**SCIENCE FORUM SOUTH AFRICA 2021**

**Hosted at the CSIR International Convention Centre and on the SFSA 2021 Digital Platform**

**Wednesday 1 December 2021**

***09:00 – 10:30 Igniting conversations about science – Round 1***

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| Room 1 | Room 2 | Room 3 | Room 4 | Room 5 | Room 6 | Room 7 | Room 8 |
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| Advancing participation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in Africa  | Strengthening vaccine R&D and manufacturing capabilities in Africa | Developing plant-based platforms in support of Africa’s health revolution  | Exploring options for Public-Private Partnerships for science, technology and innovation infrastructure | Developing skills for pandemics: Specialized research areas to be prioritized  | Harnessing nanoscience and nanotechnology for the Sustainable Development Goals | Promoting BeiDou /Global Navigation Satellite System Applications in China and South Africa | Advancing inclusive sustainable development with respect |

***11:30 – 12:45 SFSA 2021 Official Opening - Launch of the DSI Annual Report***

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| 11.30 | Welcome Remarks by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande  |
| 11:35 | Presentation on the Annual Report by the Director-General of Science and Innovation, Dr Phil Mjwara |
| 11:50 | Crossing to KRISP Lab at UKZN to talk to Dr Tulio de Olivera about the working involving detecting the Beta variant and completing the sequencing of 10 000 genomes. |
| 11:55 | Keynote speaker, Dr Martin Friede on mRNA Technology Transfer Initiative |
| 12:05 | Panel discussion* Dr Thulani Dlamini, CEO: CSIR
* Dr Lawrence Banks, Director-General of the ICGEB
* Dr Val Munsami, CEO: SANSA
* Dr Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Assistant Director General, UNESCO
* Daniel Ndima, CEO: CapeBio
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| 12:25 | Audience Q&A |
| 12:40 | Closing remarks by the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Mr Buti Manamela |

***13:30 - 15:00 Igniting conversations about science - Round 2***

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| Implementing the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science: the African Open Science Platform | Building a Digital Start-up Community: Mission of the Innovation Bridge | Ensuring science is relevant for all humanity  | Developing South Africa’s hydrogen economy: next steps | Developing skills for pandemics: Monitoring, modelling and communication | Looking at future ecosystems: investigating waste and climate change | Promoting Africa-China smart, green and sustainable transport partnerships | Strengthening health systems and innovation in Sub-Saharan Africa |

***15:30 – 17:00 Igniting conversations about science – Round 3***

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| Room 1 | Room 2 | Room 3 | Room 4 | Room 5 | Room 6 | Room 7 | Room 8 |
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| Building stronger, more equitable research partnerships between Africa, France and Europe | Fostering multi-stakeholder dialogue to build resilience through science, technology and innovation responding to COVID-19  | Leveraging biobanks as enabler for collaborative science  | Strengthening pandemic preparedness: knowledge transfer to Africa | Investing in the youth for developing a knowledge economy | Fighting COVID-19: launch of national seroprevalence survey in South Africa | Promoting cross-border incubation partnerships in agritech | Reconsidering the roots of social anxiety  |

**Thursday 2 December 2021**

***09:00 – 10:30 Igniting conversations about science – Round 4***

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| Establishing South Africa’s Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution: shaping technology governance  | Promoting agricultural sustainability through biotechnology: genome editing and plant microbiomes (1) | Increasing Support for Underserved Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises | Understanding post-pandemic politics: is science advice here to stay? | Developing Transformative Innovation Policy: Perspectives from South Africa | Engaging global publics on science: challenges, values and opportunities views from South Africa and Germany | Supporting Research collaboration to ensure safe water: From toilet to sea water | Promoting collaborative research in environmental science among Japan and African countries |

***11:00 – 12:30 Igniting conversations about science – Round 5***

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| Room 1 | Room 2 | Room 3 | Room 4 | Room 5 | Room 6 | Room 7 | Room 8 |
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| Promoting intra-African collaboration between research and technology organisations through WAITRO | Promoting agricultural sustainability through biotechnology: genome editing and plant microbiomes (2) | Promoting agricultural research and innovation partnerships for food justice: South Africa and France | Asking if the world has climate research priorities after COP-26 | Exploiting Science and technology opportunities to address service delivery challenges | Presenting African perspectives on the Fourth Industrial Revolution: LEAP 4:0 | Presenting the South Africa – Ireland Tech Challenge Fund | Advancing Early Career Development in the Post-PhD phase on the African Continent |

***13:30 – 15:00 Igniting conversations about science - Round 6***

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| Room 1 | Room 2 | Room 3 | Room 4 | Room 5 | Room 6 | Room 7 | Room 8 |
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| Delivering on Agenda 2063 through the AUDA-NEPAD Centre of Excellence in Science, Technology and Innovation | Reducing the Precarity of Academic Research Careers | Shaping Africa’s contribution to global data regulations: Impact on science collaboration  | Advancing collaborative African agenda for global health sciences: Africa - EU global health partnership | Understanding the scourge of predatory journals and conferences in academia | Putting new smart cities in the spotlight | Understanding Climate change and environmental sustainability: South African and global perspectives  | Strengthening Agrifood Systems – Harnessing research to support food systems policy |

***15:30 – 17:00 Igniting conversations about science – Round 7***

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| Room 1 | Room 2 | Room 3 | Room 4 | Room 5 | Room 6 | Room 7 | Room 8 |
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| Leveraging South Africa’s leadership for development of astronomy in Africa | Implementing the Recommendations of the SADC Engineering Needs and Numbers Study | Identifying critical skills requirement in support of science technology and innovation | Harnessing water science for policy-making and Green Transition in Africa  | Mobilizing open science to respond to the health, social and economic challenges of COVID-19 | Harnessing data analytics and Artificial Intelligence for a novel approach to counter Gender-based violence | Presenting Entrepreneurs for Social Impact Innovations | Responding to COVID-19: BRICS science, technology and innovation partnerships |

**Friday 3 December 2021**

***09:00 – 12:00 SFSA 2021 Ministerial Plenary: Integrating the Humanities and Social Sciences into the COVID-19 response***

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| Time | Moderator: Mr. Ashwell Jenneker, Deputy Director-General: Statistical Operations and Provincial Coordination, Statistics South Africa  |
| 09:00 | Scene SettingProf. Yonah Seleti, Acting Deputy Director-General: Research Development & Support, Department of Science & Innovation (DSI) |
| 09:10 | WelcomeDr Phil Mjwara, Director-General, DSIDr Blade Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation |
| 09:20 | Data-Driven Decision Making in the Pandemic and Vaccination Rollout Times: Perspectives from the National Policy Data ObservatoryDr Jabu Mtsweni, Manager: Information and Cyber Security Research Centre, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) |
| 09:35 | National Institute for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (NIHSS) COVID-19 ResearchProf. Sarah Mosoetsa, CEO of the NIHSS |
| 09:50 | South African Population Research Infrastructure Network (SAPRIN)Dr Kobus Herbst, Director of SAPRIN, and Prof. Mark Collinson, Co-Director of SAPRIN |
| 10:00 | Public Opinion Research on Vaccine Acceptance and Hesitancy: Proposals to Overcome Vaccine Rollout Challenges in South AfricaProf. Narnia Bohler-Muller, Acting Group Executive: Shared Services & Divisional Executive: Developmental, Capable and Ethical State, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) |
| 10:10 | National Income Dynamics Study - Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (NIDS-CRAM)Prof. Reza Daniels, School of Economics, University of Cape Town  |
| 10:25 | Centre of Excellence in Food Security Prof. Julian May, Director: CoE in Food Security, University of the Western Cape |
| 10:35 | Centre of Excellence in Human Development Prof. Shane Norris, Director: CoE in Human Development, University of the Witwatersrand |
| 10:45 | South African COVID-19 Vulnerability Index Dashboard & Migration and Urbanisation with a Cross-Cutting Emphasis on COVID-19 Mr. Diego Iturralde, Chief Director: Demography, Statistics South Africa |
| 11:05 | Academy of Science of South Africa's (ASSAf) response to COVID-19Prof. Himla Soodyall, Executive Officer: ASSAf |
| 11:15 | Human Behavior and COVID-19Prof. Priscilla Reddy, Center for Critical Research on Race and Identity, University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) |
| 11:25 | Open Discussion: Q&AFacilitated by Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula, University of Johannesburg, and Prof. Leickness Simbayi, Acting CEO: HSRC |
| 12:00 | ClosureMr. Buti Manamela, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation |

***12:15 – 13:00 SFSA 2021 Closing and Announcing the World Science Forum 2022 in Cape Town***

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| Moving from SFSA 2021 to World Science Forum 2022: Science for Social Justice – Messages from the WSF 2020 Partners |