

# Invitation To PRIS 2020

**DATE:**

**10 & 11 DECEMBER 2020**  
(Thursday & Friday)

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

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

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

## DAY 1: 10 DECEMBER, THURSDAY Oral Presentations

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

### **09h50 - 16h00: 6 Concurrent Breakaway Sessions:**

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

## DAY 2: 11 DECEMBER, FRIDAY Flash Presentations

### **09h00 - 12h00: Concurrent Breakaway Sessions:**

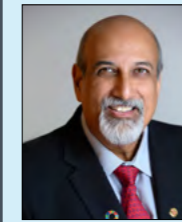
- Session 1:** Agricultural, Earth & Environmental Sciences
- Session 2:** Chemistry & Physics
- Session 3:** Engineering
- Session 4:** Life Sciences
- Session 5:** Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Science

**14h00 - 16h00: Closing**  
**Prize Giving Ceremony and Lucky Draws**

[pris.ukzn.ac.za](http://pris.ukzn.ac.za)

**Help Desk Queries:**

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

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

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

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

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

### **SYNOPSIS:**

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

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