



Background Information

Introduction

The South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) was launched in 2011. The Minister of Science and Technology, Mr Derek Hanekom, inaugurated twenty leading young scientists as Founder Members of SAYAS at the launch. Subsequently, 10 additional members were elected into the Academy in 2012. SAYAS was borne out of the need for young scientists to contribute towards solutions to the important national and global challenges facing society. It represents the voice of young scientists in South Africa and provides a platform for young scientists to influence policy decisions.

Strategic Objectives

1. Promoting SAYAS and its value adding initiatives
2. Advancing scientific excellence for the country and the continent
3. Influencing science policy
4. Translating science for society to promote science awareness

The current composition of SAYAS Leadership and Membership

SAYAS Co-chairs

Dr Caradee Wright (CSIR) and Prof Jerome Singh (UKZN)

SAYAS Executive Committee

Prof Aldo Stroebe (NRF), Dr Penny Moore (NICD) and Dr Patience Mthunzi (CSIR)

SAYAS Members

Title	Name	Institution	Specialisation
Prof	Aldo Stroebel	National Research Foundation	Rural development and sustainable agriculture
Prof	Alta Schutte	North-West University	Cardiovascular Physiology
Dr	Amanda Weltman	University of Cape Town	Theoretical Physics and Cosmology
Prof	Andrea Fuller	University of the Witwatersrand	Physiology (thermal physiology and eco-physiology)
Prof	Andrew McKechnie	University of Pretoria	Zoology
Prof	Anel Du Plessis	North-West University	Local government law, Environmental Law and Governance, and Human Rights Law
Prof	Bernard Slippers	University of Pretoria	Microbiology and Plant Pathology
Prof	Bronwyn Myers	Medical Research Council	Addictions (Psychology/Mental Health)
Dr	Caradee Wright	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	Environmental health
Prof	Christine Lochner	Stellenbosch University	Anxiety and Stress Disorders; Obsessive-Compulsive Spectrum Disorders
Prof	De Wet Swanepoel	University of Pretoria	Auditory and hearing science
Prof	Erick Strauss	Stellenbosch University	Chemical Biology, Mechanistic Enzymology, Mechanism-Based Drug Design and Development
Prof	Fulufhelo Nelwamondo	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	Electrical Engineering
Prof	Genevieve Langdon	University of Cape Town	Dynamic response of structures and materials, particularly blast loading
Dr	Jeff Murugan	University of Cape Town	String Theory and Quantum Gravity
Prof	Jerome Singh	CAPRISA	Law, Ethics, Health Policy and Governance
Prof	John Terblanche	Stellenbosch University	Interdisciplinary biology research including global climate change, physiological responses to environmental
Prof	Louis Kotzé	North-West University	Environmental Law and Governance
Dr	Lyndy McGaw	University of Pretoria	Ethnopharmacology, Biological activity and toxicity testing of plant extracts and isolated compounds
Dr	Marieka Gryzenhout	University of the Free State	Mycology, Fungal systematic and Plant Pathology
Prof	Marietjie Venter	National Institute for Communicable Diseases	Medical Virology: Respiratory viruses associated with severe acute respiratory disease and Zoonotic vector borne
Prof	Mathieu Rouget	University of KwaZulu-Natal	Ecology; Biodiversity Conservation; Spatial Planning; GIS
Dr	Mokhotjwa Dhlamini	University of South Africa	Condensed Matter Physics, Materials Science and Nanophosphors
Prof	Mpfariseni Budeli	University of South Africa	Law
Dr	Patience Mthunzi	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	Biophotonics (Optical micromanipulation of mammalian cells for medical applications)

Dr	Penny Moore	National Institute for Communicable Diseases	Virology
Dr	Rapela Maphanga	University of Limpopo	Solid State Physics and Computational Modelling of Materials
Dr	Shadreck Chirikure	University of Cape Town	Archaeology – Iron Age, Heritage Studies, Archaeometallurgy
Prof	Voster Muchenje	University of Fort Hare	Animal Science (Meat Science)
Dr	Yahya Choonara	University of the Witwatersrand	Pharmaceutics