

Young Scientists' Conference Announcement and Call for Abstracts

Jointly hosted by the:

Department of Science and Technology (DST)

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

TWAS Regional Office for sub-Saharan Africa (TWAS-
ROSSA)

Organisation for Women in Science for Developing World
(OWSD) South Africa National Chapter

South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS)

**Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre,
Johannesburg, South Africa**

Date: 16-18 September 2015

Theme: "Inspiring change post-2015: The role of science,
technology and innovation in empowering women in
Africa".

1. Introduction

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), TWAS Regional Office for sub-Saharan Africa (TWAS-ROSSA), Organisation for Women in Science for Developing World (OWSD) South Africa National Chapter and the South African Young Academy of Sciences (SAYAS) will host an Annual Young Scientists' Conference from 16 to 18 September 2015 at Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre, Johannesburg. The conference is aligned to the 2015 African Union Year Theme, "Women's Empowerment" and it is titled '*Inspiring change post-2015: The role of science, technology and innovation in empowering women in Africa*'.

2. Background

The underrepresentation of women in science, technology, innovation, mathematics and engineering, globally and in Africa is well documented. The development of the next generation of science leaders (both men and women) can contribute to the pool of talent for the growth of the African economy and improved quality of life. This conference aims to contribute to strengthening human capital development, and will provide a platform for discussions on broadening the base of talented, of skilled young men and women to ensure inclusivity and equitable participation of the genders in science, technology and innovation on the African continent.

3. Conference Themes

The theme of the conference is, '*Inspiring change post-2015*'. The conference will focus on four key issues relevant in the area of women's empowerment and the inter-relationships between them. All four sub-themes are of particular importance for Africa.

- Promotion of gender equality in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
- Feminisation of poverty
- Women and health
- Women and leadership

4. Eligibility

Young male and female scientists should meet the following criteria to participate:

- Be resident in sub-Saharan Africa
- Be under the age of forty (40)
- Be in possession of at least a Master's degree
- Have research interests in the conference sub-themes

5. Conference Participation and Application

Interested candidates, who meet the above mentioned criteria, should complete the application form and return it to Ms Thandi Badugela (thandi@assaf.org.za) Tel: +27 (0)12 349 6614 by **Friday, 12 June 2015**. There is no registration fee to attend the conference. Further information about the conference will be circulated to nominated candidates.

6. Call for Abstracts

6.1. Abstract Format and Submission

The abstracts should follow the following format:

- Abstract must not be more than 300 words (excluding Title, Authors and Institutions) in the attached form
- Abstract must be written in English

- Abstract title must be in boldface, capital letters (Lowercase) and centered
- Abstract font must be Century Gothic 11 with A4 set up margins
- Abstract must include the following information:
 - Title, Author(s), Institution(s)
 - Name of first-author should be underlined (Please do not underline co-authors)
 - Institutional affiliations, city, province for all authors
 - The superscript numbering must be in front of each initial and surname of each author
- Where appropriate, the text may be structured using the following headings:
 - Introduction or Objectives
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Conclusions

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 Allah, 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)

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. General Conference Information

ASSAf will cover the travel and hospitality costs for the nominated candidate for the duration of the conference. For any further information on the conference please contact:

Ms Thandi Badugela Tel: +27 (0)12 349 6614

Email: thandi@assaf.org.za

Application Deadline: 12 June 2015