

Collaborative research by institutions towards producing local diagnostic tests

OFM and Smile FM afternoon drive shows hosting Prof Anne Grobler, Head: Research, Austell Laboratories



As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc locally and internationally, local research institutions working in collaboration have been roped in to assist with the production of local diagnostic tests in the fight against the disease.

Prof Anne Grobler is the Head of Research at Austell Laboratories – a wholly owned South African company – that donates medication to communities in need and also invests in local medicine development through clinical research projects. She is also the former director of North-West University (NWU's) Preclinical Drug Development Platform.

Prof Grobler won the prestigious 2013/2014 National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) Award for excellence in science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation through management and related activities. She was honoured for her contribution for advancing SA's pharmaceutical industry. The work was a joint venture by the then Department of Science and Technology and NWU.

Said Grobler about her work in a recent article: "The locally developed molecular test has the same accuracy as the kits that are currently supported by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization".

Tune in to these radio interviews to hear this award-winning scientist talk about how different collaborations contribute in the world-wide fight against the disease.

OFM Interview:

Date: Wednesday, 29 April 2020 at 17:40 pm (GMT+2)

Frequency: OFM: 94.0 - 97.0 MHz FM

Podcasting: <https://iono.fm/s/18>

(OFM is a commercial radio station based in Bloemfontein, Free State, South Africa. The station broadcast in both English and Afrikaans.)

Smile FM:

Date: Wednesday, 29 April 2020 at 18:30 pm (GMT+2)

Frequency: Smile FM: 90.4 MHz FM

Audio Streaming: <https://smile904.fm/player.html>

(Smile FM is a bilingual radio station based in Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa)

Follow the social media conversations on the following NSTF platforms:

- Facebook: @NSTFSA
- Twitter: @NSTF_SA
- LinkedIn: National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)
- Instagram: nstf_sa
- Hashtags: **#COVID19 #coronavirus**

Catch up on other COVID-19 radio interviews with NSTF Award winners in podcasts:

- Prof Stephen Tollman on Tru FM talking on what scientists in South Africa are doing in trying to provide solutions around the coronavirus and the research that he is currently busy with.
- Prof Refilwe Nancy Phaswana-Mafuya on Ikwekwezi FM talking about her research on complex ageing issues.

About the NSTF

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF), established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all 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 and groups to SET and innovation.

The science [bursaries](#) page provides information on bursaries and bursary providers for science, engineering and related studies.

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