reports significant progress to 2030 recycling targets (engineeringnews.co.za)
- Seasonal climate watch (weathersa.co.za)
- Sappi, WWF South Africa champion water management as key to bioeconomy resilience (engineeringnews.co.za)
- Should wildlife parks be fenced? We studied 60 African examples for an answer (theconversation.com)
- South Africa needs R250 billion just to meet basic climate adaptation needs over the next decade (theconversation.com)

### Health and medicine

- Kidney disease is growing in Africa: big new study casts light on genetic risk factors (theconversation.com)
- No need to sign up for gym: even small movements have health benefits – research (theconversation.com)
- South African medical technology innovation sees successful maiden use in the US (engineeringnews.co.za)

### Infrastructure

- Challenging conventional wisdom in infrastructure (infrastructurenews.co.za)

### Innovation

- SA positions itself at the forefront of AI innovation in Africa (channelafrica.co.za)
- South Africa's clean energy innovation reaches the finals of the 2026 International Water, Air, Food Awards (mediaupdate.co.za)

### Mining

- Africa to pilot bond aimed at formalising artisanal mining (engineeringnews.co.za)
- South Africa, DRC dominate global supply of two valuable metals now hitting multi-year highs (msn.com)

### Oceanography

- Disputes over Africa's ocean resources: here's what could help avoid them (theconversation.com)

### Palaeontology and Archaeology

- Embryo fossil found in South Africa is world's oldest proof that mammal ancestors laid eggs (theconversation.com)

### Quantum science and technology

- Elon Musk is panicking: Wits prof building world's fastest internet (msn.com)
- Navigating the quantum frontier: South Africa celebrates World Quantum Day with a nod to innovation (iol.co.za)
- Unleashing the potential of quantum technology in South Africa (iol.co.za)

### Skills for the economy

- Advancing skills development to meet 4IR demands (sanews.gov.za)
- EWSETA leading skills and SMME innovation at Africa Energy Indaba 2026 (ednews.africa)
- Reforms driving growth and economic greenshoots (sanews.gov.za)

### Space science and Astronomy

- SA's Hartebeesthoek plays key role in NASA Artemis II lunar flyby & prepares for new space race (biznews.com)
- South Africa's MeerKAT telescope is mapping previously invisible spaces between galaxies – and it's found 60 new cosmic structures (theconversation.com)
- UCT and global partners uncover vast hidden supercluster behind the Milky Way (ednews.africa)

- **59th Annual Conference of the South African SASAE, co-hosted with WSU - Call for success stories and short communications submissions:** We Invite farmers, practitioners, researchers, and advocates of sustainable agriculture to submit their inspiring stories or brief communications related to the conference theme: "Towards an Inclusive, Digital, and Resilient Extension Paradigm for Sustainable Food and Agricultural Livelihoods: Positioning Agricultural Extension as a Driver of Innovation, Equity, and Sustainability for the entire agri-linked value chain including pre-production, production, and post-production in a wide spectrum of activities including crops, livestock, forestry, game farming, and non-conventional commodities with an unshakable commitment to ethics, human empowerment, and environmental stewardship." The deadline for submissions is 24 April 2026. For more details click here.
- **IAIAsa Gauteng Student Symposium - Call for submission of abstracts:** The International Association for Impact Assessment—South Africa (IAIAsa) Gauteng Branch invites postgraduate students from universities across Gauteng to participate in the upcoming Student Symposium on Integrated Environmental Management (IEM), themed "Innovating for Impact: Advancing Sustainable Futures through IEM. This symposium provides a dynamic platform for students to present their research, exchange innovative ideas, and engage with peers and experienced environmental practitioners. The deadline for abstract submissions is 30 April 2026. For more information click here.
- **2026 Mintek Sci - Call for abstracts:** Mintek invites researchers aged 35 and below from academia, industry, and research institutions to participate in Mintek-Sci, the Science Convention for Innovators. Submissions are invited for oral and poster presentations, as well as abstracts for full papers, aligned to the symposium themes. Contributions will support the advancement of mineral and metallurgical innovation. The deadline for abstracts submission is 15 May 2026. For more information click here.
- **L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Sub-Saharan Africa Programme - 2026 Call for Application:** Starting in 2026, we are breaking down borders to create a single, prestigious community of excellence. The South African National Programme and the Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Programme have officially merged to become the unified L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Sub-Saharan Africa Programme. For over 25 years, the Fondation L'Oréal and UNESCO have stood side-by-side to champion the brilliance of women in science. Today, the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Sub-Saharan Africa Programme serves as a powerful catalyst for change, uniting researchers from all 49 countries across the region, including South Africa (SA) to lead as a single, Pan-African force for global advancement. Are you ready to join this elite community of trailblazing researchers? From the leading labs and research centres across the continent, we are seeking the next generation of women scientists who are poised to change the world. We invite applications from researchers dedicated to excellence in the following fields: Formal & Life Sciences, Environmental & Physical Sciences, Engineering & Technological Sciences. Step into the spotlight of international scientific recognition. The call for application/nomination closes on 15 May 2026. For more details click here.
- **2026 South African Women in Science Awards – Call for applications:** The Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) has opened the call for applications for the 2026 South African Women in Science Awards (SAWiSA). Now marking its 20th anniversary, SAWiSA honours, celebrates and highlights the outstanding contributions of women researchers and scientists driving progress across science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and innovation in South Africa (SA). Since its inception in 2006, SAWiSA has played a pivotal role in transforming the national research landscape. The awards have consistently encouraged women to break through glass ceilings and excel in scientific fields. By recognising excellence in research, mentorship and innovation, SAWiSA has helped cultivate a more inclusive and dynamic scientific ecosystem that inspires young girls and women to pursue and sustain careers in STEM. The deadline for applications is 31 May 2026. For more information click here.
- **67th London STEM Summer Camp:** The London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF) offers a two-week science summer camp in the United Kingdom (UK), held both online and in-person, at Imperial College London and The Royal Geographical Society. Each year, 500 students aged 16-21 years old from 90 countries enjoy the 15-day STEM summer camp, with lectures and demonstrations from leading scientists, scientific visits to world-class laboratories and scientific universities, combined with international cultural interaction. (STEM = science, technology, engineering and mathematics.) Apply online by 31 May 2026. For more details click here.
- **2026 SAIIE Awards - Call for nominations:** This call asks you to nominate someone in Industrial Engineering who has shown exceptional bravery, courage, compassion or heroism in the line of their work, although this award is not for work. This award is for doing something that makes you a hero. Pulling a co-worker away from a life-threatening electrocution – evacuating a factory when you smell a gas leak, keeping a cool head and saving lives when natural disasters batter. These are the things we want to reward. These are the stories we want to hear. The closing date is 30 June 2026. For more information click here.

- **Dr Khodani Matshusa:** First Black African to attain PhD in geoheritage and geotourism continues to excel at Unisa (unisa.ac.za)
- **Caitlin Wheeler**: Mapping the human story behind the science (wits.ac.za)
- **Beauty Mbuwane:** Mbuwane overcomes illness to complete postgraduate journalism diploma (tut.ac.za)
- **Robyn Humphreys**: The earth remembers (uct.ac.za)
- **Dr Ina Vorster**: UFS writer turns breast cancer journey into award-winning story ahead of graduation (ednews.africa)

- **Prof Isabel Coetzee-Prinsloo**: Unisa alumna reflects on transformative journey as a globally recognised healthcare expert (unisa.ac.za)

## 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
- gathers stakeholders around burning issues of national and global interest, across the public and private sectors, including matters of public policy
- includes a network of professional societies in SET and STEM education (STEM = science, technology, engineering and mathematics) - the NSTF pro*SET* membership sector.
- recognises, awards and profiles the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SET and innovation through the prestigious NSTF Awards
- runs and supports collaborative projects and youth outreach, including recognition of top performance in mathematics and science, role modelling, bursary and STEM career information
- runs and supports the STEMulator.org which attracts youth and educators to Explore>Discover>Learn the world of STEM including careers. (Established by NSTF pro*SET)*

**For more information**
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