



NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards 2010-2011

Media Release

27 May 2011
(For immediate release)

2010/11 NSTF-BHP Billiton Award Winners

Outstanding contributions to science, engineering, technology and innovation were acknowledged at the NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards gala dinner (the 13th annual event of this kind) held at Emperors Palace, Kempton Park, last night. The 12 awards were presented by the Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor.

The NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards event is unique as it affords an opportunity for recognition to all practising scientists, engineers, technologists and innovators across the system of innovation. The NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards gala dinner also celebrates the achievements of schools and learners who excel in science and mathematics.

Winners in the respective categories announced are:

Individual over a lifetime: **Professor Lionel Opie**, for a lifetime contribution to the improved understanding of the causes of heart attacks and the more effective use of medication for heart disease. Nominated by Prof. Karen Sliwa-Hahnle, Director: Hatter Cardiovascular Research Institute, University of Cape Town.

Research and its outputs: **Professor Thokozani Majazi**, for research leading to the development and application of novel techniques in batch and continuous chemical process integration particularly as it relates to freshwater use, and wastewater generation. Nominated by Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala, Executive Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment, University of Johannesburg.

Management and related science, engineering and technology activities over the last 5-10 years: **Mr David Benjamin Botha**, for his dedication and professionalism in representing, promoting and supporting capacity building for the civil engineering profession, both locally and internationally. Nominated by Ms Marie Ashpole, Media and Outreach Officer, South African Institution of Civil Engineering.

Eskom-sponsored award: Female research capacity developer, over the last 5-10 years: **Dr Elma van der Lingen**, for her substantial contribution to capacity building in the field of gold industrial research and development and related capacity development. Nominated by Dr Roger Paul, General Manager: Business Development, Mintek.

Eskom-sponsored award: Male research capacity developer over the last 5-10 years: **Professor Tshilidzi Marwala**, for his substantial contribution to research capacity development, particularly of African students, in the field of electrical engineering and modelling science. Nominated by Mr Ishmael Msiza, Researcher: CSIR Modelling and Digital Science.

The NRF-sponsored TW Kambule award for a senior black female researcher over the last 5-10 years: **Professor Mamokgethi Setati**, for her innovative, quality research on teaching and learning mathematics in multilingual classrooms. Nominated by Prof. Thokozani Majazi, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Pretoria.

The NRF-sponsored TW Kambule award for a senior black male researcher over the last 5-10 years: **Professor Kelly Chibale**, for significant contributions to research capacity and skills development in several key areas critical to the discovery of modern pharmaceutical medicines. Nominated by Prof. Allen Rodgers, Head: Department of Chemistry, University of Cape Town.

The NRF-sponsored TW Kambule award for a distinguished young black female researcher over the last 2-5 years: **Dr Nokwanda P Makunga**, for demonstrating that the sustainable use of biodiversity resources can be assured whilst adding value to the ancient knowledge system of medicinal plant use in the provision of sustainable alternatives for metabolic support to humans. Nominated by Dr Therina Theron, Senior Director: Research and Innovation, University of Stellenbosch.

The NRF-sponsored TW Kambule award for a distinguished young black male researcher over the last 2-5 years: **Dr Mohamed Azeem Khan**, for contributing towards the understanding of industrial energy efficiency and the design of small wind generator and energy storage systems. Nominated by Prof. Pragasen Pillay, Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, Concordia University and University of Cape Town.

The SAASTA-sponsored award for science communication for outreach and public awareness over the last 5 years: **Mr Kevindran Govender**, for using innovative and exciting media and mobilising South African science communicators to demonstrate that astronomy is a powerful tool for science education, communication and development in particular as it relates to the SKA bid. Nominated by Mr Case Rijdsdijk, Astronomical Society of Southern Africa.

Research for innovation, by an individual or a team through an organisation/institution: **The WeldCore team** from the Automotive Components Technology Station, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, led by Prof. Danie Hattingh, for developing innovative friction-processing solutions to reduce the risk of engineering structures and pipework failure and consequent plant downtime. Nominated by Ms Nadine Marupen, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

Research for innovation, by an individual or a team through an organisation/institution: **Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA 004), Tenofovir Gel Trial Leadership Team** led by Professors Salim Abdool Karim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim, University of KwaZulu-Natal, for outstanding contributions to AIDS prevention through the landmark CAPRISA 004 study, which demonstrated that tenofovir gel prevents both HIV infection and genital herpes. Nominated by Prof. Cheryl Potgieter, Dean of Research and Professor of Psychology, University of KwaZulu-Natal.

The NSTF-BHP Billiton Awards represent a collaborative effort by the SETI community of South Africa, made possible by the participation and sponsorship of a number of stakeholders. We thank all our partners for their support, and congratulate the award winners on their remarkable achievements.

Partners & Sponsors

Co-Branding Sponsor



Partners



Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsor



Media Sponsor



Community Support (Tables)

- Agricultural Research Council (ARC)
- Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAF)
- Council for Geoscience
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Mintek
- Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU)
- South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE)
- University of Cape Town
- University of Johannesburg
- University of Stellenbosch
- University of the Witwatersrand
- University of the Free State (UFS)
- University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
- Unisa

Community Support (Seats)

- University of the Western Cape (UWC)
- South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP)
- National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI)
- South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO)



Compiled by: NSTF Secretariat

Tel: 012-841 3987 • Fax: 012-841 3025 • E-mail: enquiries@nstf.co.za • Address: PO Box 9823, Pretoria, 0001 • Website: www.nstfawards.org.za