



International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies 14th Biennial Meeting

on the Role of National Academies and
Universities in Promoting Human Rights
and Enhancing Equality

hosted by
The Academy of Science of South Africa
(ASSAf)

6-8 June 2023

The Menlyn Maine, Pretoria, South Africa

<https://www.internationalhrnetwork.org/14th-biennial-meeting>



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
of Academies & Scholarly Societies



Acknowledgement

On the occasion of its fourteenth biennial meeting, the members of the Executive Committee of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (IHRN) wish to thank Prof Himla Soodyall, the Executive Officer and the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) for graciously agreeing to host this event and for all of their efforts to ensure that it is a success. We would also like to express our appreciation to ASSAf's exceptional staff. The assistance that they have provided to the IHRN's secretariat in preparation for this event has been invaluable. The Executive Committee also acknowledges with gratitude the generous financial contributions to the meeting made by several academies and individuals participating in the IHRN.

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) was inaugurated in May 1996 by the former President of South Africa and patron of the Academy, Nelson Mandela.

It was formed in response to the need for an academy of science congruent with the dawn of democracy in South Africa – activist in its mission of using science for the benefit of society.

The mandate of the Academy encompasses all fields of scientific enquiry, and it includes the full diversity of South Africa's distinguished scientists. The Parliament of South Africa passed the Academy of Science of South Africa Act (Act 67 of 2001), as amended, which came into operation in May 2002.

ASSAf is the official national Academy of Science of South Africa and represents the country in the international community of science academies. Since its inception, ASSAf has grown from a small, emergent organisation to a well-established academy.

The benefits that the Academy aspires to bring to South Africa (and the wider world) are the sustainable provision of a professionally managed organisation that can mobilise the best intellect, expertise and experience.

ASSAf's strength resides in the quality and diversity of its Membership; internationally renowned scholars elected by peers, who give of their time voluntarily in the service of society. The Members are regarded as the 'brains trust' of the nation. ASSAf uses its members as a collective resource for evidence-based solutions to problems.

The strategic priorities of the Academy are closely matched to those of the nation.

The Academy is aligned to national policy as dictated in the White Paper on Science and Technology and the National Research and Development Strategy. It also seeks, through its studies and convening activities, to address the triple challenges of the reduction of poverty, unemployment and inequality, as enunciated in the National Development Plan (NDP).



PROGRAMME

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and the International Human Rights Network Academies and Scholarly Societies (IHRN), present an EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS PANEL on:

The Role of National Academies and Universities in Promoting Human Rights and Enhancing Equality

DAY 1: 6 JUNE 2023

12:00 - 14:00 REGISTRATION/FINGER LUNCH

EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS PANEL

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
14:00 - 16:00	(Role of National Academies and Universities in Promoting Human Rights and Enhancing Equality) Moderator: Prof Catherine Burns (University of Witwatersrand)	Lt Col Dr Esewu Mxolisi Mathebula (South African Association of PhDs)
		Mr Michael Martin (New Voices in Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, U.S. National Academies)
		Prof Mzukisi Njotini (University of Fort Hare, The South African Young Academy of Science)
		Prof Martha Bradley (University of Johannesburg, Future Professors Programme)
DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS		

PROGRAMME

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (IHRN), present

**DINNER with
Justice Narandra Jody Kollapen
Beyond a legal and judicial approach to advancing
rights - the role of the sciences.**

ACADEMIES WELCOME DINNER		
TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
18:00 - 18:10	Programme Director	Prof Himla Soodyall (Executive Officer, The Academy of Science of South Africa)
18:10 - 18:20	Welcome and ASSAf Introduction	Prof Jonathan Jansen (President, The Academy of Science of South Africa)
18:20 - 18:30	Overview and IHRN History and Aims	Prof Ida Nicolaisen (Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters)
18:30- 18:50	DINNER (STARTER)	
18:50 - 19:20	Keynote Speaker Introduction by Prof Himla Soodyall	Justice Narandra Jody Kollapen (Constitutional Court of South Africa)
19:20 – 21:30	DINNER (MAIN AND DESSERT)	

PROGRAMME

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (IHRN), present **PUBLIC SESSION** on the

Role of National Academies and Universities in Promoting Human Rights and Enhancing Equality.

DAY 2: 7 JUNE 2023

8:00 - 9:00 REGISTRATION

PUBLIC SESSION (LIVESTREAM)

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
9:00 – 9:05	Welcome/Opening remarks	Prof Himla Soodyall (Executive Officer, The Academy of Science of South Africa)
9:05 – 9:10	Remarks on the IHRN	Prof Martin Chalfie (U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, USA)
9:10 - 9:40	Keynote Speaker Introduction by Prof Himla Soodyall	Prof André Keet (Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Engagement and Transformation, Nelson Mandela University)

PANEL SESSIONS

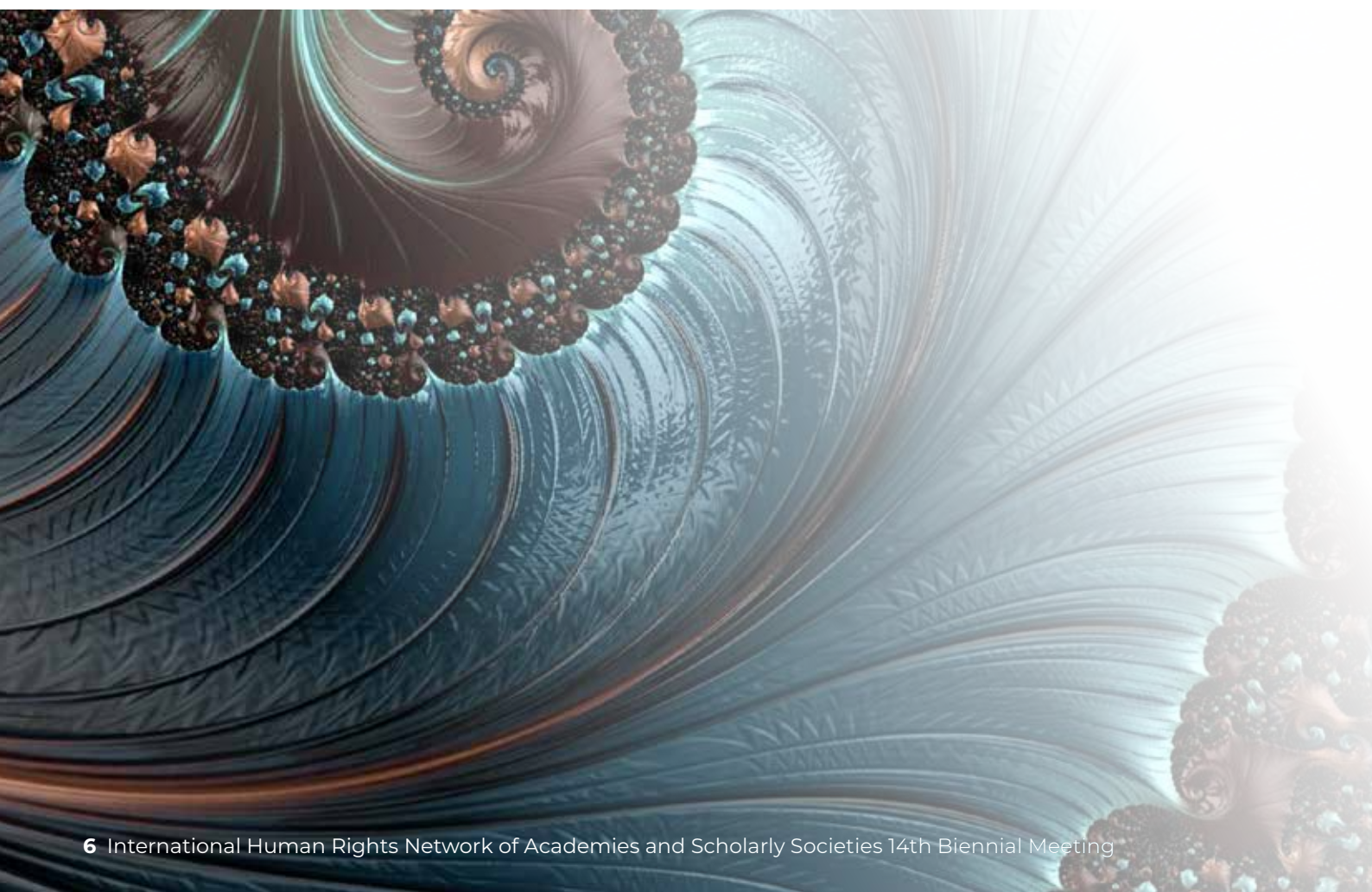
TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
9:40 - 11:00	Panel 1: Equity in Global Collaborations Moderator: Prof Edward Kirumira	Prof Edward Kirumira (Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study) National Academy of Science (UNAS)
		Dr Retha Visagie (University of South Africa)
		Prof Ike Iyioke (Michigan State University)
DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS		

11:00 - 11:30	TEA/ COFFEE	
11:30 - 12:50	Panel 2: Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence	Prof Julia Tagüeña (University of Mexico)
	Moderator: Prof Refilwe Nancy Phaswana-Mafuya (Epidemiologist, Director of South African Medical Research Council/UJ Pan African Centre for Epidemics Research (PACER) Extramural Unit and Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health)	Prof Vasu Reddy (University of the Free State)
		Prof Kanako Takayama (Science Council of Japan)
		Ms Veni Naidoo (Sci-Bono)
DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS		
12:50 - 13:50	LUNCH (1 HOUR)	
13:50 - 15:10	Panel 3: Addressing Stigma and Discrimination	Prof Martina Caroni (Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences)
	Moderator: Prof Rasigan Maharajh (Chief Director of the Institute for Economic Research on Innovation at Tshwane University of Technology)	Prof Jonathan Jansen (President, The Academy of Science of South Africa)
		Mr Ivan Vaalbooi (Elsie Vaalbooi Foundation)
DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS		
15:10 - 16:20	Panel 4: Safeguarding Academic Freedom	Prof Stephanie Burton (Co Vice-President, The Academy of Science of South Africa)
	Moderator: Prof Peter Vale (Research Professor of Humanities, University of Johannesburg and Director, Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study)	Mr Luke Clarke (Senior Policy Adviser, The Royal Society)
		Ms Milica Momcilovic (World Federation of Science Journalists) (WFSJ)
DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS		
16:20 - 17:30	Panel 5: Advancing Social Justice through Promotion of Access to Health Care	Prof Leslie London (University of Cape Town)
	Moderator: Prof Sabiha Essack (Co Vice-President, The Academy of Science of South Africa)	Prof Mosa Moshabela (University of KwaZulu Natal)
		Dr Shaza Elmahdi (Sudan Country Director, Centre for International Private Enterprise)
17:45 - 19:00	NETWORKING (CHEESE AND WINE)	

DAY 3: 8 JUNE 2023

CLOSED SESSION

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
8:30 - 8:40	Welcome and Workshop Overview	
8:40 - 10:45	Overview of Network Activities (with discussion) Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for at-risk colleagues, medical impartiality, and academic freedom • Assistance for displaced and refugee scientists • Awareness raising on the connections between human rights and science, engineering, and medicine 	
9:10 - 9:40	Keynote Speaker Introduction by Prof Himla Soodyall	Prof André Keet (Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Engagement and Transformation, Nelson Mandela University)
10:45 - 11:00	TEA/ COFFEE/ REFRESHMENTS	
11:00 - 12:15	WORKING GROUP BREAKOUTS	
12:15 - 13:30	Working group presentations and consideration of possible IHRN actions, goals and next steps	Representatives of the Academies
13:30 - 14:30	LUNCH	





Speaker Biographies

EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS PANEL



Moderator: Prof Catherine Burns

(Associate Professor of Medical History, University of Witwatersrand)

Catherine Burns is a medical and health historian educated in South Africa and the USA. She is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Wits University. She inaugurated the first medical humanities interdisciplinary programme in the Southern African region and has taught undergraduates and supervised many graduate students in humanities and health sciences faculties. Her interests include: human rights and health; health in the history of African societies; missionary, colonial and biomedical health systems; the history of clinician-led research; reproduction and sex (midwifery, obstetrics, contraception, children's hospitals, the history of sexuality and gender roles); epidemics in Southern African history; nursing and medical education; health systems development; and ethics, race and power in African health settings. She is currently a Commissioner for the UN-O'Neill-Lancet Commission on Racism, Structural Discrimination and Global Health, under the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to health, Dr T Mofokeng.

PANEL MEMBERS



Lt Col Dr Esewu Mxolisi Mathebula

(South African Association of PhDs)

Dr Esewu Mxolisi Mathebula joined the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in 1996 and continued to study while serving in the South African Corp of Military Police. He has the following qualifications: A National Diploma in Policing from Technikon South Africa (2003), Bachelor of Technology Degree in Policing from the University of South Africa (2010), Masters of Technology in Policing from the University of South Africa (2014), and a Doctor of Literature and Philosophy in Police Science from the University of South Africa (2019). He also obtained an Executive Development Programme Certificate in 2022 from the Wits Business School. He served under the United Nations Peace-keeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2004 – 2005, 2005 – 2006. He was also part of Mission Thebe in the DRC in 2011 where they provided training to the DRC Army. Dr Mathebula is working part time at the University of South Africa and Tshwane University of Technology (Soshanguve Campus) as an examiner for Masters Students.



Dr Michael Martin

(New Voices in Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, U.S. National Academies)

Michael James Martin is a member of the second cohort of the New Voices program of the US National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. The New Voices program engages diverse groups of outstanding early-career leaders in science, engineering, and medicine to provide new perspectives on issues and communication modes for the National Academies, and to help identify and try out activities designed to expand the diversity of expertise that is engaged in the convening and advisory functions of the National Academies. In this role, Dr Martin works with the Committee on Human Rights to bring the perspectives of early to mid-career scientists to the committee, and to create strategies for educating the scientific community on the relationship between science and human rights. Dr Martin is an aerospace engineer by training who has held research positions in multiple federal laboratories and academic institutions, as well as policy positions in the Department of Energy and US Senate.



Prof Mzukisi Njotini

(Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Fort Hare, The South African Young Academy of Science)

Prof Njotini is Dean of Law based at the Alice Campus. Prof Njotini developed several courses and programmes, the most notable being the Research Methodology in Law and Criminal Justice (UNISA) and the Programme in Law and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) (UJ). Prior to joining the University, he worked as the Vice Dean: Teaching and Learning and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Johannesburg (UJ). As Vice Dean, he devised and introduced teaching and learning frameworks that support “education for sustainable development”. He also worked as the Professor and Director of the School of Law at the University of Limpopo (UL), Senior Lecturer and Lecturer in the College of Law at the University of South Africa. Prof Njotini did his post-doctoral research with the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Faculty of Law, Oxford University in the United Kingdom.



Prof Martha Bradley

(Associate Professor in the Department of Public Law, University of Johannesburg, Future Professors Programme)

Martha M Bradley is Associate Professor in the Department of Public Law, Faculty of Law, University of Johannesburg where she is the co-ordinator for the LLM International Law. Prof Bradley specialises in Public International Law and International Humanitarian Law. Professor Bradley is a Y1 National Research Foundation rated Scholar. Martha Bradley holds an LLB degree, and LLM in International Air, Space and Telecommunications Law in 2014, an LLM in Shipping Law, and the LL.D degree in Public International Law. Martha has completed five certificate courses at the International Institute for Humanitarian Law in San Remo. Professor Bradley recently was selected by the Minister of Higher Education of South Africa to participate in the DHET Future Professors Program Cohort 1 Phase 2. After completing her doctorate, she joined the Faculty of Law at the University of Johannesburg where she was appointed as a post-doctoral researcher to the South African Research Chair for International Law. She was also employed as a researcher at the Palacký University in Olomouc, Faculty of Law, Department of International and European Law, the Czech Republic. Prof Bradley was appointed as a lecturer in July 2019 at the University of Pretoria where she was later promoted to Associate Professor a position she held prior to joining the University of Johannesburg.

WELCOME DINNER



Prof Himla Soodyall

(Executive Officer, The Academy of Science of South Africa)

Prof Himla Soodyall is the Executive Officer of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). She was a Research Professor in Human Genetics at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) and was Principal Medical Scientist at the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) previously. Soodyall has done ground-breaking genetic research into the peoples of sub-Saharan Africa in which her studies have identified some of the oldest DNA found in living people today, adding weight to the theory that modern humans evolved in the area now known as southern Africa.

Prof Himla Soodyall, is also an international member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). She is a renowned geneticist, science communicator and advocate for respect and equality in all things.



Prof Jonathan Jansen

(President, The Academy of Science of South Africa)

Prof Jonathan Jansen is Distinguished Professor of Education at the University of Stellenbosch and President of the Academy of Science of South Africa. He started his career as a Biology teacher in the Cape and holds a PhD from Stanford as well as honorary doctorates from Edinburgh, Vermont, Cleveland State and the University of Cape Town. He is the author of the award-winning book, *Knowledge in the Blood* (Stanford University Press) and his recent books include *The decolonization of knowledge* (Cambridge University Press, with Cyril Walters) and *Corrupted: A study of chronic dysfunction in South African universities* (Wits University Press). He was recently elected to membership of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and holds an A1 rating from the National Research Foundation.



Prof Ida Nicolaisen

(Professor Emeritus of Cultural Sociology, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Copenhagen University)

Prof. Ida Nicolaisen is the former vice chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and editor-in-chief of the Carlsberg Foundation Nomad Research Project which is publishing a series of 16 scholarly books on Pastoral Peoples in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. She has been associate professor of cultural sociology and anthropology at Copenhagen University and is currently a senior research fellow at the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies. Prof. Nicolaisen has carried out extensive research among indigenous peoples in West Africa and central Borneo. She is a member of the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and The Royal Danish Academy of Science and Letters. She has received several awards and the Order of Dannebrog.



Justice Narandra Jody Kollapen

(Justice, Constitutional Court of South Africa)

Jody Kollapen is an acting Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa from July 2017 and has served as a Judge of the High Court of South Africa, Gauteng Division, Pretoria, since 2011. He is also the Chairperson of the South African Law Reform Commission. Prior to his appointment as a Judge, Justice Kollapen served as the head of the South African Human Rights Commission. Justice Kollapen previously practised as an attorney and joined the organisation, Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) where he coordinated the "Release Political Prisoners" programme, which championed for the rights of political prisoners. In 1995, he was appointed National Director. While working as an attorney he worked on important cases such as Sharpeville Six and the Delmas Treason Trial. He was also a member of the selection panel that chose the Commissioners for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. As a High Court Judge, some of Justice Kollapen's celebrated judgments include *Hennie and Others v Minister of Correctional Services and Others* in which he granted an urgent interdict allowing prisoners to use laptops in their cells for study purposes. Justice Kollapen also presided in the Limpopo textbooks case in which he reprimanded the National Education Department and its Limpopo counterpart for its failure to deliver textbooks to schools in the province and handed down a structural order outlining deadlines for textbook deliveries. Justice Kollapen has previously served as a lecturer at the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria. Moreover, he has served on the board of many civil society organisations, including the Legal Resources Centre, the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, IDASA, and the London based Article 19.

PUBLIC SESSION



Prof Martin Chalfie

(University Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia University)

Dr. Martin Chalfie is University Professor and former Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at Columbia University. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. National Academy of Medicine, where he chairs the Committee on Human Rights. He obtained both his AB and PhD from Harvard University. Dr. Chalfie is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Royal Society of Chemistry (Hon.). He has received numerous awards for his work, such as the 2006 Lewis S. Rosenstiel Award for Distinguished Work in Basic Medical Science from Brandeis University and the 2008 E. B. Wilson Medal from the American Society for Cell Biology, both of which he shared with Roger Tsien. In 2008, he shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his introduction of Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) as a biological marker with Osamu Shimomura and Roger Tsien. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies.



Prof André Keet

(Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Engagement and Transformation, Nelson Mandela University)

André is a teacher from Kylemore, Stellenbosch. His post-1994 work in South Africa focused on the national imperative of deepening democracy and the promotion and protection of human rights. He started his work at the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) in 1996 and later became its Deputy Chief Executive Officer. He was also appointed to the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), a sister institution of the SAHRC. André shifted into the higher education sector towards the end of 2008 as the Director of the Transdisciplinary Programme at the University of Fort Hare (UFH). His first professorial appointment was as an Adjunct-Professor at the University of Pretoria (UP) in 2009. He also joined the professoriate at the UFH and the University of the Free State (UFS), appointed in 2010 and 2011 respectively. André directed the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice at the UFS from 2011-2017 and also served as advisor to the university executive, and as Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and External Relations) at the same university.

PANEL 1: EQUITY IN GLOBAL COLLABORATIONS

MODERATOR: PROF EDWARD KIRUMIRA

PANEL MEMBERS



Prof Edward Kirumira

(Professor of Medical Sociology and Director, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study)

Prof Kirumira is a Professor of Medical Sociology and Director of the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) Stellenbosch, South Africa. He is a Fellow of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS). His work focuses on HIV/AIDS, population and reproductive health, emergent diseases, and global health. He has extensive in-country experience in program development, management, and impact evaluation of several African countries. He has taken up technical advisory roles for organisations including UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, NORAD, and DANIDA. He studied at Makerere University (Uganda), University of Exeter, and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), Copenhagen University (Denmark), and Harvard University (USA). Before joining STIAS as Director, Dr. Kirumira was Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Makerere University in Uganda and national Chair of the Central Coordination Mechanism for the Global Fund for HIV&AIDS, Malaria, and TB.



Dr Retha Visagie

(Research Integrity Manager, University of South Africa)

Dr Retha Visagie is heading the Unisa Research Integrity Office. She performs several global leadership roles as an internationally certified Senior Professional Research Manager. She is a Non-Executive Director and the EthiXPERT Board of Directors Chairperson. She is a founding member and the co-chair of the Executive Committee of the SARIMA Northern Regions Community of Practice for Research Ethics and Integrity. She co-authored the recently developed Cape Town Statement on Fostering Research Integrity through Fairness and Equity. Retha also contributed to formulating the SARIMA/SANBIO Southern African Development Community guidelines for research ethics and integrity in 2021. She is a Globethics.Net Global Pool of Ethics Experts member and received the 2018 DST/SARIMA Award for Professional Excellence in Research Management. Her peers acknowledge Retha as a research ethics and integrity governance thought leader. She has spent the past nine years designing research support strategies, developing policies, and implementing research integrity support systems. She has co-authored several international scholarly articles and book chapters on social science research ethics. She is a co-editor of a Springer book on research ethics in Africa. Since 2016, she has trained over 3000 academics, research administrators, and members of research ethics committees. Her research niche has recently broadened to include the indigenisation of research governance. She continues to supervise doctoral candidates.



Prof Ike Iyioke

(Michigan State University)

Prof Ike V. Iyioke has extensive teaching, research, and administrative experience in the U.S. and parts of Africa that spans almost two decades. His multidisciplinary backgrounds include a BPhil in Philosophy from Pontifical University, Rome; a teaching certificate from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN); a Master of Science in International Relations from UNN; a Master of Art in Environmental Science Journalism from Michigan State University (MSU); and a PhD in bioethics from MSU. He likes to explore questions pertaining to moral philosophy, particularly bioethics. His research interests include issues about research subject/participant selection; biomedical research partnerships between Africa & the West; environmental science and public policy; environmental justice/racism; eugenics; science of life extension; and morality in primitive cultures. Iyioke has authored several publications including a 2023 book, Rethinking clinical trials and redefining responsibility for research participants: A focus on Africa (Ethics International Press Ltd., UK).

PANEL 2: GENDER EQUALITY AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Moderator: Prof Refilwe Nancy Phaswana-Mafuya

(Epidemiologist, Director of South African Medical Research Council/UJ Pan African Centre for Epidemics Research (PACER) Extramural Unit and Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health)

Prof Refilwe Nancy Phaswana-Mafuya (PhD, PGD (Epi), MSc (Epi), is an Epidemiologist and Public health scientist; she studied at the University of Limpopo and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She is the Director of the first and newly established South African Medical Research Council/University of Johannesburg Pan African Centre for Epidemics Research (PACER) Extramural Unit and a Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Johannesburg. She is also a MSc Reproductive Biology and Reproductive Health MSc Lecturer (Epidemiology) at the Pan African University of Life and Earth Sciences Institute, African Union. Further, she serves as a mentor for the DHET Future Professors Programme, Phase II. Prof Phaswana-Mafuya was coronated as the Queen Mother of Research and Development by the Abeadze Traditional Council of the Abeadze State, Ghana in August 2022.

PANEL MEMBERS



Prof Julia Tagüeña

(Physicist and Senior researcher, Institute of Renewable Energies, *National Autonomous University of Mexico*)

Dra. Julia Tagüeña is a physicist and a senior researcher at the *Instituto de Energías Renovables (IER)* (Institute of Renewable Energies) of the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)*. For 50 years, she has been a research professor teaching, advising, and directing students at the Bachelor and Graduate Level. Her research topics are solid state physics, renewable energies, and sustainable development, while working extensively on science communication. She is a member of the *Sistema Nacional de Investigadores, Level 3* (Mexico's National Research System with the highest rank). From 2011 to March 2012, she served as Director of the Energy Research Center on its road to becoming an Institute. Later, from 2012 to 2018, she was the Deputy Director for Scientific Development at the *Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT)* (Mexican National Council of Science and Technology). During 2019 she worked *ad-honorem* as coordinator of the *Foro Consultivo Científico y Tecnológico*. Throughout her career she has received different prizes, the most recent one being "The Public Understanding and Popularization of Science Award 2021, TWAS-LACREP". Furthermore, she is a member of different societies such as the Mexican Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Physics of the United Kingdom and the International Network of Public Communication of Science and Technology. She was also a founder member of the Morelos Academy of Science, established in the Mexican state of her institutional affiliation.



Prof Vasu Reddy

(Vice-Rector: Research and Internationalisation, University of the Free State)

Prof Vasu Reddy is Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, postgraduate studies and internationalisation at the University of the Free State, South Africa. Prior to his appointment he was Professor of Sociology and Dean of Humanities, University of Pretoria. His research interests are genders, sexualities, poverty/inequalities, HIV/AIDS, as well as critical food studies. He is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), and a NRF B1 rated scholar. Beyond articles in these areas, some book-length publications are: *Care in Context: Transnational Gender Perspectives* (with Stephan Meyer, Tamara Shefer and Thenjiwe Mewiya, 2014, HSRC); *Queer in Africa: LGBTQI Identities, Citizenship and Activism* (with Zethu Matebeni & Surya Monro, 2018; Routledge); *Queer Kinship: South African perspectives on the sexual politics of family-making and belonging* (with Tracy Morison and Ingrid Lynch, UNISA Press & Routledge, 2018); *State of the Nation: Poverty and Inequalities – Diagnosis, Prognosis, Responses* (with Crain Soudien & Ingrid Woolard, HSRC Press, 2019); *The Fabric of Dissent: Public Intellectuals in South Africa* (lead editor with Narnia Bohler-Muller, Greg Houston, Maxi Schoeman & Heather Thuynsma, HSRC Press, 2020); *State of the Nation: Ethics, Politics, Inequalities: New Directions* (with Narnia Bohler-Muller & Crain Soudien, HSRC Press, 2021), *University on the Border: Crisis of Authority and precarity* (with Liz Lange & Siseko Kumalo, 2021, SUN Press) and *The Texture of Dissent: Defiant Public Intellectuals in South Africa* (with Narnia Bohler-Muller, Gregory Houston, Maxi Schoeman and Heather Thuynsma, HSRC Press, 2022).



Prof Kanako Takayama

(Legal and Political Studies Professor, Graduate School of Law, Kyoto University)
Born in 1968 in Tokyo, Kanako Takayama studied law at the University of Tokyo and then worked at Seijo University in Tokyo as lecturer. From 1998 to 2000, she was a visiting scholar at the University of Cologne. She serves as one of vice secretary generals of the International Association of Penal Law from 2004 and on. Since 2005, she has been full professor at the Graduate School of Law at Kyoto University. In 2006, she was awarded by the Federal Cross of Merit on Ribbon of Germany and joined in the Science Council of Japan as associate member. In 2017, she became an ordinary member there and also a secretary of its committee of law. Her research fields are criminal law and criminology. Since 2009, she has been an executive member of the Criminal Law Society of Japan, and at the same time an advisory member of the Ministry of Justice for edition of White Book on Crime. As an expert for due process of law and sanctions, she represented the Science Council of Japan at the last meeting in Seoul, Korea in 2018.



Ms Veni Naidoo

(Events Manager, Sci-Bono Discovery Centre)

Ms Veni Naidoo, devoted mother, a loving partner, and a driven professional, Veni has navigated life's challenges with an indomitable spirit, inspiring all who have had the privilege of crossing paths with her. Born into a modest family, Veni learned the value of hard work and perseverance from an early age. As she grew older, her ambition and passion for knowledge led her to pursue higher education, where she excelled academically. Upon completing her studies, Veni embarked on her professional journey, determined to make a positive impact in the world. She carved her path in the corporate world, proving her capabilities through her exceptional work ethic, intelligence, and natural leadership skills. Veni's relentless pursuit of excellence saw her rise through the ranks, securing a well-respected position in her field. Veni's story is a testament to the power of resilience, love, and determination. She embodies the qualities of a strong woman who has overcome adversity, risen above the challenges that life has thrown her way, and emerged as a true force to be reckoned with. Her unwavering spirit and ability to thrive despite tragedy serve as an inspiration to all, proving that with resilience and unwavering determination, one can conquer even the most difficult of circumstances.

PANEL 3: ADDRESSING STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION



Moderator: Prof Rasigan Maharajh, Chief Director of the Institute for Economic Research on Innovation at Tshwane University of Technology

Prof Rasigan Maharajh is the founding Chief Director of the Institute for Economic Research on Innovation at Tshwane University of Technology; an Associate Research Fellow of the Tellus Institute in Boston; and the Chairperson of the Southern Africa Node of the Millennium Project. He held elected leadership positions in the struggle against the apartheid regime. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy from the School of Economics and Management, Lund University, Sweden; and is also an alumnus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal (RSA) and the Harvard Business School (USA). He is Ministerial Representative to the Council of Rhodes University, an elected Senator of Tshwane University of Technology, and an elected Member of the Academy of Sciences of South Africa.

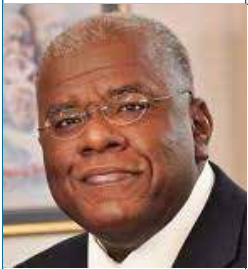
PANEL MEMBERS



Prof Martina Caroni

(Vice Rector for Teaching and International Relations, University of Lucerne)

Martina Caroni, born 1969 in Berne, Switzerland, is tenured Professor of International, Constitutional and Comparative law at the University of Lucerne. After attending schools in Berne, Switzerland and Florence, Italy, Martina Caroni studied law at the University of Berne, Switzerland and Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut. During her studies at the University of Berne, Martina Caroni worked as a research assistant at the Institute for Criminal Law and Criminology. Upon graduating from the University of Berne, Martina Caroni worked first as a research associate then as senior research associate at the Institute for Public Law at the University of Berne. In addition, she also clerked for six months as a lawyer at the Secretariat of the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. In 1998 Martina Caroni completed her doctoral dissertation on the protection of private and family life in immigration matters. The doctoral dissertation was awarded the Walther Hug prize for one of the best doctoral dissertations in 1999. While at Yale Law School, Martina Caroni was awarded in 2001 the Master of Laws (LL.M.) and began her research on her habilitation (post-doctoral thesis) on campaign financing in Switzerland. Since April 2002 Martina Caroni has taught and undertaken research at the University of Lucerne, first as Assistant Professor and subsequently since 2006 as full Professor for International, Constitutional and Comparative Law. Since 1st March 2017 Martina Caroni is Vice-Rector for Teaching and International Relations at University of Lucerne and since April 2023 president of the National Commission for Prevention of Torture (NKVF).



Prof Jonathan Jansen

(President, The Academy of Science of South Africa)

Prof Jonathan Jansen is Distinguished Professor of Education at the University of Stellenbosch and President of the Academy of Science of South Africa. He started his career as a Biology teacher in the Cape and holds a PhD from Stanford as well as honorary doctorates from Edinburgh, Vermont, Cleveland State and the University of Cape Town. He is the author of the award-winning book, *Knowledge in the Blood* (Stanford University Press) and his recent books include *The decolonization of knowledge* (Cambridge University Press, with Cyril Walters) and *Corrupted: A study of chronic dysfunction in South African universities* (Wits University Press). He was recently elected to membership of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and holds an A1 rating from the National Research Foundation.



Mr Ivan Vaalbooi

(Elsie Vaalbooi Foundation)

Ivan Vaalbooi is originally from the San groups in the Southern Kalahari, South Africa. He holds qualifications in Public Management as well as various qualifications in Conservation and tourism. Due to his keen interest in Indigenous people's issues and their rights associated with it, he started working with several organisations that support Indigenous and Marginalised communities. Ivan was part of the Natural Justice team who supported the Khoi and San communities during the process that led to them entering the Industry wide Access and Benefit sharing agreement with the Rooibos Industry. He co-founded the Elsie Vaalbooi Development Organisation and is currently working as the Executive Director of the Organisation, where they are supporting the Traditional Leaders, women and youth in the Southern Kalahari.

PANEL 4: SAFEGUARDING ACADEMIC FREEDOM



Moderator: Prof Peter Vale

Prof Peter Vale is Research Professor of Humanities at the University of Johannesburg, and Director of the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS). He previously worked as Director of Research at the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA); Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) at Rhodes University, where he was also Nelson Mandela Professor of Politics; he was also Co-Director (with Rob Davies) of the Centre for Southern African Studies at the University of the Western Cape; and, later, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs at the same university. He has served as UNESCO Professor of African Studies at Utrecht University, Professor of Politics at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, and Visiting Professor at the University of Bergen, Norway. He is an elected member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa, a member of the Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, and a Fellow of the World Academy for Arts and Science. He was recently elected as a member of the African Academy of Science.

PANEL MEMBERS



Prof Stephanie Burton

(Co Vice-President, The Academy of Science of South Africa)

Prof Stephanie Burton is Professor in Biochemistry, in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Pretoria (UP). She is the former Vice-Principal for Research and Postgraduate Education at UP (2011 to 2020).

Prof Burton is the President and a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa (RSSA), Vice-President of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), a Research Fellow for Universities South Africa (USAf), a member of the Governing Council of Future Earth and Co-Chair on the Board of the International Academy Partnership (IAP). She holds an MSc in Organic Chemistry (1990) and a PhD in Biochemistry (1994) from Rhodes University. Her academic career started in Biochemistry and Biotechnology at Rhodes University, and subsequently in Chemical Engineering at the University of Cape Town. She served as Director of Postgraduate Studies, and Director of the Biocatalysis and Technical Biology Group, at Cape Peninsula University of Technology before her appointment to the UP Executive. Her research interests are in sustainability, and applied biochemistry, and she has published widely and supervised numerous postgraduate students.

Prof Burton is recognised for her leadership and expertise in research strategy, research management, and performance, capacity building, postgraduate training, innovation, open science and science communication initiatives, and internationalisation. She serves on several national and international bodies for research and doctoral training. She is currently coordinating national projects on mentoring and capacity development for early career academics, as Chairperson of the USAf Community of Practice in Postgraduate Education and Scholarship, and Research Lead for the USAf Advancing Early Career Researchers and Scholars Programme.



Mr Luke Clark

(The Royal Society, Head of International Affairs – Americas, International Organisations and Africa)

Luke currently leads the Society's international relations and activities with the Americas, international organisations and Africa. In that capacity and in previous roles, he has led a wide range of international projects including overseeing a major programme of activity with US partners, engaging Russia in science diplomacy, developing a network of the science academies of the Commonwealth, and completing a study of science in the Islamic World. Luke was born in Papua New Guinea and grew up in Sudan and Somalia before moving to the UK. His professional, study and travel experiences span more than 60 countries. He has a degree in politics and a keen interest in history, science and international relations.



Ms Milica Momcilovic (President, World Federation of Science Journalists)

Milica Momcilovic is the President of World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ), a multinational charity dedicated to advancing science journalism and communication through a wide variety of activities with universities, governments, and NGOs, to promote standards and the role of science journalists as key players in civil society and democracy.

Ms. Momcilovic holds the position of Editor in the Science Program at the Radio/Television of Serbia (RTS) and writes for the popular science magazine ELEMENTI. Through her special coverage of international science events and interviews, Milica has obtained a rich experience and strong knowledge of scientific issues and challenges internationally.

PANEL 5: ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Moderator: Prof Sabiha Essack

(Deputy President and General Secretary, The Academy of Science of South Africa)



Prof Sabiha Essack is the South African Research Chair in Antibiotic Resistance and One Health and Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). She established the Antimicrobial Research Unit at UKZN and secured a number of research grants from national and international funders to investigate strategies for the prevention and containment of antibiotic resistance. Prof Essack is the Deputy President and General Secretary of ASSAf, Vice Chair of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Antimicrobial Resistance (STAG-AMR), Senior Implementation Research Advisor at the International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS) in Denmark and member of the International Pharmacy Federation (FIP) AMR Commission at The Hague in The Netherlands. She is a peer-reviewed member of the Southern Africa FAIMER Regional Institute and co-founder of the South African Committee of Health Sciences Deans. Prof Essack's current research interests include the molecular epidemiology, pathogenomics and metagenomics of antibiotic resistance using next genome sequencing and bioinformatics, and health systems strengthening to optimise the management of infections in the context of antibiotic resistance and stewardship.

PANEL MEMBERS



Prof Leslie London

(Chair of Public Health Medicine in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town)

Prof Leslie London is a Professor in Public Health in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine University at the Cape Town, South Africa. He is Head of the Division of Public Health Medicine and leads the Health and Human Rights programme in the School as well as leading a research field in the Centre for Environmental and Occupational Health Research. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles and books or book chapters, and supervised to completion over 50 Masters and PhD students. He a Steering Committee member of the Network on Equity in Health in Southern Africa (EQUINET), jointly leading its work on human rights, and he currently coordinates the Learning Network for Health and Human Rights, a collaboration between civil society organisations and four universities on developing best practice for realising the right to health. He has been a member of the Peoples Health Movement South Africa since inception and is active in human rights teaching, research and advocacy, both nationally and internationally. He is active in the Governance and Conflict of Interest in Public Health Network (GECI-PH), with a particular interest in research to limit alcohol industry influence over alcohol harm-reduction policies for population health.



Prof Mosa Moshabela

(Associate Professor and Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation (Acting), University of KwaZulu Natal)

Prof Mosa Moshabela (MBChB, MMed, MSc, PhD) is a Professor of Public Health and Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. An esteemed academic and clinician scientist, he was awarded PHILA Annual Award (2022) by the Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) for his contribution to Public Health in South Africa, and a Ministerial Special Covid-19 Award (2020 - 2021) for Covid-19 Science Communication and Public Engagement. Prof Moshabela is the Chairperson of the Governing Board at the National Research Foundation (NRF), Member of the Board at the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Health in the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), Health Commissioner to the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, as one of the seven multi-sector commissioners on the Premier's Provincial Planning Commission.

Primarily, Prof Moshabela's contribution has been in the improvement of access and quality in healthcare to combat infectious diseases, in relation to HIV and TB, and in the areas of health systems, services and policy research. Prof Moshabela is now focused on implementation science, which cuts across multiple disciplines, and involves the design, implementation and evaluation of complex interventions in healthcare services and programs, and seeks to improve access, quality and equity in healthcare, for resource-poor settings in sub-Saharan Africa.

Currently, he leads the Quality Health Systems and Transformation (QuEST) Center in South Africa, a collaboration with the T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, USA, and he is a faculty member in HIV, Infectious Disease and Global Health Research Institute (HIGH IRI) at the University of Washington in St. Louis, USA. Globally, he is a member of the international advisory board for the Lancet Healthy Longevity, Lancet commission on synergies between Health Promotion, Universal Healthcare Access and Global Health Security, and the commission of the US National Academies for Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) on the Global Roadmap to Healthy Longevity.



Dr Shaza Elmahdi

(Sudan Country Director, Centre for International Private Enterprise)

Shaza Elmahdi is Sudan Country Director at the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) based in Khartoum, Sudan. She works closely with partners representing the private sector, civil society, and government to implement CIPE's strategy in Sudan, which includes policy and regulatory reforms, enhance anti-corruption initiatives, engage in public private dialogue, and improve democratic governance in Sudan.

Prior to joining CIPE, Elmahdi worked as a Researcher at the Global Women Institute at George Washington University, collecting and analyzing data related to Gender-Based Violence in the conflict zone including South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, prior to that, she worked as Sudan's Focal Point at the Strategic Initiative Women in the Horn of Africa, leading women-focused programs across Sudan and managing the organization regional strategy. She also worked as a consultant with Human Rights Watch, MDPD, Centerlinks, and other organizations. Elmahdi spent several years working at the Grants Department at CIPE's headquarter in Washington DC, managing grants and contracts in addition to her role as the Monitoring and Evaluation Point of Contact. She has an MPH degree from George Washington University and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Khartoum.



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK OF ACADEMIES AND SCHOLARLY SOCIETIES

The International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (IHRN) is an international consortium of honorary societies in the sciences, engineering, and medicine with a shared interest in human rights.

The IHRN was founded in 1993 by prominent Dutch human rights lawyer Pieter van Dijk and Nobel Laureates François Jacob (France), Torsten Wiesel (Sweden/United States), and Max Perutz (United Kingdom), to alert national academies to human rights abuses involving fellow scientists and scholars and to equip academies with the tools to provide support in such cases.

Today the IHRN advocates in support of professional colleagues suffering human rights abuses; promotes the free exchange of ideas and opinions among scientists and scholars; and supports the independence and autonomy of national academies and scholarly societies worldwide. The IHRN also raises global awareness about the connections between human rights and science, engineering, and medicine.

Participation

Although there is no formal membership, the IHRN provides a platform for sharing information on cases and issues of concern to all interested academies through its Washington, D.C.-based Secretariat. The Secretariat issues regular alerts to IHRN-participating academies concerning urgent cases involving scientists, engineers, and health professionals under threat as a result of their legitimate professional work or other peaceful activities. The IHRN's Executive Committee, composed of members from 12 academies around the world, also periodically issues public statements on topical issues of global concern, such as gender discrimination in higher education and threats to scientific freedom. Participating academies assist in disseminating the Executive Committee's statements, and many academies use the alerts and statements as a starting point for their own advocacy (with each academy acting at its own discretion). Apart from these activities, many participating academies regularly engage with human rights through research, events, and the provision of assistance in the wake of human rights crises. More than 90 academies have participated in the IHRN e.g., by sending a representative to one or more of the IHRN's biennial meetings.

BIENNIAL MEETINGS OF THE IHRN HOSTS TO DATE:

The IHRN holds biennial meetings on science and human rights themes. To date, 13 such meetings have been hosted by IHRN-affiliated academies around the world. These events provide an opportunity for academy members to explore topical science and human rights themes, for instance on sustainable development, and to share information and strategies on cases/issues of human rights concern. Meetings frequently include special sessions for students in host countries.

- 1993 - The U.S. National Academies
- 1995 - The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences
- 1997 - The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei
- 1999 - The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History, and Antiquities
- 2001 - The French Academy of Sciences
- 2003 - The Council of Swiss Scientific Academies
- 2005 - The Royal Society, London
- 2007 - The National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka
- 2009 - The Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco
- 2012 - Academia Sinica
- 2014 - The German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina
- 2016 - The National Secretariat for Science, Technology, and Innovation of Panama and the Panamanian Association for the Advancement of Science
- 2018 - The Korean Academy of Science and Technology
- 2023 - Academy of Science of South Africa

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
of Academies & Scholarly Societies

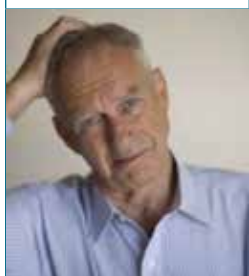


IHRN NETWORK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Zohra ben Lakhdar Akrouit, Tunisia

Zohra ben Lakhdar Akrouit received her Ph.D. in physics in 1978 from the University of Paris VI in France. She has conducted research at the Faculty of Science in Tunis, as well as in many African countries. Her laboratory—LSAMA: Laboratoire de spectroscopie Atomique, Moleculaire et Applications became part of a Laboratoire International Associé (LIA) with Centre National de Recherche Scientifique en France (CNRS)-France in 2004. She is a member of various scientific academies, including the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS), The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), and the Académie Tunisienne des Sciences des Lettres et des Arts (BAH). She developed, within the framework of UNESCO, a project on Active Learning in Optics and Photonics (ALOP) for physics education trainers in developing countries. She leads the CESAME project - Centre d'Education à la Science en Afrique-région Méditerranéenne et Europe - and UNICEF's école 2eme chance project for students 12-18 years old in Tunisia. Her numerous awards include the L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Award for her experiments and models on infrared spectroscopy and its applications to pollution detection and medicine, the Scopus Award for scientific contribution in research (Elsevier), Les Palmes Académiques du CNRS, and the 2008 Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (France).



Édouard Brézin, France

Dr. Édouard Brézin is a theoretical physicist and Professor Emeritus of Physics at the École Normale Supérieure. He pioneered the modern theory of critical behaviour, developed methods for extracting testable predictions for critical exponents, and contributed to string theory. He was elected to the French Academy of Sciences in 1991, where he served as President from 2005 to 2006. Dr. Brézin is a foreign associate of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, a foreign honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a foreign member of the Royal Society (U.K.), a foreign member of Bilim Akademisi (Science Academy, Turkey), and a member of the Academia Europaea. He is the former President of the Board of the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). In 2011, he was jointly awarded the prestigious Dirac Medal of the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics.



Martin Chalfie, United States of America

Dr. Martin Chalfie is University Professor and former Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at Columbia University. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. National Academy of Medicine, where he chairs the Committee on Human Rights. He obtained both his AB and PhD from Harvard University. Dr. Chalfie is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Royal Society of Chemistry (Hon.). He has received numerous awards for his work, such as the 2006 Lewis S. Rosenstiel Award for Distinguished Work in Basic Medical Science from Brandeis University and the 2008 E. B. Wilson Medal from the American Society for Cell Biology, both of which he shared with Roger Tsien. In 2008, he shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his introduction of Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) as a biological marker with Osamu Shimomura and Roger Tsien.



Carol Corillon, United States of America

Carol Corillon serves as an honorary member of the Network in recognition of her role as executive director of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies from 1993 to 2016. Formerly, she was the Director of the Committee on Human Rights of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and Executive Director of Friends of the Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization, USA. From 1980 to 1984 she worked for the National Research Council's Committee on the Sahel and, from 1970 to 1980, as a freelance print and broadcast journalist in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, working for BBC radio, The Economist, and other publications.



Abdallah S. Daar, Oman, Canada

Abdallah S. Daar is professor of clinical public health, global health, and surgery at the University of Toronto. His work has encompassed surgery, organ transplantation, bioethics, and global health. His major research focus is on the use of life sciences to ameliorate global health inequities, with a particular focus on building scientific capacity and increasing innovation in developing countries, in addition to studying how life saving technologies and interventions can be rapidly taken from “lab to village.” He is a fellow of TWAS, the African Academy of Sciences, the Islamic World Academy of Sciences, the Royal Society (Canada), and the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study. He is on the board of the World Diabetes Foundation and chairs the Scientific Advisory Boards of Grand Challenges Africa and the Alliance for Accelerating Excellence of Science in Africa, under which a new research funding organization, Grand Challenges Africa, has been created. He is the holder of UNESCO’s Avicenna Prize for Ethics of Science.



Rose Emma Mammaa Entsua-Mensah, Ghana

Prof. Rose Emma Mammaa Entsua-Mensah holds a Ph.D. in Fisheries Science from the University of Ghana. She is a Fishery Scientist and an Aquatic Ecologist and served as Chief Research Scientist and Deputy-Director General at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Ghana from 2008-2018. She was one of the few African scientists involved with the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2004-2005), and she has to her credit over 100 publications. She was a member of the Fisheries Commission, Ghana from 2006-2008, of the Board of Trustees of the World Fish Centre (2012-2017), and of the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development International Steering Committee (2011-2017). She was awarded the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award in 1978 and the Tonolli Memorial Award for Limnologists in 1994. In 2013, she was adjudged Africa's Most Influential Woman in Agricultural Research for her work in fisheries by the Group Creating Excellence in Organizations in South Africa. She is a Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, and she is currently the Chair of the University of Ghana College of Basic and Applied Sciences Advisory Board.



Edward K. Kirumira, Uganda

Dr. Kirumira is a Professor of Medical Sociology and Director of the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) Stellenbosch, South Africa. He is a Fellow of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS). His work focuses on HIV/AIDS, population and reproductive health, emergent diseases, and global health. He has extensive in-country experience in program development, management, and impact evaluation of several African countries. He has taken up technical advisory roles for organisations including UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, NORAD, and DANIDA. He studied at Makerere University (Uganda), University of Exeter, and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), Copenhagen University (Denmark), and Harvard University (USA). Before joining STIAS as Director, Dr. Kirumira was Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Makerere University in Uganda and national Chair of the Central Coordination Mechanism for the Global Fund for HIV&AIDS, Malaria, and TB.



Belita Koiller, Brazil

Dr. Belita Koiller earned her undergraduate degree in Physics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro and her PhD in Physics from the University of California, Berkeley in 1975, under the supervision of Leo Falicov. In 1976, she became Assistant Professor at the Catholic University in Rio, where she was later appointed full Professor in 1992. In 1994, she moved to the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, where she remains. She was named a Guggenheim Fellow in 1981, elected as a member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences in 1995, and elected as a Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in 2010. In 2010, she was commended by the Grã Cruz da Ordem Nacional do Mérito Científico, Governo do Brasil and, in 2005, she received the L'Oréal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science.



Pedro León Azofeifa, Costa Rica

Dr. Pedro Leon Azofeifa is a biologist and retired Professor of Cell Physiology at the Medical School of the University of Costa Rica. He is also the former President of the National Academy of Sciences of Costa Rica. He received his undergraduate degree from Baylor University and his doctorate from the University of Oregon. Dr. Leon's research focuses on deafness genetics and bipolar affective disorders. He has long been active in the Costa Rican environmental community and peace movement. Dr. Leon was elected as a founding member of the National Academy of Sciences of Costa Rica, and he is a foreign associate of the Latin American Academy of Sciences (ACAL) and of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.



Satyajit 'Jitu' Mayor, India

Satyajit "Jitu" Mayor is a cell biologist and Distinguished Professor at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, a centre of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) Bangalore, India. He is the Director of NCBS, and Chairperson of the Bangalore Life Science Cluster, a multi-institutional organization that he has helped create. Mayor studied Chemistry at the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, India and obtained his Ph.D. in Life sciences from The Rockefeller University, New York, USA. Mayor studies the fine structure, function and dynamics of the membrane of living cells using methods derived from biology, chemistry, engineering, and physics. This has led him to explore how cells interpret information from their extracellular milieu, including the mechanical environment of cells in tissue contexts. His work has provided a new understanding of how membrane structure and composition are regulated in living cells, and a deeper perspective on the functioning and roles of non-clathrin endocytic pathways. Mayor has served on many national and international bodies, as well as founded community-focused organizations such as IndiaBioscience, and the Bangalore Sustainability Forum, that work to enrich the community of scientists. He is also an elected fellow of the TWAS (The World Academy of Sciences), Trieste as well as EMBO (European Molecular Biology Organization), Heidelberg.



Ida Nicolaisen, Denmark

Prof. Ida Nicolaisen is the former vice chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and editor-in-chief of the Carlsberg Foundation Nomad Research Project which is publishing a series of 16 scholarly books on Pastoral Peoples in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. She has been associate professor of cultural sociology and anthropology at Copenhagen University and is currently a senior research fellow at the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies. Prof. Nicolaisen has carried out extensive research among indigenous peoples in West Africa and central Borneo. She is a member of the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and The Royal Danish Academy of Science and Letters. She has received several awards and the Order of Dannebrog.



John Polanyi, Canada

John Polanyi is professor of chemistry at the University of Toronto. He is a member of the Royal Society of Canada. In 1960 he was founding chair of the Canadian Pugwash Group, where he remained chair until 1978. He has published over 100 articles on peace and human rights and is currently president of the Canadian Committee of Scientists and Scholars. In 1986 John Polanyi, Dudley Herschbach, and Yuan T. Lee were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry "for their contributions concerning the dynamics of chemical elementary processes."



Ovid Tzeng, Taiwan

Dr. Ovid Tzeng is Chancellor of the University System of Taiwan. He is also an Academician of Academia Sinica, where he formerly served as Vice President. Dr. Tzeng established the University System of Taiwan to oversee the integration of research and teaching developments at Taiwan's four top research universities. He has previously served as the Minister of Education, the Minister Without Portfolio, and the Minister of Council for Cultural Affairs for Taiwan. His research focuses on cognitive neuroscience and neurolinguistics, and he is an experienced leader in academic institutions. He serves on the Board of Directors of Haskins Laboratories in the United States and as an Advisory Board Member of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders in Australia. Dr. Tzeng was elected to The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in 2010 and to The European Academy of Sciences and Arts in 2017. He is a member of UNESCO's Inclusive Literacy Learning for All Project. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Pennsylvania State University in the United States and the First-class Professional Education-Culture Medal from the Ministry of Education in 2011 and 2012, respectively.



Rebecca Everly, Executive Director

Rebecca Everly is the Executive Director of the Committee on Human Rights of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Dr. Everly, an international human rights lawyer, received her Ph.D. from the Cambridge University Centre of International Studies (U.K.). She also received a Juris Doctor and Masters in International Law from Duke University (U.S.). Her prior experience includes work for the International Development Law Organization (India), the Centre for Promotion of Human Rights Teaching and Research at Jawaharlal Nehru University (India), International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (Malaysia), the Office of the High Representative (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and the U.S. State Department.