



Email: enquiries@nstf.org.za | Tel: +27 12 841 3987 |
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National Science and
Technology Forum

Discussion Forum Invitation

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

Preparing for epidemics in South Africa – human and animal

25-26 February 2021

#COVID19 @HealthZA @nicd_sa @dsigovza

[National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#) invites you to an NSTF Discussion Forum on '[Preparing for epidemics in South Africa – human and animal](#)' from 25-26 February 2021. The event is hosted by the NSTF's [Science Councils and Statutory Bodies sector](#). This is an online live streamed and interactive event, as well as being held at a conference venue in Gauteng. The venue event is for up to 50 delegates on a first come, first served basis (**** Terms and Conditions apply*).

This NSTF Discussion Forum will focus on infectious diseases that have caused, or can cause, epidemics in South Africa. The main focus is on human infectious diseases with a secondary focus on animal infectious diseases. Of special interest are viral diseases and zoonotic diseases (that emerge in human populations but originate from animals). *Note additional event information further down.*

NSTF Discussion Forum

Preparing for epidemics in South Africa human and animal



Calling all stakeholders:

business
civil society
government
the public
higher education



Ongoing and recent infectious diseases – humans and animals: The Covid-19 pandemic is top of everyone's mind. However, we want to highlight other ongoing epidemics in South Africa, namely HIV and tuberculosis (TB). These have been neglected due to the focus on Covid-19. They are deadly diseases that continue to debilitate our people and country. Other viral diseases may also be touched on.

What does preparedness entail? The country was, and is, unprepared for the Covid-19 pandemic. In many ways it caught us off-guard, despite the excellent research conducted by South African scientists in related areas for decades. Forming the Ministerial Advisory Council shows that South Africa has the medical expertise. The President and Minister of Health were also prepared to take drastic action to curtail the virus spread.

However, South Africa continues to face enormous challenges: a health system in shambles, lack of access to basic services such as water, and a digitally unprepared education system. There is no doubt that our national systems and infrastructure need to be more robust, more sustainable and of a higher quality or we will not be prepared for health emergencies.

Event objectives:

While speakers will touch on the above challenges, the main focus of this NSTF Discussion Forum is on research. Following are some of the topics:

- What's happening with current South African research relevant to the topic? What lessons have been learnt? Where are the gaps?
- Measures to prevent, monitor and curtail disease outbreaks – this can range from public communication to data management
- Drug research and development
- Understanding how climate change can affect disease outbreaks
- How disease vectors in the environment are monitored and curtailed

Envisaged outcomes: To collate feedback from the NSTF Discussion Forum and then send recommendations to relevant government departments, policy makers, and research institutions.

Outputs: As is usual for [NSTF Discussion Forums](#), the following outputs will be made available on the NSTF website: proceedings; media release; speakers' PowerPoint presentations; and video clips of presentations, etc.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points: CPD points will be awarded to attendees who are registered with [SACNASP](#) (South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions). One point for attending each whole day on 25 or 26 February 2021.

For other affiliations, please notify the NSTF office so that we can approach the organisations for CPD points. Email Ms Felicia Likhetha at enquiries@nstf.org.za.

<p style="text-align: center;">Delegate registration information:</p> <p>NSTF Discussion Forum: Preparing for epidemics in South Africa – human and animal</p> <p>Dates & times: 25-26 February 2021, 09:00 for 09:30 to 16:30 (includes refreshments and lunch for those attending at the venue)</p> <p>Programme: Click here for the draft programme</p> <p>Background: Click here for the concept document with background information</p> <p>Options for attending and RSVPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Venue attendance: This option is free of charge for all employees from NSTF member organisations – delegates from non-member organisations pay a registration fee (see the registration information below). The venue and address will be confirmed by the NSTF office on receipt of your RSVP. RSVP here on a first come, first serve basis by no later than Thursday 18 February 2021. A maximum of 50 delegates is allowed. The NSTF office will confirm the registration of your attendance on e-mail – if you don't receive the confirmation, you have not been registered. <i>***Terms and conditions apply</i>• Online streaming: The live streamed event will take place on Zoom. Click here to RSVP for the Zoom event. You will receive an email from the NSTF office with a unique Zoom link to confirm your registration for the online event, as well as to join the online event. <i>Note that registration is essential to get access to the event on the day.</i> <p>NOTE: The online event is FREE to all interested. Attendance at the venue is free to all <i>those who belong to NSTF member organisations, speakers, the media (journalists), government representatives and the diplomatic community. As there is a limit of 50 attendees at the venue, ONLY attendees with proof of registration and a confirmation email from the NSTF office will be allowed at the venue. ***Terms and conditions apply</i></p>

About the NSTF: The NSTF is a non-profit [stakeholder forum](#) representing the science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation community in South Africa. The [membership](#) consists of 120 organisations, and ranges from research institutions, universities and state entities to business, [professional societies \(proSET\)](#) and civil society. The NSTF engages with policy issues across various government departments and promotes collaboration and critical thinking among a broad range of stakeholders. [NSTF Discussion Forums](#) gather stakeholders together, across the public and private sectors, to exchange knowledge and ideas, and put forward recommendations for government and

relevant authorities.

Registration information***

Non-Member Organisations of the NSTF attending at the venue: Attendance is open for anyone interested *but people who do not belong to [member organisations of the NSTF](#) will be charged an attendance fee of R3000 (excl VAT)*. The registration fee applicable to attendance at the venue (not online) includes attendance, documentation relating to the event, conference stationery, refreshments and lunch. Please note, your registration fee for this discussion forum contributes directly to the non-profit mission of the NSTF, as a collaborative consultative forum and watchdog for influencing the formulation and delivery of science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation public policy in South Africa. Furthermore, the NSTF:

- Provides information of SET news, events and people in SET
- Promotes SET and innovation
- Hosts platforms for networking and debate on current SET issues
- Engages with government on SET-related policy

Please note that if you do not RSVP, the NSTF cannot be held responsible for any unforeseen changes or cancellations of programmes. Communications are sent only via e-mail or through notifications on the [NSTF website](#).

About the NSTF

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

Privacy

Registration details submitted to the NSTF will be treated confidentially and will only be used by NSTF to communicate with its members and subscribers.

For more information

www.nstf.org.za

E-mail: enquiries@nstf.org.za

Tel: [+27 12 841 3987](tel:+27128413987)

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