



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

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UCT immunologist inaugurated to SA Young Academy of Science



Dr Sabelo Hadebe

Photo: Supplied

The University of Cape Town's (UCT) Dr Sabelo Hadebe, a senior lecturer in the [Division of Immunology](#) in the [Faculty of Health Sciences](#), has been inaugurated by the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) as one of its new 10 members during the recent annual awards ceremony of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf).

This comes after Hadebe was also among 15 global recipients to be bestowed with the [Rising Star Award](#) from the [International Union of Immunological Society](#) in December 2023. The Rising Star Awards recognises outstanding early-career professionals who have made significant contributions to the field of immunology and their communities.

"It is a great honour to join SAYAS and to be able to contribute to science for society. This recognition is significant as it illustrates my unique contribution to science as an immunologist and my involvement in national and international organisations. Science is

about passion and the need to share knowledge generated with the rest of the world,” said Hadebe.

Hadebe’s research interests are on Type 2 immunity, a particular arm of the immune system associated with allergic diseases, and control of parasitic infections. The SAYAS election demonstrates a commitment not only to the good science he has produced but also to academic citizenship nationally and internationally.

SAYAS was launched in October 2011 as a means to enable South Africa’s young scientists to fully participate in local and internationally relevant research and development agendas.

It provides a national platform where leading young scientists from all disciplines in the country can interact, and also access international networking and career development opportunities.

SAYAS members are young scientists below the age of 40, have PhDs and are deemed excellent in their fields of expertise. SAYAS members come from all disciplines including pure and applied sciences, humanities, social sciences and the arts.

Hadebe did his BSc in life sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2005. He later graduated with a PhD in immunobiology in the United Kingdom, then did his first postdoctoral fellowship through the National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill Laboratory, London, before he joined UCT as a research fellow.

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Thami Nkwanyane

Media Liaison and Monitoring Officer

Communication and Marketing Department

University of Cape Town

Rondebosch

Tel: (021) 650 5672

Cell: (072) 563 9500

Email: thami.nkwanyane@uct.ac.za

Website: www.uct.ac.za