



## NSTF News: May 2016

### Message from NSTF Executive Director

Read about the NSTF's forthcoming national discussion forum on pulses and food security, as it relates to science, engineering and technology (SET), in honour of the International Year of Pulses 2016. Also share your opinion on why African scientists should be champions for democracy. [Read more.](#)



## NSTF News

### **NSTF/CSIR Discussion Forum on Light-based Technologies Innovation: Minutes and summary of discussions now available**

The first discussion forum of the year took place on 14-15 March in Gauteng. The event focused on advances in light technologies in solar renewable energy, additive manufacturing and fibre optic communications. Across the board, delegates called for a defined

photonics industry, including the revival of a photonics association to ensure that the community speaks with a single voice. Other recommendations included the coordination of industry and research to ensure that opportunities are realised. [Click here](#) to view a summary of the outcomes and the minutes of the meeting.

## **2015/2016 NSTF Awards: Latest developments**

Following the announcement of the [nominees](#) for the 2015/2016 NSTF Awards, in partnership with South32, we are now looking forward to the next big step: the announcement of the finalists. Keep a close eye on your mailbox around middle-May! The finalists and winners will be introduced and acknowledged during the prestigious awards gala dinner on 30 June 2016, in the presence of the awards patron, the Minister of Science and Technology.

## **Getting to know the work of the NSTF Award winners: Professor Dan Stein**

Meet the scientist who is committed to understanding more about how the brain works, how society impacts the brain-mind and its disorders and helping those who need it most. Head of the department of psychiatry and mental health at the University of Cape Town, and director of the Stellenbosch University/UCT Medical Research Council unit on anxiety and stress disorders, Prof Stein was the winner of the 2014/2015 NSTF Award for research and its outputs over the last five to 10 years, by an individual. [Read more](#).

## **Share 'n Dare activities – Engaging communities through science**

During April, Dr Zorina Dharsey, Director of the Western Cape Primary Science Programme (PSP), was interviewed on [Bush Radio](#), Africa's oldest community radio station project. The PSP, a nongovernmental organisation (NGO) that provides primary school teacher development, won the 2014/2015 NSTF Award for achievement by an NGO through technology transfer or training activities. Its work is underpinned by international research that

shows competent teachers are the key to greater educational progress. [Click here](#) to listen to the interview.



## SET Policy News

### Featured SET policy: Protection, Promotion, Development and Management of Indigenous Knowledge Systems Bill (B6-2016)

The Bill, also known as the IKS Bill, provides, *inter alia*, for the establishment and functions of the National Indigenous Knowledge Systems Office and the Advisory Panel on indigenous knowledge systems. Some commentators have warned, however, that the Bill, by not providing for the repeal of the Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Act, 2013 (and potentially allowing its provisions to override the IKS Bill), “will potentially damage the principled approach which the Department of Science and Technology had appeared to follow in pursuing *sui generis* protection for indigenous knowledge and traditional cultural expressions”. [Read more](#)

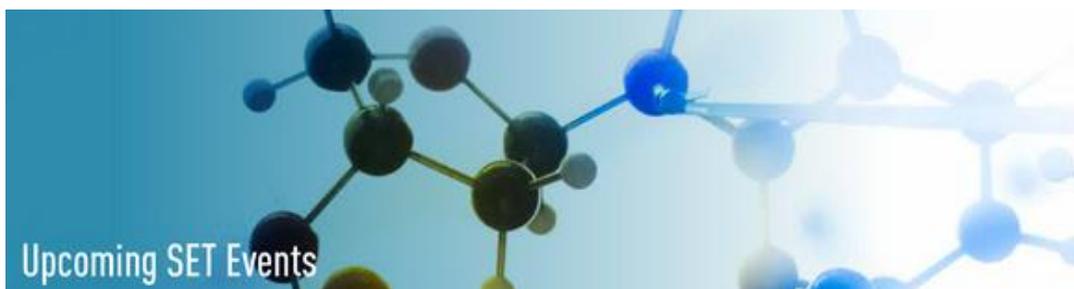
### Other SET-related policies currently open for public comment

- [Marine Spatial Planning Bill: Draft](#)  
Comments by 23 May 2016
- [Spatial Data Infrastructure Act: National standard on land cover classes and definitions](#)  
Comments by 24 May 2016
- [National Qualifications Framework Act: Articulation Policy](#)  
Comments by 30 May 2016

- [Plant Breeders' Rights Act: Receipt of applications for plant breeders' rights](#)  
Comments by 26 Aug 2016

## Other SET-related policy news

- [Science and Technology Budget Vote: Speech by Minister Naledi Pandor](#)(allafrica.com)
- [EU, SA move ahead with innovation programmes](#) (Engineering News)
- [DST commits to research hubs despite budget squeeze](#) (Engineering News)
- [New task team to look at producing more black academics](#) (allafrica.com)
- [It will take education, not just legislation, to tackle cybercrime](#) (theconversation.com)
- [Modernisation at heart of new state-backed local mining-equipment body](#)(Engineering News)
- [Manufacturers of nuclear components will need regulator's approval](#) (Engineering News)
- [SA on the cusp of broader water crisis - report](#) (Engineering News)
- [SA government intent on creating incentives for mines to benefit from platinum fuel-cell investment](#) (Mining Weekly)



# UpcomingSET Events

- [7<sup>th</sup> World Nano Conference: Cape Town, 20-22 June 2016](#)
- [International Conference on Mining and Metallurgy: Cape Town, 27-29 June 2016](#)
- [5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Agriculture & Horticulture: Cape Town, 27-29 June 2016](#)
- [International Bat Research Conference: Durban, 31 July- 5 August 2016](#)
- [35<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress: Cape Town, 27 August- 4 Sept 2016](#)
- [Change of dates: Geomatics Indaba 2016: 12-14 Sept, Gauteng](#)
- [Mathematical Sciences Workshop: 15-16 Sept 2016](#)
- [Celebrating a Centenary of Geography in SA: Stellenbosch, 25-28 Sept 2016](#)
- [Digital Education Show Africa: Johannesburg, 18-19 Oct 2016](#)
- [Science Forum SA: Pretoria, 6-7 December 2016](#)
- [1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Materials Processing & Manufacturing: Kruger National Park, 23-25 January 2017](#)



**proSET News**

## Maths Foundation News

- [Mathematics in the news: April 2016](#)

## Engineering

- [NMMU launches state-of-the-art bitumen lab](#) ([rnews.co.za](http://rnews.co.za))
- [Local consulting engineering firms take a confidence knock](#) (Engineering News)
- [Survey indicates more funds are needed for infrastructure projects](#) (Engineering News)

## Science and pure research

- [SA astronomers discover mysterious alignment of black holes](#) ([thesouthafrican.com](http://thesouthafrican.com))



## SET Community News

### Environment, Climate Change and Energy

- [SA boosts crop forecast accuracy with satellite imagery](#) (Engineering News)
- [Koeberg to pursue dry-cask storage as used-fuel pools head for 2018 limit](#) (Engineering News)
- [Proposal to boost precision farming in SA](#) (Engineering News)

- [Wind growth to taper in 2016 after spectacular 2015](#) (Engineering News)
- [Why big datasets can help solve SA's environmental-health ills](#)(theconversation.com)
- [Fracking can contaminate drinking water](#) (scientificamerican.com)
- [Getting to grips with the issue of water-use licences](#) (bwa.co.za)
- [Rural water supply: Paying a high price for "cost-effective boreholes"](#) (bwa.co.za)
- [The great water grab: How the coal industry is deepening the global water crisis](#) (Greenpeace)
- [Addressing the need for seed](#) (ciatnews.cgiar.org)
- [Aeroponics in Africa: Adapting to climate change](#) (Mail & Guardian Africa)
- [Hybrid system could clean up coal power](#) (gizmag.com)

## Higher Education

- [Research: Creative responses in a hostile environment](#) (University World News)
- [Free universities "a terrible idea" - Foundation](#) (techcentral.co.za)
- [Quick licences open the road to innovation](#) (Business Day Live)
- [Higher education not reducing inequality - Habib](#) (News24)
- [Internationalisation policy for universities on the cards](#) (University World News)

- [UCT's Drug Discovery and Development Centre enters strategic partnership with Janssen Pharmaceutical](#) (AllAfrica.com)
- [Needy university students to benefit from new education fund](#) (Engineering News)
- [How to turn professionals into people who serve the public good](#) (theconversation.com)



## People in SET

- [Wits paleoanthropologist Lee Berger among Time's 100 most influential people in the world](#) (Times Live)
- [SA teen is world's top maths student](#) (southafrica.info)
- [First chemical-process technology students graduate at NMMU](#) (rnews.co.za)
- [Young women design Africa's first private satellite](#) (ITWeb)
- [NMMU graduate from Mt Frere hopes to use her MTech to improve rural farming](#) (rnews.co.za)

Please forward this e-mail to your colleagues, business contacts and all interested persons!

### **Send us your news**

The NSTF invites all our members, as well as all SET and innovation role players, to send us information on meetings, conferences and activities of interest to the broader S&T community. Please send us your news by the 20th of the month, for distribution at the beginning of the following month, to [enquiries@nstf.co.za](mailto:enquiries@nstf.co.za)

### **Feedback**

If you have any comments or suggestions on how we can improve this newsletter, please e-mail the NSTF Secretariat at [enquiries@nstf.co.za](mailto:enquiries@nstf.co.za)

### **About the NSTF**

The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#), established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all 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.

### **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.

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## **For more information**

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