Bright young minds have a lot to say about developing nanomedicine

The finalists:

Nanotechnology can transform the way we detect and treat damage to the human body and disease. Nanotechnology is being applied in the development of more effective drug delivery systems and "smart drugs" are now able to target particular areas.

Nanomedicine helping South Africans

Have you ever thought about it? Do you have some of the same thoughts these young people have? Nanomedicine can potentially help all South Africans, with better medicine that we need to take less often and better ways of diagnosing a particular illness that can help us get treatment sooner.

The topic:

Nanotechnology in the field of medicine could transform the way we detect and treat damage to the human body and disease. Nanotechnology is being applied in the development of more effective drug delivery systems and "smart drugs" are now able to target particular areas.

Choosing the Champion

On the day the panel of adjudicators, including nanoscientists and debating experts, judged the Limpopo provincial champions, the team from SJ Van Der Merwe Technical High School, to be the most well-rounded debaters, presenting well-balanced content and persuasive arguments, and they were awarded the title of the 2017 SAASTA National Schools Debates champions. The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) is awarding the team and their educator an all-expenses-paid science tour to the East coast of the USA. The tour will include, amongst others, a site visit to the Greenbank Radio Astronomy Observatory in West Virginia, guided tours of the NASA Goddard Space Flight Centre and Smithsonian Museums, including the Air and Space Museum, in Washington, DC, and an internship at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Small nano things are making big things happen for these learners!

SAASTA congratulates the top teams

NATIONAL WINNERS:

Sj Van Der Merwe Technical High School, Limpopo
Second place: Port Shepstone High School, KwaZulu Natal
Third place: Kimberley Girls High School, Northern Cape

PROVINCIAL WINNERS:

Mpumalanga: Mashishing High School
Western Cape: Plattekops Heights High School
Free State: Ikotlantseng Comprehensive Secondary School
North West: Potchefstroom High School for Girls
Eastern Cape: Nkwenekwenye High School
Gauteng: Rand Tutorial College

The winning team:

Sj Van Der Merwe Technical High School in Limpopo Province
Front (L-R): Mahloni Lekana, Theope Motla; Back (L-R): Naledi Motlatsi, Mandisa Mantla, Thembekile Mtabo, Tswa Mothoabi, Vuyo Mabolai

EASY SCIENCE

The National Schools Debates Competition, implemented by SAASTA, gives learners in grades 9 to 11 the opportunity to develop their research, critical thinking and information literacy skills, as well as their ability to work as a team to present logical, clear arguments by debating high level topics in science and technology. The competition aims to encourage young people to address key issues around science and technology that are faced by their communities, through the medium of debate, and empower the learners to start other conversations about science in their own communities. It is supported by DST-funded public engagement programmes – HySA Public Awareness, Demonstration and Education Platform and the Nanotechnology Public Engagement Programme – and the Square Kilometre Array.