



National Science and Technology Forum

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

Message from Jansie Niehaus, NSTF Executive Director

The use of the internet has become commonplace, in public as well as professional life. In addition, the smart phone and tablet have become ubiquitous among those who can afford it, leading to increasing internet use from handheld devices. These developments take place so fast that there is little time or opportunity for the users to consider issues of personal and professional privacy and security of data. The next NSTF discussion forum on 15 May 2015 aims to inform the science and technology community of the risks of using information and communication technologies (ICTs), and how to mitigate these, as many professionals have not specifically been trained in IT or ICT. We would also be seeking to identify gaps in the applicable legislation, regulations and institutional measures – and give feedback to the relevant authorities if there are indeed substantial gaps. Please join us for this discussion - we would like to bring together as many role players and stakeholders as possible. [Click here to view the invitation or to register.](#)

I would also like to draw your attention to our monthly Policy Brief (see below under SETI Policy News). This month we focus on the Medicines and Related Substances Amendment Bill.

Latest developments: [2014/15 NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards](#) – *Today's research ... tomorrow's innovation*

The [nominees](#) for the 2014/15 NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards have been announced. In the coming weeks, watch your mailbox for the announcement of the finalists in this newsletter. The finalists and winners will be introduced and acknowledged during the prestigious Awards Gala Dinner on 9 July 2015 in Gauteng, in the presence of the awards patron, the Minister of Science and Technology.

SET for socio-economic growth: proSET invests in research and capacity building through the AS&TS Trust

In July 2014, the NSTF proSET Executive Committee resolved to invest a portion of the funds of the AS&TS Trust annually to support worthy member projects and activities. (As you are aware, proSET represents the Professional Bodies and Learned Societies sector of the NSTF. Though managed by the NSTF, the AS&TS Trust funds are specifically reserved for proSET members). The following projects, submitted by members in response to the call for proposals, have so far been approved by the proSET Exco:

- Funding for the Southern African Association of Research in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education (SAARMSTE) [13th Annual Research School](#), which takes place from 23–26 June 2015

Issue: May 2015



Jansie Niehaus

SETI Policy news

Upcoming SETI events

Community News

Share your organisation's bursary information - www.sciencebursaries.org.za - S.E.T. for life!

The [NSTF Science Bursaries website](#) allows bursary providers to register and upload the bursaries they are offering, with total control over their bursary information. The site also provides career guidance in SETI-related fields, and regularly profiles young SETI achievers, as well as accomplished senior role models in the field.

Do let us know if you are planning a youth outreach event; we will be more than happy to arrange for one of the NSTF-BHP Billiton Award winners to be present at your event.

Contact us at enquiries@nstf.co.za for more information.

- A proposal by the [South African Chemical Institute](#) (SACI) to fund a series of three workshops on activity-based chemistry teaching for high-school teachers (in Durban from July 1-3, Pretoria 6-9 July and Cape Town 13-15 July 2015). The workshops will be presented by Jerry A. Bell, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts, and Senior Scientist (retired) of the American Chemical Society.
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[Getting to know the 2013/14 NSTF-BHP Billiton Award winners](#)

To introduce the award winners to our readers, we provide links to articles detailing their contributions and their status as science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI) role models. This month the spotlight is on **Professor Azwinndini Muronga**, Associate Professor of Physics and Director of the University of Johannesburg Soweto Science Centre. Prof Muronga won the award for an outstanding contribution to SETI through communication for outreach and creating awareness over the last five years. Since 2005, Prof Muronga has been actively involved in science communication awareness. He was a founding member of the Western Cape Theoretical Physics Symposium Series and regularly appears as a guest on Phalaphala FM, which serves mostly rural people in Limpopo.

[Read more.](#)

Latest activities: NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards [Share 'n Dare outreach programme](#)

This programme profiles NSTF-BHP Billiton award winners as ambassadors and role models of SETI. Knowledge-transfer activities aim to clarify the award winners' fields of expertise and highlight career opportunities among students and high-school learners. Other objectives include enhancing public understanding and the knowledge of communities, and participation in campus and community radio talk shows. During April, Prof Azwinndini Muronga addressed learners at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) Science and Technology Education Centre on the International Year of Light, Einstein's general relativity centenary and the secrets of the universe. Also at UKZN, Prof Donald Cowan, Director of the Centre for Microbial Ecology and Genomics at the University of Pretoria, spoke to learners about living and working in Antarctica, and the microbial ecology of hot and cold desert soils. [Read more.](#)

Organisations are invited to join hands with the NSTF and broaden the reach of the programme by inviting award winners (through the NSTF Office) to relevant outreach programmes. Contact Ms Fuluhelo Gelebe (+27 12 841-3987 or enquiries@nstf.co.za) to make the necessary arrangements.

Next NSTF Discussion Forum to focus on Human Settlements

The abovementioned forum will take place in the week of 22-26 June. Individuals who wish to participate can contact the NSTF office at +27 12 841-3987 or enquiries@nstf.co.za. Watch your mailbox for more information.

Remember to share your organisation's bursary information and reach out to SA's youth – www.sciencebursaries.org.za – S.E.T. for life! We also encourage you to refer learners and students to this portal for career guidance and to be inspired by stories of role models and the experiences of young talent in the field. Contact us at enquiries@nstf.co.za for more information or to request posting of your bursary information.

SETI Policy News

- [Policy Brief 3/2015: Medicines and Related Substances Amendment Bill \(B6 of 2014\)](#)

We provide a summary of the aims of the Bill, background to recent developments and useful links to related media reports.

- [Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training to focus on Setas \(AllAfrica.com\)](#)
- [PICC to push major dam-building expansion project \(Polity.org\)](#)
- [SA's move to expand private energy sector 'game-changing' \(Polity.org\)](#)
- [Nersa mulls rules for grid-tied rooftop solar \(Engineering News\)](#)
- [Pandor calls on communities to embrace science \(AllAfrica.com\)](#)
- [Davis tax committee to review proposed carbon tax \(Engineering News\)](#)
- [DST Annual Report on Government Funding for Scientific and Technological Activities 2013/14](#)



Upcoming SETI events

- [African Construction and Totally Concrete Expo: Johannesburg, 12-15 May 2015](#)
- [Manufacturing Indaba: Ekurhuleni, 29-30 June 2015](#)
- [Power-Gen Africa 2015: Cape Town, 15-17 July 2015](#)
- [Geomatics Indaba 2015: Ekurhuleni, 11-13 August 2015](#)
- [8th SA Innovation Summit: Cape Town, 26-29 August 2015](#)
- [7th International Design Education Forum of Southern Africa \(Defsa\) Conference: Ethics and accountability in Design: Do they matter? Gauteng, 2-4 Sept 2015](#)
- [Online course in Science Communication: An introduction to theory, best practice and practical skills: Stellenbosch University, 5 October – 15 December 2015 \(Applications close 31 August 2015\)](#)
- [9th Annual UKZN Teaching & Learning Conference: Durban, 21-23 September 2015](#)
- [8th Annual SATN International Conference 2015: Entrepreneurship Education for Economic Renewal: Vaal University of Technology, 19-21 October 2015](#)
- [16th Annual International Conference: Rapid Product Development Association of SA \(RAPDASA\): Pretoria, 4-6 November 2015](#)
- [Smart and Sustainable Built Environments: University of Pretoria, 9-11 December 2015](#)
- [35th International Geological Congress: Cape Town, 27 August-4 Sept 2016](#)



Send us your news

The NSTF invites you to send us information on news, meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader SETI community. The deadline for all items is the 20th of every month, for publication in the NSTF eNews that is distributed at the end of the month. Send your contributions to enquiries@nstf.co.za.

Community News

Science

- [Read the latest issue of Science for Society, the newsletter of the Academy of Science of South Africa](#)
- [Necsa's new R6m MicroPET/CT scanner expected to boost SA's pharmaceuticals industry \(Engineering News\)](#)
- [CSIR signs partnership agreement with Roads Agency Limpopo \(Engineering News\)](#)
- [Sewer robot to crawl under Cape Town \(News24\)](#)
- [SA wants more eyes in the sky \(mybroadband.co.za\)](#)
- [Government, Mintek unveil new research facility aimed at developing diagnostic devices with minimal contamination \(IOL\)](#)
- [CSIR report to help guide SA's transition to an agricultural green economy \(Engineering News\)](#)



Innovation

- [SKA, AWS offer grants for innovative cloud services](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Innovative engineers selected for Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation finals](#) (*Engineering News*)

Environment, Climate Change and Energy

- [Mokolo Crocodile River Water Augmentation Project to start operating in October - Minister](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [SA to mop up near-term renewables prospects ahead of revamped process for 6 300 MW more](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [Geothermal power in Kenya is heating up](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [Three biotherm energy projects selected during SA's fourth renewables round](#) (*Polity.org*)
- [Sappi biomass project added to SA's growing renewables portfolio](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [The climate-change paradox: Rainforests are being felled but the world is getting greener](#) (*Independent*)

Higher Education

- [New dates revealed for key Sterkfontein fossils](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Wits, Shell SA work to bridge geophysics skills gap](#) (*Mining Weekly*)
- [Department designates UKZN's Caprisa as Centre of Excellence](#) (*BD Live*)

Resources and Opportunities

- [PwC Pitching Den: Calling all entrepreneurs and emerging companies to pitch for funding, incubation or support](#) (*closing date: 30 June 2015*)
- [Online course in Science Communication: An introduction to theory, best practice and practical skills: Stellenbosch University, 5 October – 15 December 2015](#) (*Applications close 31 August 2015*)

SETI people in the news

- [UCT names first woman head of engineering faculty](#) (*Engineering News*)
- [Four South Africans nominated for Innovation Prize for Africa](#) (*AllAfrica.com*)

What do you [think of this newsletter](#)?

If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve this newsletter, please email the NSTF Secretariat at enquiries@nstf.co.za

Send us your news

The NSTF invites all our members, as well as all SETI role players, to send us information on meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader S&T community. We require one month's notice to communicate your news to all stakeholders on our database, and publish it in our newsletter. Contact Wilna Eksteen (details below) for more information.

Disclaimer:

The NSTF has taken all practical measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct. The NSTF reserves the right to make changes as it deems necessary. Contact details submitted by individuals for subscription purposes will be treated confidentially.

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

The **NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards** are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SETI.

www.sciencebursaries.org.za - SET for life! This exciting web portal is a 'one-stop shop' for learners and students who are interested in pursuing a career in the sciences, engineering or technology.

Privacy

Registration details submitted to the NSTF will be treated confidentially and will only be used by NSTF to communicate with its members and subscribers.

Follow Us On

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