

Young Scientists' Conference Announcement and Call for Abstracts

Jointly hosted by the:
Department of Science and Innovation
Academy of Science of South Africa
South African Young Academy of Science
University of Venda
Human Sciences Research Council

Date: 12-13 June 2023

Theme: Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development

Venue: Thohoyandou, University of Venda

CLOSING DATE EXTENDED TO 18 APRIL 2023

1. Introduction

The South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS), the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), the University of Venda, and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) will jointly host the Annual Young Scientists' Conference on 12-13 June, 2023.

The joint partners seek young/early career scientists based in South Africa to participate in this conference. The conference will provide a platform for scientific exchange among senior and young scientists in celebrating the contributions and the advancement of basic sciences.

2. Background

The conference is dedicated to celebrating the emerging researchers' significant contributions to the advancement of the scientific disciplines of mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology (Basic Sciences). The ideal participants would have contributed research and innovation outputs that demonstrate the application of basic sciences in providing scientific evidence-based solutions aimed at solving societal challenges; excellent contributions through clinical or basic research outputs, and has made contributions to developing and mentoring novice researchers in basic sciences.

This conference is aligned to the 2022 UNESCO's International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD), that encourages exchange between scientists and all categories of stakeholders, from grassroots communities or political decisionmakers and international leaders, as well as associations, students and local authorities. The IYBSSD themes are:

- Strengthening the presence and the visibility of women;
- Basic sciences as sources of international dialogue and peace;
- Science as a global public good; Innovation and economic development;
- Education and human development; and
- Meeting global challenges.

To this end, the 2023 Annual Young Scientist Conference will focus on critical thought for improved contributions to Basic Sciences.

3. Conference Themes

The conference will explore the following sub-themes:

1. Innovation in Health and biomedical sciences
2. Climate-water-energy-food nexus, clean energy and water research
3. Education and research in basic sciences
4. Artificial Intelligence, machine learning and deep learning
5. Biodiversity and Agriculture

4. Eligibility

This call is open to early career researchers who are based in South Africa. Applicants should meet the following criteria to participate:

- ☐ Be based in South Africa
- ☐ Be under the age of forty (40) years
- ☐ Be in possession of at least a Masters degree
- ☐ Have research interests in the conference sub-themes
- ☐ Commit to attend the conference onsite
- ☐ Submit an abstract that is relevant to the conference sub-themes on time

5. Conference Participation and Application

SAYAS invites submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations in one of the sub-themes indicated above. Authors should clearly articulate their focus and argumentation as well as show how their abstract contributes to the advancement of basic sciences. An inter-disciplinary approach is encouraged with an analysis of policy and recommendations for reform and programme designs where there are gaps.

All applications must be submitted here before the closing date: [AYSC 2023 Application Form](#) (you will be required to login to your Gmail account to access the form because it has an upload slot)

There is no registration fee to attend the conference.

Further information about the conference will be circulated to successful applicants.

6. Call for Abstracts

6.1. Abstract Format and Submission (attach word file to the Google form)

The abstracts should follow the following format:

- ☐ Abstract must not be more than 300 words (excluding Title, Author and Institution) on the online form mentioned above.
- ☐ Abstract must be written in English
- ☐ Where appropriate, the text may be structured using the following headings:
 - Introduction or Objectives: A brief statement about the purpose of the study and relevant background.
 - Methods: The method(s) of study or data collection employed.
 - Results: Present a summary of study with sufficient supporting evidence aligned with the conclusions.
 - Conclusions: Present a concise statement describing the significance of the research and the implications for further development, practice and/or policy.

6.2. Example of an abstract title

Assessment of risk factors associated with maternal mortality in rural Tanzania ← 14 pts, centered, lowercase and bold

¹ E Illah, ²G Mbaruku, ³K Kahn ← 11pts, centered
(presenting author to be underlined, number superscript in front of initial and surname)

¹ KEMRI/CDC Research and Public Health Collaboration, ²Ifakara Health Institute,
³MRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt)
(number superscript in front of organisation)

Body text: arial, 10, 1.5 spacing.

6.3. Oral Presentations

All oral presentations will be conducted in English.

6.4. Poster Presentations

Accepted posters will be displayed at the conference venue and full details and specifications will be provided in the abstract acceptance letter.

7. Other Presentation formats

These are encouraged for submission to encourage dialogue and different ways of exploring the key issues. These can include literature (including drama, poetry, storytelling and prose), performing arts (among them dance and music), and visual arts (including film and photography). Please detail and indicate these alternative formats to the contact person below for consideration.

8. General Conference Information

For any further information on the conference please contact:

Mr Kholani Mbhiza

Email: kholani@assaf.org.za

Application Deadline Extended: 18 April 2023