

The South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS)
cordially invite you
to a webinar on

Conversations with Women Scientists in the Forefront against COVID-19
- In celebration of Women's Month, August 2020



Date: Wednesday, 26 August 2020
Time: 11:00 – 12:30
Format: Moderated Discussion
RSVP: [Click here](#) to register by 12:00 on Tuesday, 25 August 2020



August in South Africa is historically devoted to celebrating the successes of women and is a tribute to the more than 20 000 women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956 in protest against the extension of Pass Laws to women. This show of support as a call for gender equality and women rights still rings true today. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been highly asymmetric between low-income and more affluent economies. At the same time, evidence unfolds that within the academia, women scientists and scholars have felt the impact of lockdowns more so in their line of work. In this webinar, we seek to explore an alternative direction of this causal relationship: the great role that women scientists play in combating COVID-19 in their various fields and the need for greater women leadership and participation in decision making now more than ever.

The panellists, after presenting their role(s) in the 'fight' against COVID-19, will deal with the following questions:

- Whether women's participation has been sufficient in the search for solutions to controlling the spread of COVID-19, developing a vaccine and others? Why not?
- Are there differences among countries and scientific fields and what lessons can be shared for improvement?
- What can be done to unlock the potential of women within the African continent, within the scientific community and the society in general to assist in the post-COVID-19 recovery?

Facilitator:

- **Prof Roula Inglesi-Lotz, SAYAS Co-Chair, Department of Economics, University of Pretoria**

Panellists:

- **Dr Damaris Matoke-Muhia, Deputy Director, Kenya Medical Research Institute and a 2020 Aspen New Voices Fellow (KENYA)**
- **Prof Salome Maswime, Head of Global Surgery, University of Cape Town (SOUTH AFRICA)**
- **A/Prof Amy Slogrove, Associate Professor Paediatrics & Child Health, Stellenbosch University & SAYAS member (SOUTH AFRICA)**
- **Prof Cheryl Cohen, Professor & Head of the Centre for Respiratory Disease and Meningitis, National Institute for Communicable Diseases (SOUTH AFRICA)**
- **Prof Jennifer Thomson, Emeritus Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Cape Town, ASSAf member and OWSD President (SOUTH AFRICA)**
- **Dr Sandra Lopez-Verges, Gorgas Memorial Institute for Health Studies, Department of Research in Virology and Biotechnology (PANAMA)**



Enquiries: Edith Shikumo, SAYAS Secretariat, Edith@assaf.org.za