

SANBio

SOUTHERN AFRICA NETWORK FOR BIOSCIENCES

BioFISA II

BUSINESS MEETS BIOSCIENCES

*Finding solutions through
technology innovations*

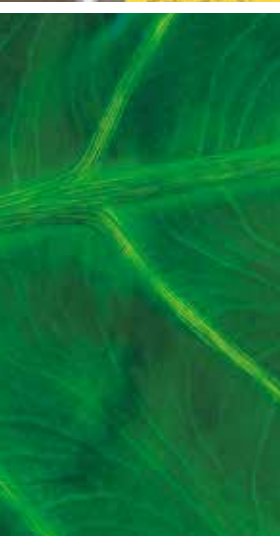
**ANNUAL
EVENT 2018**

27–28 February 2018
CSIR International Convention Centre,
Pretoria, South Africa

NEPAD SANBio / BioFISA II Annual Event

27-28 February 2018

CSIR International Convention Centre,
Pretoria, South Africa



INTRODUCTION

The NEPAD Southern Africa Network for Biosciences (SANBio) provides a shared research, development and innovation platform for collaborative research in health and nutrition. Each year, NEPAD SANBio with the support of the BioFISA II Programme hosts a networking event for regional and international stakeholders to discuss pertinent issues in the region and this year, commercialisation of research technologies is the central theme with dialogue on new ways of innovating for the future in the biosciences, cultural changes in the research environment toward entrepreneurship, the role of data and technology in health and nutrition, infrastructure for innovation, and future trends and funding models.

SANBio wishes for companies to engage with investors, for academics to meet eye to eye with industry and relevant policy makers, and for the youth to team up with renowned experts for discussions on the paradigm shifts at hand. Furthermore, two pitching competitions will take place with exciting prizes. An exhibition for companies will also take place during the event, giving innovations the attention they deserve.

Whether you are looking for investors, customers, academic contacts, media exposure or mentoring, the SANBio Annual Event 2018 offers an opportunity to network and engage with the biosciences innovation community. The event is designed as an energetic meeting point between all the different players and influencers in the sector. The people to attend are those with a passion for what they do.

ANNUAL EVENT FORMAT



Face to face engagements



Plenary sessions



Davos style discussions



Pitching sessions



Meet and invest



Exhibition

THEMATIC AREAS



Health and nutrition



Commercialisation of research technologies



New models of funding



Startups and spinoffs



Infrastructure for innovation



Data management



Programme

DAY 1: Tuesday 27 February 2018

SESSION NO	TIME	SESSION NAME
	07:30-08:50	Registration
DAY 1	SESSION 1: PLENARY WELCOME Venue: Exhibition Hall Facilitator: Dr Jonathan Mufandaedza, SANBio Steering Committee Chair	
1A	09:00-09:05	Opening and welcome address by NEPAD <i>Dr Tichaona Mangwende, Head: Research and Statistics Cluster at NEPAD, BioFISA II Steering Committee Chairperson</i>
	09:05-09:10	Welcome remarks by SADC <i>Ms Anneline Morgan, Senior Technical Advisor: Science Technology & Innovation</i> <i>OR Mr Tapiwa Samanga, Director for Industrial Development and Trade, SADC Secretariat</i>
	09:10-09:15	Welcome remarks by DST <i>Dr Isayvani Naicker – Chief Director International Resources</i>
	09:15-09:25	Welcome remarks by SANBio Network <i>Dr Ereck Chakauya – SANBio Network Manager</i> <i>Introduction of programme focus & outcomes and introduction to the keynote speaker</i>
	09:25-09:45	Keynote Speaker: Finland as global player in health and nutrition <i>HE Ambassador Mr Kari Alanko, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland</i>
	09:45-10:25	Networking and tea/coffee break in foyer/exhibition area
DAY 1	SESSION 2: PANEL DISCUSSION 1 Venue: Exhibition Hall	
2A	10:30-12:00	FOUNDER'S STORY: THE GOOD, BAD & UGLY OF RUNNING A START-UP IN BIOSCIENCES <i>Facilitator: Dr Sean Moolman, PowerOptimal, South Africa</i> <i>Presentation: Dr Dougbeh Nyan, Shufflex Biomed, USA</i> Panel: From R&D to commercial success (at pre-commercialisation phase) Key issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the critical bottle neck and solutions for commercialisation of research in the region What can be learnt from best practices in other countries <i>Panellists: Prof Michael Wallach, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia</i> <i>Mr Vincent Nowaseb, National Commission on Research, Science and Technology, Namibia</i> <i>Ms Pauline Mujawamariya Koelbl, African Innovation Foundation, Geneva</i> <i>Dr Margo Bagley, Emory University, USA</i> <i>Ms Ela Romanowska, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa</i>
	12:00-13:00	Buffet lunch in the foyer – Luncheon talk

DAY 1		SESSION 3A: PARALLEL SESSION 1 Venue: Exhibition Hall
3A	13:00-14:30	<p>NEW MODELS, NEW FUNDING, EXPLORING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPINOFF AND START UP FOUNDERS</p> <p>Panel Discussion: Key Issue: Exploring how different funders can support start-ups and spinoffs in the commercialisation phase</p> <p><i>Facilitator:</i> Mr Max Pichulik, Impact Amplifier, South Africa</p> <p><i>Panellists:</i> Mr Mikko Savolainen, Invesdor, Finland Mr Jaap Spreeuwenberg, Hivos Impact Investments, Netherlands Mr Eric Pol, The HWWeb, Belgium Mr Jackson Mwatha, Villgro, Kenya</p>
DAY 1		SESSION 3B: PITCHING SESSION 1 Venue: Amber Room
3B	13:00-14:30	<p>BRAINOVATION – POST DOC PITCHING COMPETITION</p> <p><i>Facilitator:</i> Dr Sechaba Bareetseng, SANBio</p> <p>From idea to market</p> <p><i>Participants:</i> Postgrads and postdocs to pitch – 5 participants</p> <p><i>Panellists:</i> Prof David Katerere, TUT, South Africa Prof Namrita Lall, UP, University of Pretoria, South Africa Prof Priscilla Dlamini, University of Swaziland, Swaziland Prof King Nalubamba, University of Zambia, Zambia</p>
	14:30-14:45	Networking and tea/coffee break in foyer/exhibition area
DAY 1		SESSION 3C: PANEL DISCUSSION 2 Venue: Exhibition Hall
3C	14:45-15:30	<p>DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILISATION IN SANBIO MEMBER STATES</p> <p><i>Facilitator and panellist:</i> Ms Mmampei Chaba, DST, South Africa</p> <p>Key Issue: SANBio Member states to present their domestic resource mobilisation models, session particularly aimed at SANBio/BioFISA II projects and SANBio to actively engage</p> <p><i>Panel from SANBio Member States: (5 countries, 4 minutes each)</i></p> <p>Dr Martin Kebakile, NFTRC, Botswana Dr Jonathan Mufandaedza, NBA, Zimbabwe Mr John Chongo, Ministry of Higher Education, Zambia Ms Tessa Belle, NISTI, Seychelles</p>

DAY 1: Tuesday 27 February 2018

DAY 1		SESSION 4: PARALLEL SESSION 2 Venue: Exhibition Hall	
4A	15:30-16:30	EXPERT PANEL 1: MANAGEMENT AND EXPLOITATION OF BIG DATA FOR THE FUTURE AND USING DATA FOR HEALTH INNOVATION <i>Facilitator:</i> Dr Gideon Nimako, Research and Statistics Cluster at NEPAD Key Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of having accurate and comprehensive data collection and management methods Examples of how data can be used to predict future needs for healthcare <i>Panellists:</i> Dr Tichaona Mangwende, Research and Statistics Cluster at NEPAD Prof Harri Siitari, University of Helsinki, Finland Dr Louise Bezuidenhout, Oxford University, United Kingdom Mr Gift Gana, DrCADX	
		Venue: Ruby Auditorium	
4B	15:30-16:30	EXPERT PANEL 2: FUTURE OF FOOD <i>Facilitator:</i> Dr Victor Konde, AEH Global/UNECA, Ethiopia Key Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of technology to disrupt food industry and food trends Alternative food sources Opportunities in the food sector <i>Panellists:</i> Dr Siya Ntutela, AfricaBio, South Africa Dr Bamidele Raheem, University of Lapland, Finland Ms Reetta Kivelä, Gold & Green Foods, Finland	
		16:30-17:30	OPTIONAL: Set up of one-on-one meetings (to be arranged directly between participants) – Exhibition area
DAY 1		NETWORKING EVENT Venue: Deck	
5A	17:30-19:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of the FemBioBiz Season 2 Signing of MoU with SANBio and Seeding Labs 	

DAY 2: Wednesday 28 February 2018

SESSION NO	TIME	SESSION NAME
	07:30-08:30	Registration

DAY 2	SESSION 6: PLENARY ADDRESS 2 Venue: Exhibition Hall	
6A	08:30-09:00	BioFISA II Programme Achievements and lessons learnt to date <i>Ms Zvi Tangawamira, BioFISA II Programme Unit</i>
	09:00-09:15	SAIS II Programme Challenge Fund: <i>Mr Ilari Lindy, SAIS II Programme Management Office, Namibia</i>
	09:15-10:00	Founder's story – It's Okay to Fail <i>Prof Michael Wallach, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia</i>
	10:00-10:30	Networking and tea/coffee break in foyer/exhibition area

DAY 2	SESSION 7: PARALLEL SESSION 4 Venue: Exhibition Hall	
7A	10:30-12:00	THE GROWTH ENGINE THAT TOOK ME FROM A FEW ZEROS TO MILLIONS IN A FEW YEARS <i>Facilitator: Mr Will Cardwell, Courage Ventures</i> Focus: Enterprises that went from idea to market in a short space of time <i>Presenters: Ms Reetta Kivelä, Gold & Green Foods NextBio Dr Imogen Wright, Hyrax Biosciences</i>
		Venue: Ruby Auditorium
7B	10:30-12:00	EXPLORING BUSINESS MODELS ON IKS & BIOINNOVATION <i>Facilitator: Prof Simeon Materechera, NWU, South Africa</i> Presentation: The Role of IKS in the Development and Growth of the Bioeconomy: What model has South Africa developed for integrating IKS into Bioeconomy development? DST Key issues: Role of government and academia, Regulatory Issues, Entrepreneurship, Funding mechanisms, Community Involvement in the Commercialisation <i>Panellists: Prof Sunita Facknath, University of Mauritius Prof Priscilla Dlamini, University of Swaziland Ms Nailoke Pauline Kadhila, University of Namibia Mr Tom Suchanandan, DST, South Africa</i>
		12:00-13:00

DAY 2: Wednesday 28 February 2018

DAY 2		SESSION 7C: PITCHING SESSION 2 Venue: Amber Room
7C	10:00-14:00	<p>PITCHING SESSION 2 – WINNOVATION</p> <p><i>Facilitator:</i> Mr Povilas Valiuga, Courage Ventures</p> <p>Entrepreneurs – Start ups and BioFISA Project pitching</p> <p><i>Evaluator Panel:</i> Ms Pauline Mujawamariya Koelbl, Africa Innovation Foundation Ms Bernice Robbertse, Hivos Food and Lifestyle Fund Mr Mikko Savolainen, Invesdor Mr Eric Pol, The HWWeb Ms Ntando Nodada, SAB Foundation Mr Jordin Borer, Lucid Ventures</p>
DAY 2		SESSION 8: PARALLEL SESSION 5 Venue: Exhibition Hall
8A	13:00-14:00	<p>FEMBIOBIZ</p> <p><i>Facilitator:</i> Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela, CSIR Biosciences, South Africa</p> <p><i>Presentation:</i> Prof Keolebogile Motaung, Global Health Biotech</p> <p>Tips on how early stage startups benefit from cooperation</p> <p>Key Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender equity (challenges of woman in scale-ups after research) • Initiatives and networks supporting women entrepreneurs in the SADC region • Support for young women to translate research to commercialisation <p><i>Panellists:</i> Ms Irene Ochem, AWVIEF, South Africa Mr Patrick Shatamuka, WECREATE, Zambia Mr Petrus Sebina, FNB Botswana</p>
Venue: Ruby Auditorium		
8B	13:00-14:00	<p>INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FUTURE INNOVATIONS</p> <p><i>Facilitator:</i> Dr Nina Dudnik, Seeding Labs, USA</p> <p>Key Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific infrastructure underpins creativity and innovation • Lack of the proper technology and infrastructure for science imposes limits on innovation • Pipeline of future innovators is narrowed to only those with access to technology at early stages in their training • Explore these and other aspects of the ties between infrastructure and innovation <p><i>Panellists:</i> Prof Thavendran Govender, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa Prof Enock Jonathan, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe Dr Louise Bezuidenhout, Oxford University, United Kingdom Prof Kenneth Matengu, University of Namibia</p>

DAY 2	14:00-14:45	CLOSING REMARKS AND WRAP UP Venue: Exhibition Hall Ms Zvi Tangawamira, BioFISA II Programme Manager
	14:45-15:00	Tea/Coffee in the foyer
DAY 2	15:00-17:00	SANBIO NODE COORDINATORS' MEETING (by invite only, closed meeting) Venue: Ruby Auditorium
	15:00 15:30	Departure of delegates for OR Tambo Airport Shuttles to hotels

DAY 3: Thursday 1 March 2018

MEETING Venue: Sedibeng Room, Knowledge Commons, Building 50, CSIR		
9A	09:00-16:00	NEPAD SANBIO STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SC Members only (closed meeting)

Speakers and panellists

ALANKO, Kari



Kari Alanko is currently the Ambassador of Finland to South Africa. He has had a long career with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He was previously Deputy Director-General of the Africa and Middle East Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and has served as Finland's Ambassador to Vietnam and Mozambique. South Africa is Mr Alanko's fifth posting on the African continent. He has long and in-depth experience on development issues. He also served as Vice-Chair of Finnfund (which is the Development Finance Institution owned by Government of Finland) from 2012 until 2016.

BAGLEY, Margo



Margo A. Bagley is an Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law at Emory University School of Law. She rejoined the Emory faculty in 2016 after ten years at the University of Virginia School of Law, where she was most recently the Hardy Cross Dillard Professor of Law. Professor Bagley served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee on University Management of Intellectual Property, and is a technical expert and advisor to the Government of Mozambique in World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) matters. A chemical engineer by training, Prof Bagley is also a co-inventor on a patent for reduced fat peanut butter.

BELLE, Tessa



Tessa Belle is the Senior Research Officer-R&D at the National Institute for Science, Technology and Innovation (NISTI) of Seychelles since May 2017. She graduated from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa in early 2017 with a Bachelor of Science (Bsc) degree in Geosciences majoring in Geology and Geography. She works in the R&D Section at NISTI, which entails that the co-ordination of activities related to scientific research and development is met at the national level and that there is fruitful collaboration with other research centres and facilities at regional and international level.

BEZUIDENHOUT, Louise (Dr)



Dr Louise Bezuidenhout joined the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society as a research fellow in February 2017. She currently works on the Changing Ecologies of Knowledge and Action (CEKA) project. Louise's research interests are broadly centred on data sharing issues within the life sciences. In particular, she is interested in how the data produced during scientific experimentation enters into circulation, and how it is valued by potential downstream users. Her work involves a strong empirical component, including a number of ethnographic studies in laboratories in the UK, USA, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa.

BORER, Jordin



Jordin Borer is the Chief Information Officer at Lucid Ventures and works directly with potential investee companies. Jordin has an accounting degree from Wits University. Lucid Ventures seeks investments in high potential qualifying companies with existing revenue which are driven by exceptional entrepreneurs. The selected industries include food, hospitality and healthcare with an initial equity investment of between R2M – R10M for a strategic active minority interest.

CARDWELL, William



William Cardwell is a partner in Courage Ventures, a seed funding and lean startup training company. He is also lecturer on entrepreneurship and venture capital topics at Aalto University Executive Education, and Aalto School of Science (the Aalto Ventures Program) in Finland. He serves as a mentor in several accelerators, including Startup Sauna and Vertical. Formerly, William was in charge of coordinating Aalto University's strategic university partnerships, as well as being involved in teams that work with corporate partnerships. In 2010 he cofounded and ran the Aalto Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE), Aalto University's tech transfer and spinout arm.

DLAMINI, Priscilla (Prof)



Prof Priscilla Dlamini holds a PhD in nursing and an M.Cur. from the University of Natal and a B.Ed. Degree obtained from the University of Botswana. She has served the University of Swaziland as Head of department as well as Dean of the Faculty of health Sciences in the past. Her specialities are in non-communicable diseases as well as traditional knowledge systems of care. She has conducted research and published in International and regional journals in areas of health and mainly on chronic illnesses and HIV and AIDS issues and on traditional medicinal ethno-surveys.

DUDNIK, Nina (Dr)



Dr Nina Dudnik is the Founder and CEO of Seeding Labs, working at the intersection of science and global development. She began the effort to build Seeding Labs as a graduate student in 2003. She was a finalist in the 2006 MIT \$100K Entrepreneurship Competition and was awarded an Echoing Green fellowship in 2007 to formally launch and expand Seeding Labs. Nina received a 2017 "Innovation All Star" award from the Boston Business Journal, a 2016 Passion in Science Humanitarian Duty Award from New England Biolabs, and in 2015, was named one of the world's 100 most influential people in biotechnology.

FACKNATH, Sunita



Sunita Facknath, BSc, MSc, PhD (UK), PhD (Mauritius) is a Professor in Sustainable Agriculture and the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Mauritius. She has expertise in the field of sustainable agriculture, indigenous knowledge systems, and climate change, and has also worked in the areas of aquaculture and sustainable forestry. She has earned two doctorates, one from the University of Middlesex in UK and one from the University of Mauritius. She is an active researcher, heading several research teams, and supervising student research.

GANNA, Gift



Gift Gana is the CEO and co-founder of Dr CADx, a medical technology startup that is developing a computer aided diagnostic system that helps doctors diagnose medical images more accurately and at a low cost. He also the founder of Avelgood Apps, whose apps have gotten more than 12 million downloads, and was a recipient of the Opera Top Apps Award 2013 in the Sport and Health category. As an Innovation Consultant, Gift has helped several European clients, including in med-tech, get millions of euros in funding from the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme.

GILBERT, Leona (Dr)



Dr Leona Gilbert is an Associate Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. She mentors various PhD, MSc and BSc students and is extremely active in lecturing undergraduate and graduate courses. Dr Gilbert's research initiatives into complete diagnostic platforms and clinical profiling of patients for tick-borne disease pathogens will allow a better understanding of how chronic conditions could be established with tick-borne pathogen infections. Her research surrounds multi-disciplinary, collaborative, and ambitious efforts to create real solutions to real problems. In addition, Leona Gilbert is a CEO of a university spinoff company Te?ted Oy where they are innovating the way tick-borne diseases are diagnosed. Leona Gilbert has a commitment to get the patient tested so they can be treated.

GOVENDER, Thavendran (Prof)



Prof Thavendran Govender graduated from the University of KwaZulu-Natal South Africa, in 2005 under the supervision of Hendrik G. Kruger and Glenn E. M. Maguire. He undertook postdoctoral studies at Uppsala University, in Sweden, with Prof. P. I. Arvidsson. In 2007, he began his academic career at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is currently a Research Professor in the College of Health Sciences and is the Director of the Catalysis and Peptide Research Unit. He has published about 250 papers and is currently starting up a spinoff company from his research.

JONATHAN, Enock (Ph.D)



Enock Jonathan Ph.D., received a B.Sc. degree in Physics and Computer Science at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ), and an M.Sc. degree in Instrumentation (OptoElectronics) and Analytical Science from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) in the United Kingdom and a Ph.D. degree in Bio-photonics from the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore, where he developed a high performance optical coherence tomography (OCT) microscope for bio-medical imaging also useful for industrial imaging applications. He is a tenured Professor and the Founder Dean of the new School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe.

KADHILA, Nailoke Pauline



Nailoke is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Namibia and the Head of Zero Emissions Research Initiatives (ZERI) Division at the Multidisciplinary Research Centre (MRC). She is currently the Coordinator of the NEPAD/SANBio Mushroom Node and a member of the SANBio Steering Committee. She is an academic with interests in Mycology, Microbiology, Molecular biology, Agronomy and horticulture. Her current research is on Namibian indigenous mushrooms, with emphasis on those of medicinal significance. The ZERI Division that she leads is responsible for trainings on mushroom cultivation.

KIVELÄ, Reetta



Reetta Kivelä (born 1977) is a Finnish PhD in Food Science and an innovator of the oat-based vegetable protein product, Pulled Oats. She is one of the founders of Gold & Green Foods company, which is the first company to become an importer and is a technology leader in product development, research and process development for new products. Kivelä was elected as the Young Research Entrepreneur of the Year in 2016, in 2016 as the Year's Candidate, in 2017 as CTO of the year and in 2018 as the Alumni of the University of Helsinki.

KONDE, Victor (Dr)



Victor Konde is a scientific affairs officer with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. He is the founder of the African Technology Development Forum and managing partner of the ATDF Hub in Zambia. He has over 25 years' experience in innovation and is currently engaged in the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship policies and strategies, intellectual asset management, technology transfer and innovative funding models.

LALL, Namrita (Prof)



Prof Namrita Lall is a Professor and a Research Chair of Medicinal Plant Science at the University of Pretoria. She holds a PhD in Phytomedicine from the University of Pretoria and a BSc in Biological Sciences. The unifying research interests of Prof Lall include antituberculosis natural product leads from medicinal plants, susceptibility studies of other bacteria to medicinal plants, cytotoxicity of plant extracts/compounds, anticancer activity of medicinal plants, and antityrosinase (skin pigmentation, skin lightening) activity of plants.

MATENGU, Kenneth (Prof)



Prof Kenneth Matengu, University of Namibia Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Development, holds a PhD in Human Geography (specialisation in Innovation, Technology and Development), Lic. Soc.Sc (Diffusion of Innovation), MSoc.Sc (Natural Resources and Tourism Development), Diploma in Environmental Law-Making and Diplomacy, from the University of Eastern Finland. A proud UNAM Alumnus, Prof Matengu also has a BA (Sociology and Geography) from UNAM.

MATERECHERA, Simeon (Prof)



Prof Simeon Materchera is the Director of the Indigenous Knowledge Systems Center at the Mafikeng campus of the North West University. He oversees the teaching and research activities of IKS at the University and is involved in supervision and mentoring of postgraduate students. His career has involved networking activities that led to setting up of collaborations with peers, organizations and institutions involved with research, teaching and learning, and, community engagement. Professor Materchera has published widely including book chapters, conference presentations, monographs, commissioned research reports and peer-reviewed journal articles. He serves on the editorial boards of a number of journals.

MOOLMAN, Sean



Sean Moolman is co-founder and CEO of PowerOptimal (Pty) Ltd, an energy management company. Previously he worked at CSIR for 15 years, as researcher (in polymers, biomaterials and drug delivery), research manager and Group Manager: Licensing & Ventures. He has a PhD in chemical engineering from University of Pretoria, completed the Management Advancement Programme at Wits Business School and is a Registered Technology Transfer Professional (RTTP). Sean is passionate about making a difference through entrepreneurship, innovation, science advocacy and inspiring people.

MOTAUNG, Keolebogile (Prof)



Prof Keolebogile Motaung is the founder of Global Health Biotech. She was selected as the winner of the 1st season of the FemBioBiz Acceleration Programme. Global Health Biotech manufactures products such as La-Africa soother (LAS) and Plant based morphogenetic factor implants (PBMF) which are natural products from medicinal plants. The product offers novel and alternative treatment opportunities for fracture healing, bone, cartilage regeneration and osteoarthritis.

MUFANDAEDZA, Jonathan (Dr)



Dr Jonathan Mufandaedza is the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer of the National Biotechnology Authority of Zimbabwe. He is the National Focal Point of the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) Mechanism of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Dr Mufandaedza is the current Chairperson of the NEPAD SANBIO Steering Committee. He holds a BSc in Applied Biotechnology (Hons), MSc (Biotechnology) degree, a PhD (NanoChemistry), Exec.MBA and a Postgraduate Diploma in Food and Nutrition Security. He has worked as a Chemist and Principal Researcher, as a Lecturer, and as a Dean of Science. Dr Mufandaedza had collaborated on several manuscripts and has over 30 publications.

MUJAWAMARIYA KOELBL, Pauline



Pauline Mujawamariya Koelbl is Managing Director of the African Innovation Foundation (AIF) responsible for the overall management of the Foundation. She is also Program Director of the Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA) and innovation ecosystems. Pauline joined AIF in July 2011 and she works towards catalyzing market-orientated solutions for African-led development across the continent, building innovation ecosystems that will invigorate economic growth across Africa.

MWATHA, Jackson



Jackson is a Corporate Finance professional with vast experience in the East African capital markets having executed a spectrum of assignments involving Capital Raising Advisory and Management Consulting (Financial Modeling, Market Research, Strategic Planning and Investment Advisory) in private and public sectors. At Villgro Kenya, he heads the financial advisory efforts that are aimed at assisting portfolio companies solidify their business models (investment theses) and become investment ready.

NAICKER, Isayvani (Dr)



Dr Isayvani Naicker is the Chief Director of International Resources in the National Department of Science and Technology in South Africa. Her career has developed from scientist/researcher across technical areas (geology and computer science to social sciences and the environment, information and communication technology for development, to innovation and sustainability) to senior international scientific resources manager and partner, scientific advisor and reviewer. Her project experiences focused on looking at bridging the gaps between science, research and policy working with senior government officials and Ministers, scientific partners, policy-makers/donors in the African region and internationally.

NODADA, Ntandokazi



Ntandokazi Nodada is focused on the 'science' of enterprise development, a scientist by training and postgraduate studies in enterprise, and is passionate about shaping, supporting and mentoring entrepreneurs. Ntandokazi has served in key positions with direct involvement in the growth of various start-ups in the private sector and agencies and is now responsible for the Social Innovation projects under the SAB Foundation which supports the SAB Innovation Awards and the Tholoana Enterprise Programme.

NTUTELA, Siyabulela (Dr)



Dr Siyabulela (Siya) Ntutela graduated with a PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Cape Town, focussing on drug discovery and medicinal chemistry. Siya is currently the CEO of AfricaBio. He also founded and manages the following companies: Zanalytix Laboratories, a contract analytical services company offering post-importation testing in pharmaceutical industry and Intini Research and Consulting, a biotech consulting firm. Prior to establishing Zanalytix, Siya served in a number of high profile positions, such as CEO of iThemba Pharmaceuticals, Senior GM – Operations at the TIA, COO of PlantBio Innovation Centre and Deputy Director at DST.

NYAN, Dougbah Christopher (Dr)



Dr. Dougbah Christopher Nyan is a medical doctor, a biomedical research scientist, an inventor, and a social activist. He has studied zoology and chemistry and earned a degree in human-medicine (infectious diseases) in Germany. He was later trained as a biomedical scientist at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the USA. Dougbah has developed a rapid test that can detect and simultaneously differentiate at least three to seven infections at the same time within 10 to 40 minutes. The product is being commercialised by his company, Shufflex Biomed.

OCHEM, Irene



Irene Ochem is the founder and CEO of the Africa Women Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum (AWIEF), a pan-African women's economic empowerment organisation and business network that promotes and supports female innovation, technology and entrepreneurship across Africa. She is an entrepreneur and an award-winning international development specialist with more than 25 years' international management experience in Europe and Africa Irene spent many years working for international organisations including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

PICHULIK, Maximilian



Max Pichulik is an experienced investment professional, driving sustainable market based solutions to developmental challenges. Co-founder of Africa's first social enterprise incubator alongside an innovation hub for small businesses, as well as Impact Amplifier, an investment, supply chain and sustainability advisory firm. He was also responsible for establishing the South African ANDE (Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs) Chapter.

POL, Eric



Eric Pol is a Managing Partner at The HWeb Fund, a Pan-African VC Fund. This newly created hands-on Fund invests in Seed and A-Round companies, earmarking further funds for subsequent rounds. It therefore ensures its portfolio companies have the potential to scale up. Eric brings to the fund 25 years of complex business-to-business leadership experience in consulting, executive and investment roles, especially within the Lifescience and Health ecosystems. He's also been instrumental in leading venture capitalists and private equity firms to great success, and setting-up a large BioPharma and MedTech Fund.

RAHEEM, Bamidele "Dele" (Dr)



Dr Bamidele "Dele" Raheem is a Senior Researcher at the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law (NIEM) / Arctic Centre, University of Lapland. Dele has a PhD from the University of Helsinki, Finland. He has published in peer reviewed international journals in the fields of food processing, food microbiology, food packaging and other related topics. He is a member of the Food Climate Research Network based at the University of Oxford. Dele's current research interest at NIEM is on cross-cutting issues related to human food security.

ROMANOWSKA, Ela



Ela Romanowska is the Director of Innovation of the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, located in its wholly owned subsidiary, Wits Enterprise, as well as Director for the Research and Consulting unit. Wits Enterprise is responsible for assisting the University as a commercial channel for establishing directed research relationships with industry, as well as tech transfer (identifying, protecting, and optimally commercialising its technologies). Ela holds a master's in Electronic Engineering, and is a Registered Technology Transfer Professional with the international Association of Technology Transfer Professionals.

SAVOLAINEN, Mikko



Mikko Savolainen is Head of Marketing at Invesdor, a leading digital investment bank providing digital fundraising and equity crowdfunding services in Northern Europe and investment services to investors in 70 countries. A digital marketing generalist with two master's degrees from Finnish universities.

SEBINA, Petrus



Petrus Sebina is SME expert with more than 12 years' experience in funding, training and Mentoring of SME. He is currently the Head of Business Banking at FNB Botswana, responsible for funding and support of Small and Medium Enterprises. He has had direct involvement with various SME capacity building programs, and currently works with youth empowerment initiatives and is passionate about women empowerment.

SEMETE-MAKOKOTLELA, Boitumelo (Dr)



Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela is the Executive Director of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Biosciences Unit. She started her career at the CSIR in 2005 as a post-doctoral researcher specialising in biochemistry and her research work focused primarily on nanotechnology drug delivery. Semete-Makokotlela then moved on to become a McKinsey Leadership Fellow (consulting in the pharmaceuticals sector) at McKinsey and Company, while also lecturing in immunology and nanotechnology at the University of Pretoria. In 2013, she was appointed General Manager for Research, Development and Innovation at the Innovation Hub.

SHATAMUKA, Patrick



Patrick Shatamuka currently holds the position of Programs and Operations Manager at WECREATE Zambia. Patrick has over the years designed various capacity building programs tailored to support program implementation, and developed training material and curricular for use by Trainers of Trainers (TOTs). Notable among these was his contribution in developing the TEVETA Entrepreneurship Curriculum for all TEVET colleges in Zambia. A Master Mentor and business Development Consultant, Patrick has consistently contributed to enhancing quality education and entrepreneurial skills with a passion to serve communities including women and youth in key sectors including Bioscience.

SIITARI, Harri (Prof)



Prof Harri Siitari is an Adjunct professor (Molecular diagnostics) at the University of Turku in Finland, as well as Head of Development of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Division of Pharmaceutical Biosciences at the University of Helsinki. Formerly he headed the establishment of a Medical Biotechnology Unit at the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and led VTT's Health Innovation Programme. Prior to VTT, Technology Manager Harri Siitari worked for 20 years in various positions at Wallac Oy, part of PerkinElmer.

SINGH, Kalnisha

Kalnisha Singh is a Development Economist and Strategic Management Specialist. She is currently an Executive: Impact Economics at LifeCo UnLtd. She has vast experience in developing and implementing transformation and sustainability strategies – having consulted for both the public and private sectors on a variety of topics, including Operation Optimisation; Transformation Strategy; Sustainability and ESG; Lean Efficiencies and Strategic Management. Kalnisha is passionate about finding ways to contribute to the South-African socioeconomic environment – with a particular interest in multiple-stakeholder value models; efficiency theory; sustainable transformation, strategic management and entrepreneurship.

SPREEUWENBERG, Jaap

Jaap Spreeuwenberg is the Managing Director of Hivos Impact Investments, which manages the Hivos Food & Lifestyle Fund. This fund invests in scalable impact-oriented companies that produce healthy food for local markets and strengthen natural ecosystems. He has been an entrepreneur for over 20 years and brought several social enterprises to scale. He has worked for Hivos from 2012 to 2016 where he was responsible for the relationship management with private sector companies, sales of carbon credits and the investment portfolio. He manages active investments in wellness, real estate and agricultural companies in the Netherlands, Thailand and Argentina.

TACHEBA, Budzanani (Dr)

Dr Budzanani Tacheba is the Director, Cluster Development at the Botswana Innovation Hub, where he oversees Innovation support programmes facilitating R&D, technology and innovation commercialization. His previously held positions include: Research Fellow at the University Of Botswana (ORI); Regional Coordinator for the Global Monitoring for Food Security consortium; and interim Coordinator in the Botswana Innovation Hub Project Office. He has more than 16 cumulative years' experience in academia (R&D), industry and government. He also serves in the Medical Education Partnership Initiative Advisory Board and Botswana Geosciences Board. Budzanani has a PhD in Environmental Science, MSc in Remote Sensing Certificate in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy.

VALIAUGA, Povilas



Povilas Valiauga is an entrepreneur, startup coach and advisor on entrepreneurship and innovation-related topics. He is a partner at Courage Ventures (Finland), which provides entrepreneurship training and development services to various public organizations, private companies and startups in Finland and internationally. Povilas has conducted over 70 workshops on ideation techniques, lean startup methodologies, service design and other topics. He has coached hundreds of teams and startups in Finland, the Baltics and Egypt. He has been actively contributing to the development of startup and entrepreneurship communities both in Finland and Lithuania for over eight years, and is a Global Facilitator for Techstars.

WALLACH, Michael (Prof)



Inaugural director of the SPARK Sydney, Professor Wallach is the Associate Head of School (Strategic Development), School of Life Sciences, at the University of Technology Sydney, and a Core Member of CBSI – Centre for Business and Social Innovation in Australia. He has over 25 years of experience in basic and applied molecular parasitology with a background in both academic and industrial science. Professor Wallach has published over 60 papers in his field and has been invited to present his work at many international conferences all over the world.

WRIGHT, Imogen (Dr)



Dr Imogen Wright is a Co-founder and CSO of Hyrax Biosciences. She is a software developer and bioinformatician who previously worked as a software development engineer in the Amazon EC2 compute team, and as a senior software developer and team lead for a successful London-based big data startup, Skimlinks. She subsequently completed a PhD in bioinformatics, during which she designed and implemented Hyrax Biosciences' novel, highly accurate mutation-calling algorithm.

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