



Email: enquiries@nstf.org.za | Tel: +27 12 841 3987 |
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NSTF-South32 Awards

today's research ... tomorrow's innovation

Nominees announced: 2020/2021 NSTF-South32 Awards

Recognising outstanding contributions to science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation by individuals, teams and organisations in South Africa

The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#) is pleased to announce the group of nominees contending for the 23rd prestigious [NSTF-South32 Awards](#).

The NSTF-South32 Awards: The NSTF Awards were established in 1998 as a collaborative effort to recognise outstanding contributions to science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation by SET-related professionals and organisations in South Africa. This includes experienced researchers, engineers, innovators, science communicators, engineering research capacity builders, and organisational managers/leaders, as well as data and research managers.

Our partner: [South32](#) is a resources company which has been partnering with the NSTF for 5 years, and providing co-branding sponsorship that anchors this not-for-profit endeavour.

The 'Science Oscars': The [NSTF-South32 Awards](#) are referred to as the 'Science Oscars' of South Africa. They are the largest, most comprehensive, and most sought-after national awards of their kind in the country. They were also the first science awards in South Africa.



NSTF-South32 Awards' theme and Special Annual Theme Award: The theme for the 2020/2021 NSTF-South32 Awards is **Creative Economy for Sustainable Development**. This is in recognition of the 2021 International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development as declared by the United Nations (UN), as well as to promote related outstanding contributions to SET and innovation by South African individuals and organisations. The 23rd annual [Awards Gala Event](#) taking place on Thursday 29 July 2021 will celebrate this theme – save the date and watch your mailbox for further announcements.

What's new this year?

There are no major changes to [categories](#) and [criteria](#) this year apart from the [Special Annual Theme Award](#) mentioned above and the following:

1. **Data for Research Award:** The NSTF under the guidance of a team of experts through the Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA) and the Network of Data and Information Curation Communities (NeDICC) re-modelled this category. The NSTF continues the Award introduced in 2017, acknowledging the work of individuals or teams (including for example researchers/scientists; data scientists; data stewards; innovators; and repository and data centre managers) to be rewarded for the generation, preservation, sharing and/or re-use of a valuable scientific output – the research data set. Data products, data repositories and data centres are also eligible for team recognition. The intention is to recognise the value of a data set that is of national interest or for the public good, and that is openly available to be re-used and / or re-packaged in products that are of public good and interest, or that could be integrated into products that contribute to the development of South Africa.

2. **Green Economy Award:** Initiated and sponsored by GreenMatter, this category was introduced in 2015 to recognise individuals or organisations towards achieving biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability and a greener economy. In 2018 the sponsorship was taken over by The Lewis Foundation. This year, The Lewis Foundation, whilst still associated with the NSTF, moved the sponsorship to the [NSTF Brilliants Programme](#) (for the top science and mathematics matriculants). The Award was therefore discontinued until a new sponsor comes forward. Contact [Ms Wilna Eksteen](#) to join the existing group of [category partners and event sponsors](#).

The NSTF's vision

A transformed country where SET and innovation contribute to a high quality of life for all who live in South Africa, where the profile of SET professionals is representative of the nation's diverse population and where the education system is effective, particularly in terms of performance in SET subjects and the promotion of innovation.

Realising the vision: The NSTF-South32 Awards is the NSTF's flagship event and one among [other strategic activities](#) through which the NSTF realises this [vision](#).

Partnerships for specific awards (such as with the Water Research Commission, National Intellectual Property Management (NIPMO) and Eskom) recognise contributions that have the potential to make a positive impact on South Africa, and on the world.

2020/2021 NSTF-South32 Awards nominees

Join the NSTF [membership](#) and pioneering [partners/sponsors](#) in applauding the 2020/2021 NSTF-South32 Awards [nominees](#). These are individuals, teams and organisations, as applicable, who are nominated for an **outstanding contribution to SET and innovation in South Africa** under the [categories](#) below:

- *An asterisk (*) at the end of the citation of the nominee indicates that a nominee has been nominated under more than one category and mentions the applicable category/ies*
- *Listed alphabetically according to surname of nominee or name of team/organisation under each category*

1. [Lifetime Award](#)

- **Prof Shirley Abelman** – Professor Emeritus: Department (Dept) of Applied Mathematics, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits); *and also in the Engineering Research Capacity Development category**
- **Prof Raymond Durrheim** – Chair: Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)/National Research Foundation (NRF) South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI), Exploration, Earthquake and Mining Seismology, School of Geosciences, Wits
- **Prof Jan Eloff** – Professor: Computer Science (Research Group Cybersecurity and Big Data Science), University of Pretoria (UP); and DRS Chair: Cyber-Security, Dept of Computer Science, UP; and Deputy Dean: Research and Postgraduate Studies, Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology, UP; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Researcher category**
- **Prof Sabiha Essack** – Professor: Pharmaceutical Sciences and Director of Antimicrobial Research Unit, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (UKZN); DSI/NRF SARChI Chair: Antibiotic Resistance and One Health, University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
- **Prof Eileen Hoal** – Professor Emerita: Division of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University (SU)
- **Prof Jan H Kroeze** – Professor: Dept of Information Systems, School of Computing, University of South Africa (Unisa)

- **Prof Raseelo J Moitsheki** – Professor and Head: School of Applied Mathematics, Wits; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Researcher category**
- **Prof Gerald Nurick** – Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Scholar: Dept of Mechanical Engineering, University of Cape Town
- **Prof Michael Samways** – Distinguished Professor Emeritus: Dept of Conservation Ecology and Entomology, SU
- **Prof Frank Tanser** – Senior Faculty: Africa Health Research Institute, Nelson Mandela School of Medicine, Durban; and Honorary Professor: School of Nursing and Public Health, UKZN; and Director: Lincoln International Institute for Rural Health, University of Lincoln, United Kingdom
- **Prof Ivan Turok** – DSI/NRF SARCHI Chair: University of the Free State; Distinguished Research Fellow, Human Sciences Research Council

2. TW Kambule-NSTF Award: Researcher

- **Prof Olalekan Ayo-Yusuf** – Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Postgraduate Studies and Innovation, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University
- **Prof Soraya Bardien** – Division of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics, Faculty of Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University (SU)
- **Prof Lyn-Marié Birkholtz** – Professor of Biochemistry and Chair: Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)/National Research Foundation (NRF) South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARCHI), Sustainable Malaria Control, Department (Dept) of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology, UP Institute for Sustainable Malaria Control, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences and Faculty of Health Science, University of Pretoria (UP)
- **Prof Wayne Derman** – Director and Chair: Institute of Sport and Exercise Medicine, Orthopaedic Surgery, Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, SU
- **Prof Anton du Plessis** – Associate Professor: Physics Dept; and Manager: X-ray Computed Tomography (CT) Scanner Facility, SU; and Associate Researcher: Engineering, Nelson Mandela University; *and see also the Data for Research category for the CT Scanner Facility**
- **Dr Sharief Hendricks** – Senior Lecturer: Division of Exercise Science and Sports Medicine, Dept of Human Biology, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town (UCT); and Visiting Fellow: Leeds Beckett University, England
- **Prof Roula Inglesi-Lotz** – Professor: Dept of Economics, UP
- **Prof Hossein Jafari** – Professor: Dept of Mathematical Sciences, College of Science, Engineering and Technology, University of South Africa (Unisa)
- **Dr Thandeka Khoza** – Lecturer: School of Life Science, University of KwaZulu-Natal
- **Prof Moses Makgato** – Professor: Technological and Vocational Training, Dept of Education, Tshwane University of Technology; *and also in the Management, the Innovation: Corporate Organisation and the Special Annual Theme categories**
- **Prof Salome Maswime** – Head of Global Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, UCT; *and also in the Engineering Research Capacity Development category**
- **Prof Bruce Mellado** – Research Professor and Senior Scientist at iThemba LABS, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits); and Co-ordinator: Technology Innovation Platform in Artificial Intelligence, iThemba LABS, Wits; and Director: Institute for Collider Particle Physics; and Co-President: Africa-Canada Artificial Intelligence Data Modelling Consortium, York University and Wits; and Assistant Professor: University of Wisconsin-Madison, United States of America; *and also in the Engineering Research Capacity Development category**
- **Prof Marcia Mkansi** – Associate Professor, Dept of Higher Education, Unisa; *and also in the Innovation: Corporate Organisation and the Special Annual Theme categories**

- **Prof Raseelo J Moitsheki** – Professor and Head of School of Applied Mathematics, Wits; *and also in the Lifetime category**
- **Dr Ashwell R Ndhala** – Senior Researcher: Green Biotechnologies Research Centre, School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Limpopo; *and also in the Innovation: Corporate Organisation and the Special Annual Theme categories**
- **Prof Samuel Oluwatobi Oluwafemi** – Project Leader: Nanomaterials Synthesis and Applications Laboratory, Dept of Chemical Sciences (formerly Applied Chemistry), University of Johannesburg
- **Prof Marietjie Venter** – Professor: Medical Virology and Head: Zoonotic Arbo and Respiratory Programme, Centre for Viral Zoonoses, Dept of Medical Virology, Faculty of Health, UP

3. [TW Kambule-NSTF Award: Emerging Researcher](#)

Prize sponsor: [proSET \(Professionals in SET\)](#), a sector of the NSTF representing professional bodies and learned societies

- **Dr Geoff Beck** – Senior lecturer in Physics: University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)
- **Dr Mubeen Goolam** – Lecturer in Cell Biology, Department (Dept) of Human Biology, University of Cape Town (UCT)
- **Dr Wynand J Goosen** – Post-doctoral Research Fellow: Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)/National Research Foundation (NRF) Centre of Excellence for Biomedical TB Research, Division of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics, Dept of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University (SU)
- **Prof Pragashnie Govender** – Associate Professor: Discipline of Occupational Therapy, School of Health Sciences, University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN)
- **Dr Laura Heathfield** – Senior Lecturer and Forensic Geneticist, UCT
- **Dr Dorit Hockman** – Lecturer, Dept of Human Biology, UCT
- **Dr Tiisetso E Lepphoto** – Lecturer and Researcher: School of Molecular Biology, Wits; *and also in the Innovation: Corporate Organisation and the Special Annual Theme categories**
- **Dr. Michelle Lochner** – Senior Lecturer: University of the Western Cape; and Staff Scientist: South African Radio Astronomy Observatory
- **Prof Janet Mans** – Associate Professor: Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pretoria (UP)
- **Dr Thashree Marimuthu** – Senior Lecturer: Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Dept of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Wits
- **Dr Vukosi Marivate** – ABSA UP Chair of Data Science; and Senior Lecturer: UP
- **Dr Alseno Kagiso Mosai** – Post-Doctoral Fellow: Dept of Chemistry, Wits; *and also in the Engineering Research Capacity Development, the NSTF-Water Research Commission and the Special Annual Theme categories**
- **Prof Fulufhelo Nemavhola** – Director: University of South Africa (Unisa) School of Engineering; and Associate Professor: Unisa Dept of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering; and Research Associate: Tshwane University of Technology; and Leader: Unisa Biomechanics Research Group
- **Prof Nnamdi Nwulu** – Director: Centre for Cyber Physical Food, Energy and Water Systems; and Associate Professor: Dept of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Science, University of Johannesburg; *and also in the Engineering Research Capacity Development category**
- **Dr Oladimeji Benedict Olalusi** – Lecturer and Researcher, UKZN, Durban
- **Prof Philiswa Nosizo Nomngongo** – Associate Professor and Chair: DSI/NRF South African Research Chair Initiative, Nanotechnology for Water, University of Johannesburg (UJ)

- **Dr Boitumelo Innocent Ramatsetse** – Lecturer and Researcher: Engineering Graphics and Design, Educational Information and Engineering Technology, Wits; *and also in the Innovation: Corporate Organisation category**
- **Prof Sheetal Silal** – Associate Professor, Dept of Statistical Sciences, UCT; and Director of Modelling and Simulation Hub, Africa, Faculty of Science, UCT; and Honorary Visiting Research Fellow, Oxford University, United Kingdom
- **Dr Monnamme Tlotleng** – Principal Scientist: Laser Materials Processing, Additive Manufacturing Group, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; and Associate Researcher: Mechanical Engineering Science, UJ
- **Dr Caitlin Uren** – Post-Doctoral Fellow, Division of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, SU; *and also in the Data for Research category**

4. [Management Award](#)

- **Dr Tegan Bristow** – Senior Lecturer and Director: Fak’ugesi African Digital Innovation Festival, School of Fine Arts, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits); *and also in the Special Annual Theme category**
- **Prof Stephanie Burton** – Professor of Biochemistry; and Professor at Future Africa; and Immediate Past Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Postgraduate Education, University of Pretoria (UP)
- **Dr Rachel Chikwamba** – Group Executive: Chemicals, Agriculture, Food and Health Chair, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; and Gauteng Province 4IR Advisory Panel Member: African Union High Level Panel on Emerging Technologies; and Board Member: Wits Health Consortium; *and also in the Special Annual Theme category**
- **Prof Moses Makgato** – Professor: Technological and Vocational Training, Department of Education, Tshwane University of Technology; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Researcher, the Innovation: Corporate Organisation and the Special Annual Theme categories**
- **Dr Ellenore Meyer** – Senior Medical Officer: Community Orientated Primary Care Research Unit, UP; *and also in the Special Annual Theme category**
- **Prof Saurabh Sinha** – Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Internationalisation; and Professor: Microelectronics, University of Johannesburg

5. [Engineering Research Capacity Development Award](#)

Sponsored by Eskom since 2003

- **Prof Shirley Abelman** – Professor Emeritus: Department (Dept) of Applied Mathematics, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)
- **Prof Michael Claeys** – Professor: Chemical Engineering, Catalysis Institute, University of Cape Town (UCT); and Director: Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)/National Research Foundation (NRF) Centre of Excellence in Catalysis (c*change), UCT; *and see also in the Innovation: Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise category**
- **Prof Meera K Joseph** – Independent Contractor: Independent Institute of Education
- **Prof Pieter Levecque** – Associate Professor: Dept of Chemical Engineering, UCT; and Leader: Electrocatalysis Research
- **Prof Salome Maswime** – Head: Global Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, UCT; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Researcher category**
- **Prof Ncholu I Manyala** – Professor: Physics; and Chair: DSI/NRF South African Research Chairs Initiative in Carbon Technology and Materials, University of Pretoria
- **Prof Bruce Mellado** – Research Professor and Senior Scientist: iThemba LABS, Wits; and Co-ordinator: Technology Innovation Platform in Artificial Intelligence, iThemba LABS, Wits; and Director: Institute for Collider Particle

Physics; and Co-President: Africa-Canada Artificial Intelligence Data Modelling Consortium, York University and Wits; and Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, United States of America; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Researcher category**

- **Dr Alseno Kagiso Mosai** – Post-Doctoral Fellow: Dept of Chemistry, Wits; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Emerging Researcher, and the NSTF-Water Research Commission and the Special Annual Theme categories**
- **Prof Nnamdi Nwulu** – Director: Centre for Cyber Physical Food, Energy and Water Systems; and Associate Professor: Dept of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Science, University of Johannesburg; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Emerging Researcher category**

6. [NSTF-Water Research Commission \(WRC\) Award](#)

Sponsored by the WRC since 2017

- **Prof Tamiru Abiye** – Professor of Hydrogeology: School of Geosciences, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)
- **Prof M J (Thinus) Booysen** – Associate Professor: Faculty of Engineering, Stellenbosch University (SU)
- **Dr Alseno Kagiso Mosai** – Post-Doctoral Fellow: Department of Chemistry, Wits; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Emerging Researcher, the Engineering Research Capacity Development and the Special Annual Theme categories**
- **Prof Paul Oberholster** – Director: Centre for Environmental Management, University of the Free State
- **Prof Craig M Sheridan** – Director: Centre in Water Research and Development, School of Geography, Archaeology and Environmental Studies, Wits
- **Zutari (Pty) Ltd** – Contractor to the University of Cape Town, Team Leader: Mr Matthew Phillips

7. [Data for Research Award](#)

- **Ask Afrika (Pty) Ltd** – A research team of 81 individuals including statisticians, analysts and interviewers, Team Leader: Ms Andrea Rademeyer; *and also in the Communication and the Special Annual Theme categories**
- **Prof Alan Christoffels** – Chair: Department of Science and Innovation/National Research Foundation South African Research Chairs Initiative, Bio-informatics and Human Health; and Director: South African National Bio-informatics Institute; and Director: South African Medical Research Council Bio-informatics Capacity Development Unit, University of the Western Cape
- **The National Income Dynamics Study – Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey Team**, Team Leader: Prof Vimal Ranchhod, University of Cape Town
- **School of Geosciences, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)** – Team Leader: Prof Raymond Durrheim; *and also in the Lifetime category**
- **Stellenbosch University X-Ray Computed Tomography (CT) facility** – represented by Analyst: Ms Muofhe Tshibalangana, Stellenbosch University (SU); *and see also the TW Kambule-NSTF Researcher category for Prof Anton du Plessis**
- **Stellenbosch University Library and Information Service** – Co-developer: Mr Samuel Simango
- **Dr Caitlin Uren** – Post-Doctoral Fellow, Division of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, SU; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Emerging Researcher category**
- **Wits Biomedical Informatics and Translational Sciences (WitsBITS)** – Division of Wits Health Consortium, Faculty of Health Sciences, Wits; Team Leader: Ms Irma Adele Maré, REDCap Manager and Honorary Lecturer:

Surgery, Wits

8. [Innovation Award: Corporate Organisation](#)

- **The Biomimicry Diagnostic Verification Controls Team** – Prof Bavesh Kana: Chief Executive Officer, Department of Science and Innovation/National Research Foundation Centre of Excellence for Biomedical TB Research, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)
- **The Green Biotechnologies Research Centre** – School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Limpopo; Team Leader: Dr Ashwell Rungano Ndhlala; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Researcher and the Special Annual Theme categories**
- **Innovus Technology Transfer Office Team** – Stellenbosch University (SU), Team Leader: Dr M M Madelein Kleyn, Head: Technology Transfer, Innovus, SU
- **Prof Moses Makgato** – Professor: Technological and Vocational Training, Department (Dept) of Education, Tshwane University of Technology; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Researcher, the Management and the Special Annual Theme categories**
- **Dr Tiisetso E Lepphoto** – Lecturer and Researcher: School of Molecular Biology, Wits; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Emerging Researcher and the Special Annual Theme categories**
- **Prof Marcia Mkansi** – Associate Professor: Dept of Higher Education, University of South Africa; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Researcher and the Special Annual Theme categories**
- **Dr Boitumelo Innocent Ramatsetse** – Lecturer and Researcher: Engineering Graphics and Design, Educational Information and Engineering Technology, Wits; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Emerging Researcher category**

9. [Innovation Award: Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise \(SMME\)](#)

Sponsored by the National Intellectual Property Management Office (NIPMO) since 2019

- **Cape Catalytix (Pty) Ltd** – Director: Prof Michael Claeys; *and see also the Engineering Research Capacity Development category**
- **Cushy Coat and Co. (Pty) Ltd** – Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Ms Thandokazi de la Harpe; *and also in the Special Annual Theme category**
- **Prof P J N (Nico) de Bruyn** – Associate Professor: Mammal Research Institute, Department (Dept) of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria; and **PhotovolumetriX (PVX)** an embryonic SMME
- **Diagnostic Aptamer Technologies-Aminotek (DATA) (Pty) Ltd** and **Amasu Technologies (Pty) Ltd** – Team Leaders: Drs Ashley Pretorius and Jared Mackenzie
- **Heartwood Sustainable Industries (Pty) Ltd partnered with Materials Scientist** – Dr G Siva Mohan Reddy; *and also in the Special Annual Theme category**
- **Kontextit** – Managing Director: Mr Pieter Marais
- **Organic Works** – Director: Mr Panji Jiyane
- **Reverse Osmosis/Cooling (ROC) Water Technologies** – Director and Project Co-ordinator: Prof Jannie P Maree, Dept of Water and Sanitation, University of Limpopo
- **The Stellenbosch Nanofiber Company (Pty) Ltd** – CEO: Dr Anton Smit; *and also in the Special Annual Theme category**

10. [Communication Award](#)

- **Ask Afrika (Pty) Ltd** – A research team of 81 individuals including statisticians, analysts and interviewers; *and also in the Data for Research and the Special Annual Theme categories**
- **The Cosmic Savannah** – Dr Daniel Cunnama and Dr Jacinta Delhaize, Science Engagement Astronomers, Co-hosts of the Cosmic Savannah Science Engagement Programme, South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO)
- **Dr Daniel Cunnama** – Science Engagement Astronomer: SAAO; *and also in the Special Annual Theme category**
- **Ms Primarashni Gower** – Public Relations and Events Manager: Department (Dept) of Institutional Advancement, Marketing Services, University of Pretoria (UP); *and also in the Special Annual Theme category**
- **Ms Shakira Hoosain** – Campaign Strategist and Senior Copywriter: Dept of Institutional Advancement, UP
- **Prof Tessa Marcus** – Emeritus Professor: Community Oriented Primary Care Research Unit, UP
- **Young Engineers and Scientists of Africa (YESA)** – Owner: Dr Ron Beyers; *and also in the Non-Governmental Organisation category**
- **Prof Carolina Odman** – Associate Professor and Associate Director: Development and Outreach, Inter-University Institute of Data Intensive Astronomy, University of the Western Cape
- **Mr Ndivhuwo D Sundani** – Research Assistant: Research News and Publications Co-ordinator, University of Limpopo

11. [Non-Governmental Organisation \(NGO\) Award](#)

- **Mobile Application Laboratory (mLab)** – Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Dr Nicoli Koorbanally
- **Outlook Foundation** – Non-Profit Organisation, Team Leader and CEO: Mr Segomotoso E Kelefetswe
- **Sci-Enza Science Centre, University of Pretoria** – Team Leader and Manager: Ms Puleng Tsie
- **Young Engineers and Scientists of Africa (YESA)** – Owner: Dr Ron Beyers; *and also in the Communication category**

12. [Special Annual Theme Award](#)

- **Ask Afrika (Pty) Ltd** – A research team of 81 individuals including statisticians, analysts and interviewers; *and also in the Data for Research and the Communication categories**
- **Dr Tegan Bristow** – Senior Lecturer and Director: Fak’ugesi African Digital Innovation Festival, School of Fine Arts, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits); *and also in the Management category**
- **Dr Rachel Chikwamba** – Group Executive: Chemicals, Agriculture, Food and Health Chair, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); and Gauteng Province 4IR Advisory Panel Member: African Union High Level Panel on Emerging Technologies; and Board Member: Wits Health Consortium; *and also in the Management category**
- **Dr Daniel Cunnama** – Science Engagement Astronomer: South African Astronomical Observatory; *and also in the Communication category**
- **Cushy Coat and Co. (Pty) Ltd** – Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Ms Thandokazi de la Harpe; *and also in the Innovation: Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMME) category**
- **Ms Primarashni Gower** – Public Relations and Events Manager, Department (Dept) of Institutional Advancement, Marketing Services, University of Pretoria (UP); *and also in the Communication category**
- **The Green Biotechnologies Research Centre** – School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Limpopo; Team Leader: Dr Ashwell

Rungano Ndhala; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Researcher and the Innovation: Corporate Organisation categories**

- **Heartwood Sustainable Industries (Pty) Ltd partnered with Materials Scientist** – Dr G Siva Mohan Reddy; *and also in the Innovation: SMME category**
- **Dr Tiisetso E Lepphoto** – Lecturer and Researcher: School of Molecular Biology, Wits; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Emerging Researcher and the Innovation: Corporate Organisation categories**
- **Prof Moses Makgato** – Professor: Technological and Vocational Training, Dept of Education, Tshwane University of Technology; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Researcher, the Management and the Innovation: Corporate Organisation categories**
- **Dr Ellenore Meyer** – Senior Medical Officer: Community Orientated Primary Care Research Unit, UP; *and also in the Management category**
- **Prof Marcia Mkansi** – Associate Professor: Dept of Higher Education, University of South Africa (based on the TW Kambule-NSTF Researcher nomination); *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Researcher and the Innovation: Corporate Organisation categories**
- **Dr Alseno Kagiso Mosai** – Post-Doctoral Fellow: Dept of Chemistry, Wits (based on the NSTF-Water Research Commission (WRC) and the Engineering Research Capacity Development nomination); *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Emerging Researcher, the NSTF-WRC and the Special Annual Theme categories**
- **The Stellenbosch Nanofiber Company (Pty) Ltd (SNC)** – CEO: Dr Anton Smit; *and also in the Innovation: SMME category**
- **Dr Ashwell R Ndhala** – Senior Researcher: Green Biotechnologies Research Centre, School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Limpopo; *and also in the TW Kambule-NSTF Researcher and the Innovation: Corporate Organisation categories**

Adjudication: The accreditation and selection process for the NSTF-South32 Awards are made by an adjudication panel of independent judges. They represent seven different sectors of the [NSTF membership](#). This adjudication panel, in association with the Award partners, review the nominations to select the [finalists](#) and [winners](#) each year. A panel of experts, appointed by the [NSTF Executive Committee](#), assists the panel by reviewing and validating the final selections.



Youth programmes: One of the features that make these awards unique is that youth outreach is an integral part of the awards. Two NSTF [Youth](#) outreach programmes are run annually in conjunction with the NSTF Awards.

- The NSTF [Brilliants Programme](#) identifies and celebrates the top achievers in physical science and mathematics from the previous year's matric examinations, who are studying in STEM related courses (the sciences, engineering, medicine, etc). It exposes these young people to the SET community. Eighteen first year students (a young man and a woman from each province) are recognised as possible future leaders and innovators. The

programme is sponsored for the last year by the [Carl & Emily Fuchs Foundation](#). [The Lewis Foundation](#) this year sponsors the [Brilliants Tour](#) to a Wilderness School to discover the true value of the biodiversity of the natural world and our place within it, and to motivate and nurture Africa's future conservation champions.

- The NSTF [Share 'n Dare Programme](#) is an output of the NSTF-South32 Awards that profiles [award winners](#) as youth role models. Award winners share their experience and knowledge with thousands of young people at science centres and universities across the country. During the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, NSTF continued youth outreach by means of [videos](#) that were produced and circulated to schools to reach thousands of learners during Life Orientation classes. They encourage the youth to take up [careers in SET](#). Thousands of South Africans are also reached through [community and campus radio station](#) awareness talks.

Announcing Awards finalists and winners

The announcement of the NSTF-South32 Awards [finalists](#) will be circulated through the NSTF eNews during **May 2021**. The announcement of the [winners](#) will take place at the [Awards Gala Event](#) on 29 July 2021. Save the date and watch your mailbox for the latest news.

Attending the 'Science Oscars'

The patron of the Awards, the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande has been invited to preside over the presentation of awards. A hybrid event is planned for this year's NSTF-South32 Awards [Gala Event](#) taking place on 29 July 2021. All finalists together with the sponsors will be invited to attend. The rest of the community will watch the live-streamed event via the NSTF [YouTube platform](#). Watch your mailbox for news.

Media partners and advertising campaign

There are two media partners of the NSTF-South32 Awards to ensure national public recognition to the winners, as well as to facilitate the communication of science to the broader public. They are:

- [Business Report](#), carried by The Star, Pretoria News, Cape Times, and The Mercury newspapers
- [Mail & Guardian](#) newspaper

Both these newspapers carry [supplements](#) about the winners the day after the announcement of the winners. Unique advertising opportunities are available for your brand. Contact [Ms Wilna Eksteen](#) to put you in contact with the media partners.

Please forward this email to your colleagues, business contacts and all interested persons to promote the [who's who of SET and innovation in South Africa!](#)

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 and groups 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*).

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.

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.

For more information

www.nstf.org.za

E-mail: awards@nstf.org.za

Tel: [+27 12 841 3987](tel:+27128413987)

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NPO Registration Number: 92042