

The South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS)
cordially invite you to a

Science Roundtable Discussion

Quo Vadis Science?
[Where are you going science?]

Date: 30 June 2021

Time: 17:00 – 18:30

Format: Webinar

RSVP: [Click here](#) to register by **16:30** on **Wednesday, 30 June 2021**

The webinar seeks to share reflections around some key issues affecting science, scientists and communities in general. Panellists offer critique to these issues and saliently on: a) access to scientific information and science communication; b) ethics in science research and also, c) science and science management (including the critical aspect of policy emphasis). These issues of discussion hopefully not only ignite debate but also challenge attendees to reflect on a path of – **what could be done?** - Pre-reading material is available to registered attendees of the roundtable.

Facilitator:



Prof Willie Chinyamurindi, University of Fort Hare

He is an NRF Rated Researcher (Y2) working at the University of Fort Hare as a Professor and Head of Department of the Department of Business Management. He considers himself as a pan-Africanist and a scholar with the intent of promoting African scholarship and more Africa-Africa collaborations. As a research theme, his interest is along aspects related understanding dynamic capabilities with a focus of their impact on development themes amongst individuals but also business (and society). This focus has seen Prof Chinyamurindi publish in local and international journals. This also includes his work being featured in local and African media outlets. Prof Chinyamurindi has professional memberships with the a) South African Board for People Practices; b) Health Professions Council of South Africa; c) Psychological Society of South Africa; d) South African Career Development Association and the e) Southern African Institute for Management. He is a recipient of funding from a number of funders. Notably, the National Research Foundation, the South African Medical Research Council, the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Panellists:



Prof Sudesh Sivasu, University of Cape Town

Dr. Sudesh Sivasu is an associate professor of biomedical engineering from the Department of Human Biology, University of Cape Town, South Africa.. He also holds an adjunct appointment at the North-western University, Chicago, USA, as an international lecturer in Global Health and Technology. He is a qualified electronics and instrumentation engineer, with a master's and PhD in Biomedical Engineering from VIT University, India. Dr. Sivasu's research focuses on developing appropriate health technologies with a special focus on their suitability and translation towards low resourced settings. Dr.Sivasu conceptualised the multi-award-winning FrugalBiodesign™, a unique medical device innovation methodology. Dr. Sivasu is a serial inventor and the recipient of UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor's award for achievement in Innovation, DST's Innovation Bridge Award and NSTF-South 32, TW Khambule award for Emerging Researcher in addition to other 16 MedTech awards across 4 continents. His innovations have led to 3 start-up companies from UCT namely reScribe Therapy, Impulse Biomedical and VAS MedTech.

Prof Tricia Naicker, University of KwaZulu Natal

Tricia Naicker received her M.Sc. (cum laude) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2008 for her work in synthetic chemistry. In 2011, she completed her Ph.D. at the same institution, working on the development and application of novel tetrahydroisoquinoline-based organocatalysts. This resulted in a very successful, fully published thesis which was the first report from South Africa in this blossoming field. Afterwards, she joined the research group of the world-renowned leader in organocatalysis, Professor KA Jørgensen, as a postdoctoral fellow at Aarhus University in Denmark. In August 2013, she started her academic career and independent research endeavours. Prof Tricia Naicker is now an associate professor and the current Director of the Catalysis and Peptide Research Unit at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She specialises in method development within the synthesis of biologically important intermediates/drugs within the field of antibacterials. Naicker was the first female to serve as editor-in-chief for the South African Journal of Chemistry and serves as an executive member for the Organisation for

Women in Science for the Developing World, South African National Chapter. She has also been inaugurated into the South African Young Academy of Science and the receipt of several prestigious national and institutional awards.

Allan Savory, Savory Institute – USA and Africa Centre for Holistic Management – Zimbabwe

Allan Savory, born in Zimbabwe and educated in South Africa (University of Natal, BS in Zoology and Botany) pursued an early career as a research biologist and game ranger in the British Colonial Service of what was then Northern Rhodesia (today Zambia) and later as a farmer and game rancher in Zimbabwe. In the 1960s he made a significant breakthrough in understanding what was causing the degradation and desertification of the world's grassland ecosystems and, as a resource management consultant, worked with numerous managers on four continents to develop regenerative solutions. He served as a Member of Parliament in the latter days of Zimbabwe's civil war and became the leader of the opposition to the ruling party headed by Ian Smith. Exiled in 1979 as a result of his opposition, he immigrated to the United States, where he continued to work with land managers through his consulting business. The growth of that business, a desire to assist many more people and the need for furthering his work

led him to continue its development in the nonprofit world. In 1992 Savory and his wife, Jody Butterfield, formed a non-profit organization in Zimbabwe, the Africa Centre for Holistic Management, donating a ranch that would serve as a learning site for people all over Africa. In 2009 Savory, Butterfield, and a group of colleagues co-founded the Savory Institute in Boulder, Colorado to serve the world through an international network of entrepreneurial innovators and leaders committed to serving their regions with the highest standards of Holistic Management training and implementation support. The Africa Centre became the first of the Savory Institute's locally led and managed "hubs." Savory's book, *Holistic Management: A Commonsense Revolution to Restore Our Environment*, Third Edition (Island Press, 2016), describes his effort to find workable solutions ordinary people could implement to overcome many of the problems besetting communities and businesses today. In 2003, Allan Savory received Australia's International Banksia Award "for the person or organization doing the most for the environment on a global scale," and in 2010 Savory (and the Africa Centre) received the Buckminster Fuller Institute's Challenge award for work that has "significant potential to solve humanity's most pressing problems." A TED talk Savory gave in 2013 has received over 7 million views and in 2014 was voted one of the 50 most intriguing TED talks of all time. In 2015 he received the Mary G. Enig Integrity in Science Award from The Weston A. Price Foundation.

Enquiries: Kholani Mbhiza, SAYAS Secretariat, kholani@assaf.org.za