

Invitation To PRIS 2020

DATE:
10 & 11 DECEMBER 2020
(Thursday & Friday)

To join the event, click [HERE](#)
to register (you will need a
ZOOM account to
register)

UKZN's College of Agriculture, Engineering
and Science (CAES) is hosting its 2020
Postgraduate Research and Innovation Symposium
(PRIS) online. CAES will be giving postgraduate students
from the School of (1) Agricultural, Earth & Environmental
Sciences, (2) Chemistry & Physics, (3) Engineering, (4) Life Sciences and
(5) Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Science an opportunity to showcase
their research either through oral or flash presentations.

INVITED GUEST SPEAKER: Professor Salim S. Abdool Karim
"Covid-19: Looking ahead at 2021"

DAY 1: 10 DECEMBER, THURSDAY Oral Presentations

09h00 - 09h45: Opening Plenary
Professor Nana Poku (Vice Chancellor, UKZN)
Professor Salim S. Abdool Karim (Guest Speaker)

09h50 - 16h00: 6 Concurrent Breakaway Sessions:

- Session 1:** Agricultural, Earth & Environmental Sciences
- Session 2:** Chemistry & Physics
- Session 3:** Engineering
- Session 4:** Life Sciences
- Session 5:** Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Science
- Session 6:** Industry Presentations

DAY 2: 11 DECEMBER, FRIDAY Flash Presentations

09h00 - 12h00: Concurrent Breakaway Sessions:

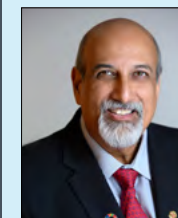
- Session 1:** Agricultural, Earth & Environmental Sciences
- Session 2:** Chemistry & Physics
- Session 3:** Engineering
- Session 4:** Life Sciences
- Session 5:** Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Science

**15h00 - 17h00: Closing
Prize Giving Ceremony and Lucky Draws**

pris.ukzn.ac.za

Help Desk Queries:

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Guest Speaker: Professor Salim S. Abdool Karim
Title of Talk : Covid-19: Looking ahead at 2021

Salim S. Abdool Karim, FRS, is a South African clinical infectious diseases
epidemiologist widely recognized for scientific contributions to HIV
prevention and treatment. He is Director of the Centre for the AIDS
Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA), Durban, and CAPRISA
Professor of Global Health at Columbia University, New York.

He is an Adjunct Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Harvard University,
Boston, Adjunct Professor of Medicine at Cornell University, New York, and Pro Vice-
Chancellor (Research) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban. He is an Associate
Member of The Ragon Institute of Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Massachusetts
Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University. He previously served as President
of the South African Medical Research Council and is currently serving as the Chair of
the South African Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 and as a Member of the
Africa Task Force for Coronavirus and the Lancet Commission on COVID-19.

Dr Abdool Karim is ranked among the world's most highly cited scientists by *Web of
Science*. He serves on the Boards of several journals, including the *New England Journal
of Medicine*, *Lancet Global Health*, *Lancet HIV* and *mBio*. He is the Chair of the UNAIDS
Scientific Expert Panel, WHO's HIV Strategic and Technical Advisory Committee as well
as the WHO TB-HIV Task Force. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for Global
Health at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

His many awards include the African Union's "Kwame Nkrumah Award" which is Africa's
most prestigious scientific award, the Kuwait Al-Sumait Award, the Canadian Gairdner
Global Health Award and pinnacle awards from the African Academy of Sciences,
Academy of Science in South Africa, Royal Society of South Africa and the South African
Medical Research Council. He is member of the US National Academy of Medicine, the
American Academy of Microbiology and the Association of American Physicians.
He is a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS).

SYNOPSIS:

South Africa currently has the highest number of confirmed SARS-CoV-2 cases in Africa,
recording over 700,000 cases and 19,000 deaths by the end of October. Although the
South African government's mitigation strategies initially slowed the spread of SARS-
CoV-2 infections, it had substantial adverse economic and health impacts. As restrictions
on movement started to ease incrementally and economic activities resumed from 1
June, the number of SARS-CoV-2 cases and deaths increased, with the peak of infections
exceeding 12,000 per day – reached in mid-July with a steady decline in cases to about
1400 infections per day in late September.

This presentation will describe the Covid-19 epidemic trends in South Africa, explore
how the meaning of science has changed in the era of Covid-19 and reflect on what
can be anticipated in 2021 and beyond. A positive scientific consequence of the
Covid-19 epidemic has been how science has become a common pastime, with
data being available fast, transparently, and open. Mitigating the impact of Covid-19
has been complicated but has highlighted the importance of "following the science".
Unfortunately, the Covid-19 epidemic has also promoted some poor quality science
and "snake oil treatments".