

A close-up photograph of a microscope lens, showing the lens barrel and the objective lens. The lens barrel has some markings, including 'M', '9', and '1.25'. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue. A large, bright green circular graphic element is overlaid on the image, partially obscuring the lens. A horizontal line of green dots runs across the top of the page, and a vertical line of green dots runs down the right side. A horizontal green line is also present, intersecting the vertical line of dots.

S.T.E.M.I

Olympiads and Competitions

Community of Practice

Conference

STRENGTHENING THE
IMPACT OF OLYMPIADS
AND COMPETITIONS
THROUGH
COLLABORATIONS,
PARTNERSHIPS AND
COOPERATIVE
OPPORTUNITIES

**2021 CALL
FOR
PAPERS**

CALL FOR PAPERS

2021 STEMI OLYMPIADS AND COMPETITIONS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (CoP) CONFERENCE

18 – 20 May 2021

HOSTED BY

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

in collaboration with

SOUTH AFRICAN AGENCY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT

Gauteng, South Africa

CONFERENCE SCOPE

The **STEMI Olympiads and Competitions Community of Practice Conference** is a biennial conference that is dedicated to the advancement of the Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Innovation (STEMI) Olympiads and Competitions in South Africa by creating a community of practice where best practices are identified and benchmarked. This is achieved by bringing Olympiad and Competition organisers and other industry stakeholders together to present academic and non-academic research and talks and to facilitate a platform for engagement between parties.

Objectives of the conference:

- To positively contribute towards a STEMI-driven culture.
- To create a platform for collaborative problem solving.
- To act as a catalyst between people and organisations.
- To facilitate the development of tools to improve the connection between science and society.
- To assist in transforming innovative ideas and actions into benchmarked practices.



2021 CONFERENCE THEME

“STRENGTHENING THE IMPACT OF OLYMPIADS AND COMPETITIONS THROUGH COLLABORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATIVE OPPORTUNITIES”

With the aim of advancing STEMI Olympiads and Competitions in South Africa, we invite authors to submit research papers or talks on the following sub-themes:

1. Contemplated impact of STEMI Olympiads and competitions

Taking into account the various stakeholders involved with Olympiads and competitions, what is the common intention(s)? Is there any dichotomy of intention? What are these? What is the position of Government?

2. The reach objective of STEMI Olympiads and competitions

Taking into account the various stakeholders, what is our understanding of “reach” in the South African context? What is the Government’s position?

3. Collaborations, partnerships and cooperative opportunities necessary for successful STEMI Olympiads and competitions

How do we understand collaborations, partnerships and cooperative opportunities within the context of STEMI Olympiads and competitions? Based on our understanding of collaborations and partnerships, how would we describe the current situation? If there is room for improvement, what would be the direction to take and/or what can be done to improve the current practices?

The aim of the conference theme is to:

1. upon taking into consideration various stakeholders’ and role players’ perspectives on the conference, that common positions on each of the sub-themes will emerge through breakaway commissions and plenary discussions - which will culminate in the resolutions of the conference.
2. encourage presenters to address matters of Technology [4IR], Transformation and Globalisation.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THE CONFERENCE?

The focused audience for the conference is STEMI Olympiads and Competitions organisers and stakeholders that have either a direct or an indirect impact on this niche, such as educators, academics, science centres, government departments, science agencies, and professional bodies. However, anyone involved or interested in science engagement is welcome to attend.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The conference is a three-day event that will include the following sessions:

- **Plenary Sessions**

These will address current research or experience on topics that have bearing on STEMI Olympiads and Competitions.

- **Speaker Panel Sessions**

These will provide delegates with the opportunity to engage speakers on their presentations in engaging 'question and answer' sessions.

- **Parallel Sessions**

These concurrent sessions will include discussions on current topics and demonstration workshops on best practices for skills transfer.

PRESENTATION CATEGORIES AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Authors are limited to two papers. The submissions that will be accepted for review should be in one of the following formats:

- **CATEGORY 1: ACADEMIC PAPER**

Description: This category is reserved for relevant research-based work
 Allotted Timeslot: A 20-minute independent presentation slot and a 10-minute "question and answer" session.
 Submission Requirements:

SUBMISSION	DEADLINE DATE
1 <u>Proposal:</u> The research proposal should provide a summary of the proposed research paper. It may be up to eight (8) pages long. The proposal should have the follow headings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title - maximum 25 words • Abstract • Introduction • Research Question • Methodology • Conclusion / Recommendations • Important references from the article <p>The abstract should be maximum 250 words followed by the headings, which should be short and to the point. The proposal should include four to six keywords.</p> <p><u>If selected to be presented at the conference, step 2 and 3 are applicable:</u></p>	30 October 2020
2 <u>PowerPoint Presentation:</u> The presentation should provide key points and infographics only, based on the academic paper.	21 March 2021
3 <u>Full Academic Paper:</u> The full paper should be in line with the provided format.	31 July 2021

- CATEGORY 2: NON-ACADEMIC PAPER

Description: This category is reserved for non-academic papers or essays that focus on experience and independent views on relevant topics, including but not limited to case studies and best practice presentations.

Allotted Timeslot: A 20-minute independent presentation slot and a 10-minute “questions and answer” session.

Submission Requirements:

SUBMISSION	DEADLINE DATE
1 <u>Proposal:</u>	
A one-page long proposal should provide a summary of the non-academic paper or essay. The proposal should include four to six keywords.	30 October 2020
<u>If selected to be presented at the conference, step 2 is applicable:</u>	
2 <u>PowerPoint Presentation:</u>	
The presentation should provide key points and infographics only, based on the non-academic paper or essay.	21 March 2021

- CATEGORY 3: DEMONSTRATION WORKSHOP

Description: This category is reserved for demonstrations (show-and-tell) on best practices in Olympiads and Competitions.

Allotted Timeslot: A 45-minute long demonstration slot during parallel sessions. This session will include interactions between the facilitator and attending delegates.

Submission Requirements:

SUBMISSION	DEADLINE DATE
1 <u>Proposal:</u>	
A one-page long proposal on what will be presented and the skills transfer that the workshop(s) will facilitate. The proposal should include four to six keywords.	30 October 2020
<u>If selected to be presented at the conference, step 2 is applicable:</u>	
2 <u>Workshop:</u>	
This should be a document, which could include a PowerPoint presentation, describing the following:	21 March 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic • Presentation method 	

- Skills transfer details
- Interactive components (if applicable)
- Resources for distribution (if applicable)

SUBMISSION FORMAT REQUIREMENTS (Pre-set templates are available for convenience)

Proposals	Identifier:	Title of Academic Paper / Non-Academic Paper / Workshop Author's particulars (including contact details) Selected conference sub-theme Authors are encouraged to include their ORCID identifier number (if available)
	Formatting:	A4 page Arial Narrow Font, Point 11 1.5 Line spacing
	Length of Proposal:	1 full page
Presentations	Software:	MS PowerPoint
	Number of slides:	At author's discretion (with sensitivity to the allotted timeslot)
	Formatting:	Arial, Point 24 or larger 1.5 Line Spacing
	Layout per slide:	(Suggested for readability) Text: 33 words per slide at no more than 10 to 12 per line. Infographics: At author's discretion

SUBMISSION PLATFORMS

Proposal	Online:	Automated template available on the NRF SAASTA website: http://www.saasta.ac.za/conferences/stemi-conference/
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Submission requirements for the presentations will be communicated to the speakers.

REVIEW PROCESS

The 2021 STEMI Olympiads and Competitions CoP Conference organising committee welcomes submissions on any of the sub-themes and presentation categories as listed above. The abstract will be reviewed by the appointed representatives to determine their suitability for presentation at the conference.

The proposals will be reviewed by the advisory board, which includes representatives from the following institutions:

- Department of Science and Innovation

- Higher Education Institutions
- Academy of Science of South Africa
- Association of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Innovation
- South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement

Potential speakers will be advised of the outcome by 15 January 2021. Once a proposal has been accepted, the author will be required to compose a presentation for the conference, as well as their full paper in the case of academic paper presentations, by the deadline dates stipulated above.

Successful full length scientific papers may be recommended for submission to the South African Journal of Science.

SPEAKER TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS (provided the conference is a physical conference)

National:

The conference organising committee will provide all selected South Africa based speakers with accommodation, as well as flights where required. Accommodation includes daily breakfast and dinner. Lunch will be provided at the conference.

International:

All international speakers will be provided with accommodation. Delegates will however have to make their own flight arrangements. Shuttles and transport arrangements within South Africa will be provided.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For any enquiries related to the **paper submissions**, please contact:

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