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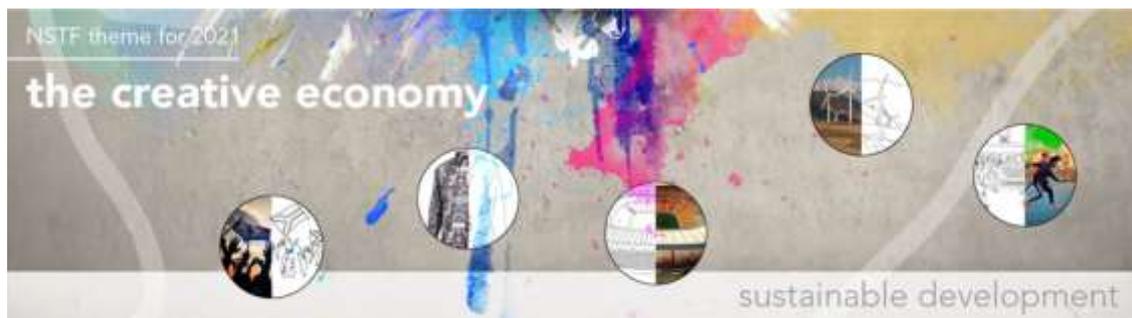
# NSTF e-Newsletter

*S.E.T. for socio-economic growth*

## Still hesitant to take the vaccine?

*Message from the NSTF Executive Director, Ms Jansie Niehaus*

Vaccine hesitancy might come from not having enough knowledge, mistrusting scientific knowledge sources, and fear of the vaccines. Jansie Niehaus gleaned some answers to the ongoing questions about COVID-19 and the vaccines and hopes that her summary from reliable sources may clarify matters. [Read](#) the ED's message.



## NSTF News

### Two venues and a live broadcast to celebrate the NSTF-South32 Awardees

The [gala event](#) of the 2020/2021 [NSTF-South32 Awards](#) will be a hybrid event, broadcast live to the public via the NSTF [YouTube](#) channel. Attendance at the venues in Johannesburg and Cape Town is restricted to only the [finalists](#), sponsors and the VIP guests. These arrangements were made necessary by the pandemic and the current COVID-19 restrictions in South Africa.

The event will take place on **Thursday, 30 September 2021**. A notification with the link to the broadcast will be provided about two weeks prior to the event. Watch your mailbox for news.

The **media partners** for the NSTF-South32 Awards are the [Mail&Guardian](#) and [Business Report](#). Both newspapers will feature [supplements](#) profiling the winners. The NSTF calls on the community to support both [publications](#) through advertisements. This provides an opportunity to profile your organisation as a key role player, as well as position your brand by association with individuals and organisations in South Africa's national system of innovation. *Please note that the NSTF does not gain financially from these supplements.* Email enquiries to [Jane Mokgwatshane](#) at the NSTF office.

The NSTF's theme for 2021, including the NSTF-South32 Awards, is the **Creative Economy for Sustainable Development**, aligned with the United Nations' [International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development](#).



## Twenty years of recognising excellence in physical science and mathematics at school level

In South Africa, August is Women's Month and each year 9 August is celebrated as Women's Day. Women's Month provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the generations of women whose struggles laid the foundations for the progress made in empowering women and achieving gender equality.

The NSTF would like to pay tribute to all the women who have been part of our activities, such as the [NSTF-South32 Awards](#) and our outreach activities to [youth](#). Their participation in, for example, the NSTF [Share 'n Dare programme](#) where they act as [role models and ambassadors](#) for science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation has inspired many a young woman to pursue studies and careers in SET.

The NSTF's [Brilliants Programme](#), which is currently celebrating 20 years of existence, started off as the Education Recognition Programme (ERP) in 2001 and was initially aimed at young female learners only. The addition of the ERP to the NSTF Awards was made possible through a sponsorship of the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology (now known as the [Department of Science and Innovation](#) – DSI). The DSI still supports the Brilliants Programme by making their participation possible, as well as providing bursaries to selected students.

The ERP recognised the top female learners from disadvantaged communities in all nine provinces with the highest marks in science and maths in their final year examinations at school. The decision to initiate this programme was the dearth of female learners who enrol for science and maths subjects, as well as the fact that women are heavily underrepresented in the SET and innovation fields.

The activities of the ERP with a focus on girl learners continued until 2008, after which the programme was expanded in 2009 to include the top male learners under the restructured NSTF [Brilliants](#) programme.

***The NSTF supports SET education with the aim to create the researchers, leaders and innovators for tomorrow's system of innovation.***

## Discussion Forum coming on loadshedding

The [Discussion Forum](#) under the auspices of [proSET](#) will tackle issues about **loadshedding**. It is scheduled for September. Invitations that will be sent out by middle

## Welcome to a new member

The NSTF welcomes a new member:

- [African Health Research Institute](#) (AHRI) - [Civil Society sector](#)

August will have further details.

As South Africa's primary electricity supplier, Eskom's mandate is to ensure security of supply to service the South African economy and society. What is stopping Eskom from carrying out its mandate is a question asked by many South Africans. The effects of load shedding are crippling to the quality of life in South Africa, from the economy, to education, to the health care system.

The NSTF and proSET will host expert speakers to discuss this complex situation and how the implemented strategies have (or have not) addressed the electricity crisis in South Africa. This Discussion Forum will attempt to bring essential answers to the public, as well as shed light on the possible solutions and steps being taken to solve this problem. Enquiries about participation can be addressed to [Mr Matome Mphela](#) in the NSTF office.

### Save the date for this Discussion Forum

The [Discussion Forum](#) on the international theme **Creative Economy for Sustainable Development** will take place late in October. The NSTF aims to highlight initiatives that bridge the gap between creativity and science/technology, and to discuss significant societal issues relating to these.

Please direct any queries to [Mr Matome Mphela](#) in the NSTF office.

### Bursaries available

Find the latest news on bursaries in science, engineering and technology (SET) in the NSTF [Bursary Directory](#). Currently available are:

- [SANSA bursary](#) (Deadline: 30 September)
- [Sappi bursary opportunities](#) (Deadline: 30 September 2021)
- [FMCSA FORD Bursary](#) (Open)

The NSTF members and stakeholders to please send us information on bursaries they provide so that these can be added to our [Bursary Directory](#). The Directory provides information on [SET careers](#) and [inspiring people](#) who work in these areas.

Join over [120 member organisations](#) of the NSTF non-profit company in promoting science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation in South Africa. Visit the [Membership section](#) on the website for more information about the NSTF. Request a membership invitation and application form from [Mr Matome Mphela](#).

### Celebrating National Science Week

The National Science Week (NSW) is an annual celebration of science, technology, engineering, arts, and innovation. It attracts thousands of young people in and out of school, and members of the public to workshops, science shows, exhibitions, panel discussions and lectures. These are hosted by universities, schools, science centres and public facilities countrywide led by the Department of Science and Innovation. See the [full programme](#) arranged by the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement.

The aim of the NSW is linked to science engagement, primarily to contribute to the improvement of science literacy and to provide a platform for stakeholders to share experiences based on their expertise across the board.

NSTF member, the [Academy of Science of South Africa](#) (ASSAf) has arranged a number of free virtual events during NSW. They invite you to join them for these events and to share the information with your networks:

- Promoting Gender Equality to Prevent Violence Against Women, 12 August, 11:00-12:00). Register [here](#).
- A [video](#) is available of the In Conversation interview with Prof Refilwe Nancy Phaswana-Mafuya, epidemiologist and Professor of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Johannesburg. The interview took place on 3 August 2021 and is titled "Learning

**SET for life!**

## **STEMulator.org**

[STEMulator.org](https://www.stemulator.org) lets you explore the STEM behind how things work. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics = STEM.)

Share the link with any school learners and educators you know!



Curves from my Non-linear Career Journey”.

## **Tribute to Lewis Foundation Chair**

The NSTF extends its condolences to the family and colleagues of Brain Goodall, Chair of The Lewis Foundation, who recently passed away. The Lewis Foundation is sponsoring the NSTF [Brilliants programme](#) field trip next year, and has sponsored the [NSTF-Lewis Green Economy Award](#). [Read more.](#)

## **Tribute to two Umvoto Africa directors**

Rowena Hay and her husband, Chris Hartnady, managing director and non-executive director of [Umvoto Africa](#) respectively, both sadly and unexpectedly passed away in July. Umvoto was the winner of the category “Research leading to innovation through an SMME” of the 2016 [NSTF-South32 Awards](#). The NSTF sends our deepest condolences to their families, friends and colleagues. [Read more.](#)

## **NSTF joins hands with TUT to create more publicity for Award Finalists and Winners**

The NSTF has joined hands with the Journalism Department of the [Tshwane University of Technology](#) (TUT) to profile the outstanding contributions of the 2020/2021 NSTF-South32 Award [Finalists](#) and Winners. The aim is to engage the formal media in disseminating science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation knowledge impacting society; newsworthy information; and the outstanding contributions of SET professionals and organisations, including new innovations. Simultaneously, the collaboration with TUT will provide an opportunity for the journalism students to develop their science writing skills and to ultimately respond to and “translate” SET to their readers.

The partnership kicked off at the end of July with interviews with the finalists in the category for the [Special Annual Theme Award: Creative Economy for Sustainable Development](#) of the [NSTF-South32 Awards](#).

Finalists in the category are asked to join a “closed online media conference” during which a group of no more than five junior journalists from the TUT (with a diploma in journalism and enrolled for the Advanced Diploma in Journalism) ask the finalists questions about their work and research.

Read the articles on the finalists here:

- [Creative Economy for Sustainable Development: A multi-dimensional achievable Art – Dr Tegan Bristow](#), Senior lecturer: University of the Witwatersrand; and Director: Fak’ugesi African Digital Innovation Festival (By: Tshegofatso Ramushi)

- [Astronomy making an impact in the community](#) – Dr Daniel Cunnama, Science Engagement Astronomer: South African Astronomical Observatory (By: Sandile Blessing Mthembu)
- [The good doctor as a philanthropist](#) – Dr Ellenore Meyer, Senior Medical Officer: Community Orientated Primary Care Research Unit, University of Pretoria (By: Ditiro Masuku)
- [Significant woman in research bags three NSTF nominations](#) – Prof **Marcia Mkansi**, Associate Professor: Department of Higher Education, University of South Africa (By: Palesa Chidi and Mahudi Molapo)
- [Ethnobotanist creates sustainable farming opportunities](#) – Dr Ashwell R **Ndhlala**, Senior Researcher: Green Biotechnologies Research Centre, School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Limpopo (By: Anwen Mojela and Rose Tshikororo)



proSET (Professionals in science, engineering and technology) is a sector of the NSTF representing about 40 professional and learned societies. This section shares news about [members](#) and introduces new members of the [proSET sector](#).

- **SACNASP announces whistleblowing process**

The [South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions](#) (SACNASP) is a regulatory body that reports to the Department of Science and Innovation. Its mandate is to regulate the practising natural science professions in South Africa and to implement the provisions of the NSP Act. SACNASP recently announced its whistleblowing process. [Read more](#).

- **GSSA July newsletter available**

The July 2021 issue of *Grassroots*, the newsletter of the [Grassland Society of Southern Africa](#) (GSSA) is now available. Read more about what we can learn from the Table Mountain fire; the guardians of the Karoo Rangeland; and more. Subscription is free and you are welcome to share the [link](#).

- **AMESA Congress 21 proceedings available**

The [Association for Mathematics Education of South Africa](#) (AMESA) announced that the [proceedings](#) of its 26<sup>th</sup> annual national Congress are now available.

- **CESA CEO interviewed on the deployment of Cuban engineers**

Some engineering bodies have condemned government's move to bring in 24 Cuban engineers to assist with water infrastructure issues. [Consulting Engineers South Africa](#) (CESA) says that local engineering skills in the private sector are under-utilised together with a large pool of unemployed graduates. CESA CEO Chris Campbell was interviewed by ewzRoom Afrika where he discussed the deployment of Cuban engineers. [Click here](#) to listen to the interview.

- **New President appointed for the Entomological Society of Southern Africa**

Rhodes University's academic and Associate Professor Julie Coetzee has been elected President of the [Entomological Society of Southern Africa](#) (ESSA). The Centre for

Biological Control Deputy Director was recently appointed at the ESSA annual general meeting of the society. [Read more](#).

- **GISSA announces proposed changes on national map series**

One of the Chief Directorate: National Geospatial Information (CD: NGI)'s main objectives is to produce maps and other geospatial information nationally. To improve these and to keep up with trends and universality, CD: NGI has embarked on the Map Design project aimed at enhancing and improving the mapping products, where symbologies have been re-designed or new symbols designed using good map principles and user communication value. [Read more](#) on the [Geo-information Society of South Africa](#) (GISSA)'s website.

- **Pandemic impact on ICT skills in the spotlight in 2021 ICT Skills Survey**

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on ICT skills is expected to be revealed by the 2021 ICT Skills Survey carried out by Wits University's Joburg Centre for Software Engineering (JCSE) in partnership with the [Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa](#) (IITPSA), which has now gone live for the first time since 2019. [Read more](#).



## SET-related policies currently open for public comment

*Keep informed and have your say*

- [National Health Act: Extension of comments period for the Regulations relating to the Certificate of need for Health Establishments and Health Agencies](#) (Comment by 15 August 2021)
- [Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act: Regulations: Draft agricultural remedy](#) (Comment by 21 August 2021)
- [Medicines and Related Substances Act: Regulations: Medical Devices](#) (Comment by 25 August 2021)
- [National Nuclear Regulator Act: Nuclear Installation Site Licence \(NISL\) application received from Eskom Holdings SOC Limited for the Thyspunt site: Public hearings](#) (25 & 26 August 2021)
- [Disaster Management Amendment Bill](#) (Comment by 26 August 2021)
- [South African Broadcasting Corporation \(SABC\) Bill](#) (Comment by 31 August 2021)
- [National Nuclear Regulator Amendment Bill](#) (Comment by 20 September 2021)
- [Health Professions Act: Regulations: Names that may not be used in relation to the Profession of Physiotherapy](#) (Comment by 1 October 2021)

## 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.*

## Energy

- [Renewable energy only accounts for 7% of South Africa's total energy supply, study finds](#) (infrastructurenews.co.za)
- [Eskom lays out plan to kick its coal habit](#) (techcentral.co.za)
- [Medupi is finally complete – was it worth the wait?](#) (energize.co.za)

## Agriculture

- [Strategic Advisory on livestock and crop loss - food security and rural economy issues linked to unrest](#) (assaf.org.za)
- [Global agri-food systems need to transform to reach SDGs by 2030](#) (reliefweb.int)
- [Rebuilding the South African Industrial Base – Progress with Sugar and Poultry Masterplans](#) (thedtic.gov.za)
- [The right farming can address Africa's hunger problem](#) (citizen.co.za)
- [Supporting Improved Water Use Efficiency in the South African Agri-processing Sector](#) (linkedin.com)

## Education

- [COVID-19 Pandemic and Racial Trauma Have Caused Unprecedented Disruption Among Youth; School-Based Supports Can Help Address Mental Health Concerns](#) (nationalacademies.org)
- [What South Africa needs to do to improve education for disabled children](#) (theconversation.com)
- [Learners across SA's green energy map ready to welcome EnergyDrive](#) (energize.co.za)
- [Science Education Should Be National Priority; New Report Calls on Federal Government to Encourage Focusing Resources on High-Quality Science for All Students](#) (nationalacademies.org)

## Technology and the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution

- [5G will become the fastest adopted mobile generation but not in Africa](#) (engineerit.co.za)
- [Ramaphosa's smart city dream becomes 'reality in the making'](#) (issuu.com)
- [New tool will measure tech, innovation adoption at municipal level](#) (itweb.co.za)
- [SARS pins hopes on key tech as modernisation plans advance](#) (itweb.co.za)

## Infrastructure

- [IZA calls for a new zinc refinery to be built in South Africa](#) (infrastructurenews.co.za)
- [SA construction industry engaging government on a master plan](#) (infrastructurenews.co.za)

## Medicine and Health

- [Leave no one behind: We must urgently address vaccination of undocumented migrants and asylum seeker](#) (wits.ac.za)
- [Procurement, policy and partnerships: Pandemic lessons for the NHI](#) (bhekisisa.org)
- [Is the routine health information system ready to support the planned national health insurance scheme in South Africa?](#) (samrc.ac.za)
- [SA named among star players for COVID-19 innovation](#) (itweb.co.za)
- [COVID-19: Guidance for preventing transmission of COVID-19 within food businesses](#) (fao.org)

## Climate change and environment

- [Ramaphosa sees big green economy opportunity in 'bold' climate commitment](http://polity.org.za) (polity.org.za)
- [Use COP26 to position South Africa as destination of choice for rapid decarbonisation investment – Moosa](http://polity.org.za) (polity.org.za)
- [R15m to rid Gauteng of dirty air](http://mg.co.za) (mg.co.za)
- [Scientific panel yet to be appointed over artificial breach of Lake St Lucia](http://mg.co.za) (mg.co.za)



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

- [Infrastructure Africa](#): Virtual conference and exhibition, 17-18 August 2021. No cost.
- *We, the People – Climate Change and Civil Society Responses*: Virtual seminar, 18 August 2021, 17:30-19:00. RSVP to [naomi@saifac.org.za](mailto:naomi@saifac.org.za) for the link and meeting details. Feel free to forward this information to others who may be interested. The seminar will also be live streamed on the SAIFAC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SAIFACOnline/>
- Free Webinar: [Efficiency in pump applications](#): 26 August, 10:30-11:30
- [AI Expo Africa 2021](#) will run as a 3-day online live event 7-9 September 2021, followed by 30-day on-demand show. Click [here](#) for a free ticket and to register.
- [2nd African Nuclear Physics Conference \(ANPC\)](#): Virtual event, 20-24 September 2021
- [SAAFoST Virtual Congress 2021](#): 20-22 September 2021.
- [Sustainability Summit 2021](#): Live virtual event, 21-23 September 2021
- [SA Innovation Summit 2021](#): Cape Town and online, 21-23 September 2021
- The [Bio2021 Conference](#), Spier Wine Estate, 26-29 September 2021
- [WindAc Africa Conference 2021](#): Cape Town, 5-7 October 2021
- [WINDABA 2021](#) with the theme, "Renaissance of the Wind Energy Industry - Delivering Economic Benefits for SA": Cape Town, 7-8 October 2021
- [IFAT Africa](#), Africa's leading trade fair for water, sewage, refuse and recycling: Johannesburg, 2-4 November 2021
- Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa (IWMSA) [Biennial Seminar and Exhibition "Landfill and Waste Treatment 2021"](#), Durban, 3-5 November 2021
- [IMESA & IAWEEES Joint International Conference](#): Virtual conference, 17-19 November 2021
- [23<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Zoology](#): Cape Town, 21-25 November 2021
- [World Science Forum](#): Cape Town, 8-10 December 2021
- The 7<sup>th</sup> [World Conference of Research Integrity](#) Cape Town, has been postponed to 29 May – 1 June 2022
- [XX International Triple Helix Conference 2022](#): Italy, 27-29 June 2022 on the theme "Governing new and traditional partnerships for innovation and development in the post-pandemic world"

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.

### Science Councils and Statutory Organisations

- A webinar was hosted in March by Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), DSI and UJ on exploring the Prospects of Using 3D Printing Technology in the South African Human Settlements. The. Click [here](#) for the report.
- [CSIR launches roadmap to address challenges that hinder smart settlements in South Africa](#) (csir.co.za)
- [AUDA-NEPAD launches Centre of Excellence to upscale home-grown innovations in Africa](#) (csir.co.za)
- The Water Research Commission (WRC) has been appointed by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to develop a National Siltation Management Strategy for Large Dams in South Africa. Watch the [video](#).

### Tertiary institutions

- [US School for Climate Studies Launch](#) (sun.ac.za)
- [Natural product library at UP's Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences a unique resource in search for new medicines](#) (up.ac.za)
- [Welcome to Aurora, a new era of sensitivity](#) in bioanalysis (ufs.ac.za)
- [Wits graduates awarded start-up capital for pharmacy innovation](#) (wits.ac.za)
- [Innovative laboratory design saving lots of water](#) (mandela.ac.za)
- [Wits and HUST researchers report a new form of the Doppler effect](#) (wits.ac.za)
- [UP's Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital gets its first MRI scanner](#) (up.ac.za)
- [Tawana Kupe | Silver linings for universities from the Covid-19 pandemic](#) (news24.com)

### Space Science and Astronomy

- [UP researcher uses MeerKAT to discover large gas-rich galaxy group hiding in plain sight](#) (up.ac.za)
- [SANSA appoints first research chair](#) Find out more about [space weather](#) (sansa.org.za)
- [Champagne moment as supernova captured in detail for the first time](#) (theguardian.com)
- [SANSA to host Digital Earth Africa Programme Management Office](#) (engineerit.co.za)

### Palaeontology and Archaeology

- [Breathing life into bone](#) (nrf.ac.za)

## Indigenous knowledge

- [South Africa is rich in plants used for skincare: rural women helped us document some](#) (theconversation.com)

## Biodiversity

- [UP scientist co-authors study on biodiversity loss index](#) (up.ac.za)

## Medicine and health

- [Guidance on Identifying Credible Sources of Health Information in Social Media](#) (nam.edu)
- [The Importance of Vitamin D and its Role in Boosting the Immune System](#) (nrf.ac.za)

## Epidemics – human and animal

- [SA scientists to contribute to global Covid-19 genetics research](#) (msn.com)
- [COVID-19 Delta variant detected by SAMRC Wastewater Surveillance & Research Programme](#) (samrc.ac.za)
- [New consortium working to boost vaccine production in South Africa](#) (samrc.ac.za)
- [Fighting Vaccine Hesitancy: What Can We Learn From Social Science?](#) (nationalacademies.org)
- [CHPC computing backbone of COVID-19 Research](#) (engineerit.co.za)
- [Covid-19 vaccine research ALIVE and thriving at Wits](#) (wits.ac.za)
- [African indigenous knowledge systems and Covid-19](#) (nwu.ac.za)
- [COVID-19 in children: the South African experience and way forward](#) (theconversation.com)
- [We must aggressively promote Covid-19 vaccination education for a better vaccine uptake](#) (dailymaverick.co.za) An opinion piece by Prof Saurabh Sinha, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Internationalisation, University of Johannesburg (UJ); Prof Refilwe Phaswana-Mafuya, Professor of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, UJ; and Prof Bettine van Vuuren, Senior Director: Strategic Initiatives and Administration, UJ. Sinha and Phaswana-Mafuya have both been winners of NSTF-South32 Awards.
- [Urgent need to educate people about vaccinations to improve uptake](#) (omny.fm)

## Climate change and Environment

- [Stellenbosch University prioritises climate crisis with launch of School for Climate Studies](#) (bizcommunity.com)
- [Joburg-based digital recycling platform wins big at global competition](#) (infrastructurenews.co.za)
- [Trash for cash rewards: New SA recycling app aims for greener future](#) (MM Live)
- [United in Science 2020: A multi-organization high-level compilation of the latest climate science information](#) (public.wmo.int)
- [Blue and Green Drop programmes re-launched to help improve water quality](#) (infrastructurenews.co.za)
- [Gold mining's toxic legacy: Pollutant transport and accumulation in the Klip River catchment, Johannesburg](#) (sajs.co.za)
- [Environmentalism or greenwashing? Responses of South African value chain actors to plastic straw marine pollution](#) (sajs.co.za)
- [Ocean acidification threatens the world's marine environment, and research advances in South Africa](#) (saiab.ac.za)

- [Jacarandas in parts of South Africa are flowering earlier: why it's a warning sign](#) (theconversation.com)
- [Climate crisis: Scientists spot warning signs of Gulf Stream collapse](#) (theguardian.com)

## Women in Science

- [cidb promotes sector transformation: Unpacking barriers for women in construction](#) (infrastructurenews.co.za)
- [How do we empower more women in technology?](#) (engineerit.co.za)

## Energy

- [Power solutions for businesses affected by electricity disruptions](#) (energize.co.za)
- [South Africa's first electric bus officially goes live](#) (infrastructurenew.co.za)
- [The new 100 MW threshold: The best megawatt remains the megawatt not used](#) (energize.co.za)
- ['Lightbulb moment': the battery technology invented in a Brisbane garage that is going global](#) (theguardian.com)

## Agriculture

- [Bees, mites and viruses: assessing the risk to South African crop pollinators](#) (theconversation.com)

## Technology and the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution

- [Fourth industrial revolution requires more fitting definition](#) (itweb.co.za)
- [Big tech gets on board to improve online spaces for women](#) (itweb.co.za)
- [#StartupStory: Cape-based startup set to disrupt SA healthtech space](#) (bizcommunity.com)

## Opportunities

- The Department of Higher Education and Training and the Chinese Embassy in South Africa will be hosting an online information session about the Chinese Government Scholarships. Date: 18 August 2021, 11:00 - 12:00, Participants will need to register [here](#) for the Microsoft Teams event.
- Special collection [call for papers](#): The rise of artificial intelligence in drug discovery: Challenges and opportunities. Deadline for submission: 31 December 2021. Manuscripts should be prepared according to the [guide for authors](#) and should be submitted online.
- The Milken Institute and the Motsepe Foundation have launched the [Milken-Motsepe Innovation Prize](#) in AgriTech, a multi-year initiative to focus global innovators and entrepreneurs on developing technological solutions that accelerate progress towards implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a spotlight on the African continent. The winning team will receive a \$1 million grand prize, with \$1 million in additional prizes. Closing date: 08 December 2021.



- ['Grand Geek' to lead Wits' Innovation Strategy](http://wits.ac.za) (wits.ac.za)
- [NWU's Prof Leenta Grobler – A Rising Star](http://nwu.ac.za) (nwu.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, 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

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