

Call for Applications

Infectious Diseases Workshop: 23 – 24 May 2023

Berlin, Germany

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and the German National Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina) are jointly hosting a workshop on **“Infectious Diseases beyond COVID-19” in Berlin, Germany** from **23 – 24 May 2023**. The ASSAf seeks four emerging scholars with highly distinguished scientific profiles to participate in the workshop. This workshop provides a platform for discussing current research, strengthening international scientific cooperation, and building capacity in research-based entrepreneurship.

Theme

The overarching theme of the workshop is Infectious Diseases beyond COVID-19. Infectious diseases remain a significant threat to humankind. Over the recent past, we have witnessed the re-emergence of old foes such as tuberculosis or polio and the emergence of new foes such as AIDS, Ebola or SARS-like diseases. As most infectious diseases are zoonotic, environmental factors induce the diffusion of vectors to new geographical regions. The increase in antimicrobial resistance further worsens the situation. The COVID-19 pandemic is the most recent reminder of our interconnectedness and shared vulnerability. The emergence of variants of concern and long-COVID/complications from diverse, long-lasting sequelae following COVID-19 infection has changed the endgame. However, prioritised pandemic handling and containment of COVID-19 reduced control measures for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, significantly leading to a profound increase in global morbidity and mortality.

This workshop aims to discuss the impact and consequences of COVID-19 on the research of Infectious Diseases and the newest advances in research from a cross-regional perspective.

Guiding questions for the workshop are:

- What have been (are) the lessons learned from handling the COVID-19 pandemic across the world regions and for other infectious diseases?
- What has been the connection between the COVID-19 pandemic and the negligence of other infectious diseases?
- What are the specific and recent experiences of AMR in the different regions? What is the status of containment, and how can it be improved?
- What are the effects of environmental change on the diffusion and modification of infectious diseases?

Format

The involvement of emerging scholars is a cornerstone of this workshop. The presented research, ideas and thoughts on the different thematic sessions, as well as the active participation in the other activities of the workshop, constitute a significant contribution to the workshop's success.

The workshop features impulse talks by established researchers, focus group discussions among emerging and established scientists, and opportunities to engage in science communication. A special session on innovation and entrepreneurship in Public Health presents ways and experiences of how scientific findings can transfer to industry and society to make an impact. On the one hand, the workshop seeks to increase opportunities for direct dialogue and exchange between established and emerging scientists. On the other hand, these formats enhance the outreach of this highly relevant topic.

Participating emerging scientists should present in English their most recent research in speed talks (5 min) and engage thoroughly in the subsequent focus group discussions with emerging and established scientists. Each focus group relates to one specific thematic session.

The topics for the sessions are the following: 1) Infectious Disease and Lessons Learned from COVID-19; 2) Infectious Diseases and their Negligence; 3) Infectious Diseases, Climate Change and Antimicrobial Resistance.

Eligibility

This call is open to emerging scientists who possess a track record of research in the thematic areas of the workshop. Applicants should meet the following criteria to participate in this call:

- Be a South African resident.
- Be under the age of 40 years at the time of submission.
- Be an emerging scientist (PhD / MD title), highest degree obtained within the past 7 years.
- Have minimum 5 publications in high-ranking peer reviewed journals.
- Have research experience in the abovementioned areas as well as research interest in countries of the Global South is of advantage.
- Submit an abstract on their research as a basis for the presentation at the workshop.
- Be committed to presenting at the workshop and engage with other participating colleagues in various formats.

Workshop Application

Applications should be submitted online using the following link:

- [Application form: Infectious Diseases Workshop 2023](#) (you will be required to login to your Gmail account to be able to open the form and upload your CV)
- The applicant's CV should be attached on the online form quoting your initials and surname, e.g. **E.K SITHOLE_CV**
- Guidelines for CV, as an orientation please consider the DFG CV form (for better presentation of your resume in a PDF) (https://www.dfg.de/formulare/53_200_elan/):
 - Personal Data, incl. current position
 - Qualifications and career
 - Engagement in research system
 - Scientific Results (publication list)

Should you have any queries regarding the application, please write Dr Khutso Phalane-Legoale (khutso@assaf.org.za) before the closing date **28 February 2023**.

Abstract Acceptance

Submissions will be reviewed by a scientific panel, which reserves the right to accept and allocate oral presentations. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by **20 March 2023**.

Workshop Participation

There is no registration fee to attend the workshop. ASSAf and Leopoldina will fully cover the travel expenses i.e., air and ground transport, accommodation and meals for the selected candidates for the workshop duration.