



Preparing for epidemics in South Africa – human and animal 25-26 February 2021

<http://www.nstf.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/21OutbreaksProgramme.pdf>

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) is hosting a Discussion Forum in collaboration with its **representatives of the NSTF science councils and statutory bodies** sector, on issues of preparedness for human and animal disease outbreaks.

Programme – Day 1: 25 February 2021

Time starting	Time ending	Topic	Speaker/ Organisation
9:30	9:40	Welcome to participants, introductions and outline of the purpose of the meeting and its intended outcomes	Ms Jansie Niehaus Executive Director: NSTF
The COVID-19 Pandemic – what lessons have we learnt for the future?			
9:40	10:25	Keynote: Data, early warning systems and other lessons going forward	Dr Kerrigan McCarthy National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD)
10:25	11:00	Policies and regulations: Policy for dealing with disease outbreaks and epidemics	Dr Wayne Ramkrishna Deputy Director: Communicable Disease Control, National Department of Health (DoH)
11:00	11:30	Is there a role for indigenous knowledge in fighting epidemics or pandemics?	Prof Nceba Gqaleni African Health Research Institute (AHRI)
11:30	12:00	Monitoring of outbreaks – what can wastewater reveal?	Mr Jay Bhagwan Executive Manager: Water use and waste management, Water Research Commission (WRC)

12:00	12:30	What are we learning about the control of epidemics/pandemics?	Dr Yogan Pillay Country Director: Clinton Health Access Initiative
12:30	13:00	Question and answer session	
13:00	13:30	Lunch break	
Preparedness through data modelling, communication, and science and innovation			
13:45	14:30	Uncertain outcomes: Evidence-based mathematical modelling in a time of COVID-19	Dr Sheetal Silal Director: Modelling and Simulation Hub Africa, University of Cape Town (UCT)
14:30	15:00	"Where do you get your information?" - Information and communication in pandemic times	Prof Stephanie Burton Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences and Professor at Future Africa, University of Pretoria
15:00	15:30	DSI initiatives related to the pandemic and lessons learnt	Ms Glaudina Loots Director: Health Innovation, Department of Science and Innovation (DSI)
15:30	16:00	Question and answer session	

Programme – Day 2 – 26 February 2021

Time starting	Time ending	Topic	Speaker/ Organisation
9:30	9:35	Welcome to participants	Ms Jansie Niehaus Executive Director: NSTF
Vaccination, food and zoonotic diseases			
9:35	10:20	Keynote: The role of vaccinations in the fight against infectious diseases, ongoing research and production for preparedness	Prof Jeffrey Mphahlele Vice-President: South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)
10:20	10:50	SARS-CoV-2: Does it Cause Foodborne Disease?	Prof Lucia Anelich Anelich Consulting; and Central University of Technology (CUT)
10:50	11:20	What can we learn from other zoonoses (besides COVID-19)?	Prof Wanda Markotter NRF-DSI South African Research Chair: Infectious Diseases of Animals (Zoonoses); and Director: Centre for Viral Zoonoses, Department of Medical Virology, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pretoria
11:20	11:50	Development of a biodiversity sector response plan to zoonotic disease	Dr Kiruben Naicker

			Director: Information Management & Biodiversity Science Policy Interface, Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF)
11:50	12:35	Data utilization for decision support during a pandemic	Ms Naledzani (Nale) Mudau Remote Sensing Scientist, South African National Space Agency (SANSA)
12:35	12:50	Question and answer session	
12:50	13:20	Lunch break	
Epidemics among animals, a threat to livelihoods			
13:20	14:00	Legislation and government initiatives to curb epidemics among livestock	Dr Mpho Maja Director: Animal Health, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)
14:00	14:40	Developing tools to detect and prevent the spread of multispecies disease – bovine TB	Dr Wynand Goosen Project Manager: Biomedical Sciences, Division of Molecular Biology and Human Genetics, Stellenbosch University (SU)
14:40	15:30	Panel session with the speakers: Where is improvement needed in curtailing the spread of animal diseases?	

***An online survey to evaluate the discussion forum will be e-mailed to you after the event**

Presentations, proceedings, etc will be made available on

<http://www.nstf.org.za/discussion-forum/outbreaks/>

Video clips will be posted to the NSTF YouTube platform (see details below)

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National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)

- Independent non-profit stakeholder body and network
- Unified voice for the science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation community
- Includes private and public sectors
- Promoting SET and innovation in South Africa since 1995