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UCT researchers honoured at NSTF awards

(To schedule an interview: please call Jessica on (021) 650 5671)

- Five UCT researchers were honoured at the prestigious 18th annual National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) Awards Gala Dinner which took place in Gauteng on Thursday night, 30 June 2016. The annual awards, hosted by the NSTF, in partnership with South32, recognises and honours South African contributions to excellence in science, engineering and technology. For more on this story, click [here](#).

Name	Award	Details
Professor Crick Lund: Director of the Alan J Flisher Centre for Public Health	TW Kambule-NSTF Award for research and its outputs over a period of up to 15 years	Lund's research has pioneered the development of mental policies and services to address the growing burden of mental illness in South Africa and other low and middle-income countries (LMIC). His scientific work has had a significant impact on the development of norms for mental health services, drafting of national mental health policies, development of WHO guidelines for mental health policy and services, identification of major social determinants of mental illness in LMIC, interventions that address the cycle of poverty and mental illness, and delivery and evaluation of new models of mental health care.
Professor Sue Harrison: Director: Centre for Bioprocess Engineering Research, DST/National Research Foundation (NRF) Chair: South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI), Bioprocess Engineering	Awarded for engineering capacity development over the last five to ten years	Harrison is an accomplished bioprocess engineer, integrating the chemical engineering, mineral processing and biotechnology disciplines. Through inter-disciplinary research, her expertise in bioprocess systems, bioreactor design and process integration delivers solutions for bioremediation, mineral bioprocessing, algal biotechnology, fine chemicals and bioenergy. Harrison's research builds a holistic understanding of the biology, engineering and bioprocesses, essential to a sustainable bioeconomy, based on maximising renewable materials and resource productivity while minimising waste burden, including wastewater burden.
Professor Peter Dunsby: Professor of Cosmology and Co- Director: Astrophysics, Cosmology and Gravity Centre, Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics	Awarded for research capacity development over the last five to ten years	Dunsby's strategy for developing human capital has over the past twelve years focused on a pioneering initiative to develop the next generation of astronomers and space scientists – The National Astrophysics and Space Science Programme. He has also developed a highly successful integrated research programme in his own discipline (theoretical cosmology), involving postgraduate students,

		postdoctoral researchers and international collaborators, which has led to a significant growth of research capacity at UCT and at other tertiary institutions in South Africa.
Dr Tolullah Oni, Senior Lecturer at the School of Public Health and Family Medicine	TW Kambule-NSTF Award for emerging researchers	Oni's research aims to contribute significantly to knowledge on the changing patterns of disease and the implications this has for the health and wellbeing of the population in the context of urbanisation. Having worked in the field of HIV and TB within the South African urban informal setting since 2007, her current research focuses on urban health and equity. Specifically, it focuses on the understanding of the interaction between commonly co-occurring chronic conditions (HIV, TB and non-communicable diseases), upstream health determinants, the unplanned urban environment and the impact on health outcomes. Her research aims to develop intersectoral interventions to improve health focused on upstream determinants of health. Oni was earlier this year selected, along with 14 of Africa's top scientists as a Next Einstein Fellow.
Dr Sudesh Sivasu, Senior Lecturer, Biomedical Engineering	TW Kambule-NSTF Award for emerging researchers	Up to 95% of medical devices are imported in South Africa. This is primarily due to lack of innovations related to medical devices within the country. To change this situation, Dr Sivasu adopted his Frugal Biodesign Process™ and has developed several medical devices in the last five years. These devices are at various technology readiness levels (TRLs) and some of the devices are in pre-clinical devices. During this process, Dr Sivasu has filed four patent family applications and has three granted patents for medical devices and several MedTech awards for his innovations. Earlier this year Sivasu was awarded a Claude Leon Merit Award for emerging researchers.

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