

BIOAFRICAtalks How to approach the ethics debate around mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations at work

Zoom Webinar

30th November 2021
14:00 – 15:30 pm

AFRICABIO BIO Africa

LIVE WEBINAR



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EMORY UNIVERSITY MAKES STRIDES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19



Emory University based in Atlanta, USA is an innovative university committed to research and discovery. Drug Innovation Ventures at Emory (DRIVE), LLC, a not-for-profit biotechnology company owned by Emory recently announced the invention of Molnupiravir.

Molnupiravir is an orally administered anti-viral drug for COVID-19, and the first pill shown to successfully treat COVID-19. It significantly reduces the risk of hospitalisation or death in patients with mild to moderate COVID-19. The drug is currently being developed by Merck & Co. Inc. in collaboration with Ridgeback Biotherapeutics.

The United Kingdom's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) approved the use of Molnupiravir, making the United Kingdom the first country to approve the drug. An emergency use application is also currently under consideration by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. An advisory panel will convene on 30th November 2021 to discuss the safety and efficacy of the drug. Molnupiravir stands out amongst previous antiviral options against COVID-19, as they were expensive and had

to be administered in a hospital. During clinical trials, there were no deaths from the group that received the drug and 7.3% of those given the drug were hospitalised. Only minor side effects were observed.

The excellence in biotech was previously exemplified by the works established from the development of Emtriva, a ground breaking cocktail drug for treating AIDS, by Dr. Dennis Liotta, which is widely used to reduce viral load. Emtriva is currently used by over 90% of HIV/AIDS patients in the United States. Dr. Liotta was one of the panelists of the Dialogue with Global Biotech Leaders Plenary session at the 2021 BIO Africa Digital Convention.

Continuing in the spirit of collaboration to foster innovation and advancement in science, Emory has partnered with AfricaBio to create the BIOAfrica Innovation Hub. Through this partnership Emory University has built digital entrepreneurial ecosystem with six online portals to address immediate and long term needs of BioInnovation in Africa. The BIOAfrica Innovation Hub BIOAfrica Convention site.



Renowned dermatologist becomes the first black female full professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal Medical School

Professor Ncoza Dlova reached the apex of her academic career after becoming the first black and female full professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) College of Health Sciences.

Born in a small village called Mtyolo, outside King Williams Town in the Eastern Cape, Prof. Dlova graduated with an MBChB degree in 1989.

Following her internship in 1990 at Livingstone Hospital in Port Elizabeth, Prof. Dlova moved to Durban to specialise in Dermatology and qualified as a Fellow of the College of Dermatologists of South Africa in 1998. She was the first African Dermatologist from University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) and the second African female in the country.

She was Acting Head of the Department of Dermatology for three years, and in 2013 received recognition from the KZN MEC of Health for creating a Centre of Excellence and Leadership. She was awarded a PhD in Dermatology by the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in 2015. She also took on a permanent role as Head of Dermatology.

In 2017, the American Dermatology (ADA) recognised Prof. Dlova for her contribution and commitment to education in Africa by nominating her as a member of their prestigious association.

Prof. Dlova is the inspiration behind our first BIO Africa Women's Health Session helmed in 2019 by the then Minister of Health. She'll also play a pivotal role in the ground-breaking agreement with the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), that will see the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) partner with local companies to develop advanced biotherapeutics, biosimilars for the treatment of diabetes, arthritis, cancer and others).

START-UP INDEX

SK Botanicals

The skincare market in SA is generally unregulated and flooded with unsafe and untested products.

In 2018, Ms Shanaas Kannemeyer, CEO and Founder of SK Botanicals, saw a gap and combined her passion for health, science and botanicals with her extensive research and knowledge within regulatory compliance from the complementary medicine industry and founded SK Botanicals.

As a woman and as a solo founder of a start-up, Ms Kannemeyer has faced many challenges. However, being part of biotech incubators like BioCiTi Labs, innovators like Ms Kannemeyer gain access to business development support and access to a world-class laboratory. They also get an opportunity to test their ideas and products while sharing a co-working space with brilliant scientists.

SK Botanicals is a women-owned innovative skincare company that captures the best of nature backed by science. They drive the SUSTAINABLE BEAUTY movement by creating longer-lasting products with multiple multitasking actives to address different skincare concerns delivered in a single premium formulation. To learn more about SK Botanicals and the great work they do, visit their website <https://skbotanicals.com/>



International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) explores strategic partnership with Universities of Limpopo & Venda



In a rapidly changing environment for drug discovery and innovation, the need for a collaboration model is imperative. However, in emerging scientific fields it is sometimes difficult to provide the necessary expertise within existing collaborative circles. This is especially true in the microbiology and biotechnology industry that directly addresses global societal challenges.

The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), a global leader in research, training and technology transfer in the microbiology and biotechnology industry with the Department of Science Innovation (DSI), went out on a tour to the Province of Limpopo on the 25th and 26th of October, to visit two previously disadvantaged universities - the University of Venda and the University of Limpopo to seek collaboration and partnership in microbiology and biotechnology research and innovation to take the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) forward.

The first visit was to the University of Venda. Established in 1982, the University of Venda offers undergraduate and postgraduate studies and has a student population of about 15 600 students in 2021, with 200 of those students being international students. Majority of its enrolment are in the faculty of Science Engineering, Agriculture and Health Sciences and this accounts for 45% of its enrolments being in these two faculties. The University of Venda is a well-managed institution, and for the past seven years has received qualified audit reports by the Auditor-General. It also consists of several laboratories on its campus that include amongst many others a Molecular laboratory, NMR, Sequencing Analysis, Modeling, GIS mapping lab, Spectrophotometer, Microwave Digester and the Membrane Filtration Unit laboratory.

The Vice-chancellor of the university Dr. NB Nthambeleni said that the university “wants to ensure that it shows an

unwavering commitment to excellence in transformation, service culture, good governance and sustainability because that’s how you begin to build institutions that are long lasting”. He continued to say “we have laboratories and programmes in two of our faculties which are Health Sciences and Agriculture, and we believe that with these two faculties the university could easily collaborate and actively participate as an institutional member of the ICGEB and become a partner in this important area of research”. The potential areas for collaboration that the university would like with the ICGEB are in infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, medical biotechnology, plant biology and biotechnology.

Pleased with all presentations delivered to him by the university, Dr. Lawrence Banks, Director-General of the ICGEB said, “technology transfer is something that is close to our hearts, we have the infrastructure to facilitate such research and want to be involved in projects that will not only reach communities but will also have an impact on the greater community”. He continued to encourage students and faculties to participate in the ICGEB training programmes and projects that were initiated through the course of last year.

Microbiology honours students Ms. Netili Vhugala and Ms. Nemaguvhuni Murunwa, said that they found Dr. Lawrence Banks presentation very informative and helpful not only because it outlined an opportunity for funding, but it also motivated them to take their studies even further so that they can make an impact in their communities.

On day two of the tour, the ICGEB visited the University of Limpopo. The University was established in 2005 and provides a wide range of services. Prof. Nonceba Mbambo-Kekana, Director of International Affairs said, “we’re looking for partnerships that are aligned to our aspirations and enhance our efforts of development. We’re also looking for opportunities that will focus on the development needs of our communities”.

There is a constant search for new collaborative opportunities in science, the ICGEB is excited and looking forward to collaborating and partnering with these two institutions in the near future.

International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) signs MoU with the University of KwaZulu-Natal to develop advanced biotherapeutics

In the current context of vaccine nationalism, in which developing countries cannot afford highly-priced innovative medicines manufactured in the US and Europe, the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) is one of the organisations actively developing biotechnology innovations solely for the benefit of the developing countries.

On the 27th of October 2021, the Director-General (ICGEB) Dr. Lawrence Banks signed an agreement with the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in Cape Town, witnessed by Dr. Phil Mjwara, Director-General of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI).



This ground-breaking agreement will see the university partnering with local companies to develop advanced biotherapeutics (biosimilars for the treatment of diabetes, arthritis, cancer and others).

The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), represented by its Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Innovation, Professor Mosa Moshabela, and the Dean of the School of Clinical Medicine, Professor Ncoza Dlova, will be responsible for conducting clinical trials within the next year. This will allow for the first time access for poor people to these expensive lifesaving medicines. AfricaBio, through its President, Dr. Nhlanhla Msomi, facilitated this collaboration.

There will soon be other partnerships with the Universities of Limpopo, Venda and Walter Sisulu (Eastern Cape), as the biotechnology innovation landscape is re-positioned to benefit the poor in a partnership that also includes local industry.

AfricaBio, The European Patent Office (EPO), Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) and Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) lead a series of webinars on Intellectual Property (IP)



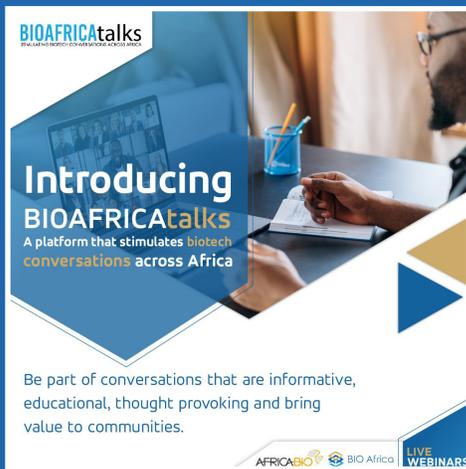
The European Patent Office (EPO), Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) and AfricaBio has partnered to lead a series of webinars for 2021.

The series started with Intellectual Property (IP) Meets Smart Agriculture, which was about how patent system helps address the smart agriculture challenges in Africa. This webinar was followed by the second edition, How to make money from IP. The webinar showcased how African SMMEs have benefited from IP innovation.

The webinar series concluded with Artificial Intelligence – Driving Africa’s Economy, which unravelled the concepts of artificial intelligence. This cross-cutting webinar series was watched in over 20 countries worldwide and tuned in by over a 100 participants.

We look forward to another year of insightful and thought-provoking conversations in 2022. Watch this space to stay abreast with our upcoming events and to be apart of the conversation.

BIOAFRICAtalks



BIOAFRICAtalks is a platform that stimulates conversations around biotechnology across the African continent. It is a platform that will host a series of webinars. To get the conversation started, the first webinar series will explore the theme Vaccine Mandates, focusing on the work place.

Other sessions in the series will also examine the same theme of Vaccine Mandates from the perspectives of various stakeholders in civil society including children, as they are being vaccinated from the age of 12, students within several tertiary institutions moving towards compulsory vaccinations, and civil society as community gatherings are being impacted (sports, restaurants and others).

While this is an evolving global phenomenon, BIOAFRICAtalks will seek to focus on the African continent, locating it within the context of the developing world (the Global South).

Upcoming Events



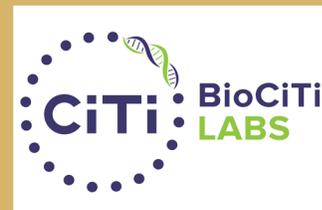
BIOAFRICAtalks: How to approach the ethics debate around mandatory Covid-19 vaccinations at work (30 November 2021)

Start-Up Index Business Breakfast (February 2022)



Science and the city: Mythbusters (23 February 2022)

MedTech in partnership with BioCiTi (April 2022)



Introducing Student Chapter

The student chapter is a program for students to become members of AfricaBio and participants in webinars, training, and career opportunities.

It encompasses/ targets High school learners (Grades 8 – 12), undergraduates, postgraduates and college students in fields associated with biotechnology.

As part of the Student Chapter program, AfricaBio designed a Girls STEAM Camp to benefit girls from underprivileged backgrounds and expose them to science outside the classroom.

The camp allowed girls to dive into exciting and creative activities where they were exposed to critical thinking, confidence and social skills building, developed leadership qualities and solved problems through innovation.

The Student Chapter will create centres of excellence that will provide skill sets such as leadership, innovation, and design thinking that will enable the youth to pave the way for their education and career.

The Student Chapter aims to build the character and mind of the young generation that will enable them to adapt to any environment of work and become valuable players in the industry.

AfricaBio calls for applications for the Ambassador Dr. Konji Sebati Fellowship

In honour of the late Ambassador Dr. Konji Sebati (CEO of IPASA and AfricaBio Board member), AfricaBio launched the Dr. Konji Sebati Fellowship at the 2021 BIO Africa Convention. Ambassador Dr. Sebati was very instrumental in setting up the BIO Africa Convention as a platform for facilitating biotechnology development in Africa. She was also a very active Member of the Board of AfricaBio, which is a non-profit association of biotechnology industry stakeholders

AfricaBio is making a call for applications for the Ambassador Dr. Konji Sebati Fellowship. Consideration will be given strictly to African Females who are completing or have completed their MSc or PhD studies in the discipline of Life Science or similar.

Candidates should also have the following:

- One year post qualification experience
- Desire to explore the business side of science, medicine or agriculture
- Demonstrate evidence of role played in the business/tech transfer or commercialisation aspects of science

TO NOTE:

- This is a Two Year Contract

- Opportunities for further study in the area of business or innovation (there are already confirmed Scholarship for qualifying candidates as communicated during the Launch, more are being negotiated)
- New Skills development (structured) - are a requirement during the Fellowship. These are likely to be focused Executive Development or Leadership Skills
- Possibility of placement with Partners including Industry and international organisations
- Open to the entire continent but position is strictly in Pretoria
- Mentors from the Board of AfricaBio will be assigned
- The successful incumbents will receive a stipend of \$1200 per Month

All interested candidates, please submit your applications to studentchapter@afribio.com, by Friday, 10th December 2021.

As part of the application please submit:

- CV
- Academic Record
- 1.5 - 2 pages motivation as to why you should be considered for the fellowship (including the contribution that you will make to the Bio-economy Sector)

AfricaBio internship opportunity

AfricaBio, a non-profit association of biotechnology industry stakeholders, is making a call for applications for Interns. Consideration will be given to candidates who are completing their Honours and Masters in the following disciplines:

- MSc Molecular Biology
- Qualification in the Preferred sub disciplines of:
 - Biotechnology and/or
 - Bioprocessing Molecular Genetics and/or Biochemistry
 - Medical Technology

The internship will be awarded to 2 incumbents. The internship is a One Year Appointment commencing in December 2021 and the successful incumbent/s will receive a stipend of R8 000 per month.

All interested candidates, please submit your applications to studentchapter@afribio.com, by Friday, 10th December 2021.

2022 Kectil Youth Leadership Program

The Kectil Program Initiative is calling upon talented young leaders from developing countries (South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia) to join a web-based mentoring program for youth (aged 17 – 27).

The Program entails multiple-week modules with deep dive challenging assignments to address hot issues facing youth globally, networking with global friends and much more. The application portal is active, visit www.kectil.com to learn more. The deadline to submit applications has been extended to November 30th.