

## SAIS NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear SAIS members

Please find this week's newsletter. I encourage all members to follow SAIS on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter to stay up to date with the latest news, events and research.

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### FUNDING CALLS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **POCT Africa 2021 – (Virtual). The 3rd Annual Point of Care Testing Africa Conference will be held on 11 – 12 May 2021 (Virtual).**

The conference will be hosted by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) / Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) / Cardiometabolic Health Research Unit (CHRU) and under the auspices of Africa Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC), South African Association for Clinical Biochemistry (SAACB) and Point of Care Research Network (PCRN). For more information, please visit <https://www.poctafrica.org/>

#### **FOCIS conference 2021 – Virtual Annual Meeting will be held on June 8 – 11, 2021**



For more information, please visit: <https://www.focisnet.org/meetings/focis-2021/>

#### **Present from home, reach peers worldwide - American Society for Microbiology**



World Microbe Forum, taking place online 20-24 June 2021, is the first-ever joint meeting of ASM Microbe and FEMS2021 that will bring together your peers, researchers, industry professionals, students, educators and leaders from across the globe together in one place. **100s of opportunities to get FREE registration** – Simply apply for abstract awards/grants, like the [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Abstract Award for Scientists from Low and Low-Middle Income Countries](#), when you submit your research to help offset the cost of the meeting. For more information, please visit: <https://www.worldmicrobeforum.org/>



Frontiers Forum Speaker Series – Next session will be held on Tuesday 2 March 2021, 10:00-11:00 CET

# Speaker Series Frontiers Forum 2021

For more information, visit: <https://forum.frontiersin.org/>

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## PUBLICATIONS and INTERESTING READS:

### **The mystery of the pandemic's 'happy hypoxia'**

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/368/6490/455>

### **How 'killer' T cells could boost COVID immunity in face of new variants**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00367-7>

### **Saliva viral load is a dynamic unifying correlate of COVID-19 severity and mortality**

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.01.04.21249236v2.full>

### **Saliva and Nasopharyngeal Swab Testing Show Similar Sensitivity for SARS-CoV-2 Infection Testing**

[https://www.practiceupdate.com/c/112669/75/24/?elsca1=emc\\_eneews\\_weekinreview&elsca2=email&elsca3=practiceupdate\\_cv19&elsca4=cv19&elsca5=newsletter&rid=NDY1Mzc5NzcwNTYyS0&lid=31048597](https://www.practiceupdate.com/c/112669/75/24/?elsca1=emc_eneews_weekinreview&elsca2=email&elsca3=practiceupdate_cv19&elsca4=cv19&elsca5=newsletter&rid=NDY1Mzc5NzcwNTYyS0&lid=31048597)

### **COVID-19 vaccination: Recommendations for management of patients with allergy or immune-based diseases**

<http://www.samj.org.za/index.php/samj/article/view/13207>

### **Povidone-Iodine Mouthwash, Gargle, and Nasal Spray to Reduce Nasopharyngeal Viral Load in COVID-19**

[https://www.practiceupdate.com/c/113304/75/24/?elsca1=emc\\_eneews\\_weekinreview&elsca2=email&elsca3=practiceupdate\\_cv19&elsca4=cv19&elsca5=newsletter&rid=NDY1Mzc5NzcwNTYyS0&lid=31048597](https://www.practiceupdate.com/c/113304/75/24/?elsca1=emc_eneews_weekinreview&elsca2=email&elsca3=practiceupdate_cv19&elsca4=cv19&elsca5=newsletter&rid=NDY1Mzc5NzcwNTYyS0&lid=31048597)

### **CCR5 inhibition in critical COVID-19 patients decreases inflammatory cytokines, increases CD8 T-cells, and decreases SARS-CoV2 RNA in plasma by day 14**

[https://www.ijidonline.com/article/S1201-9712\(20\)32305-5/fulltext](https://www.ijidonline.com/article/S1201-9712(20)32305-5/fulltext)

### **Are current putative COVID-19 vaccines effective against the B.1.351 variants?**

<https://www.immunopaedia.org.za/breaking-news/are-current-putative-covid-19-vaccines-effective-against-the-b-1-351-variants/>

### **Can COVID vaccines stop transmission? Scientists race to find answers**

Controlling the pandemic will require shots that prevent viral spread, but that feature is difficult to measure.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00450-z>

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## FUNDING CALLS

### **Polio Research foundation (PRF)**

The PRF Scientific Advisory Panel invites applications for funding under the following six categories: Postdocs fellowship, Bursary, James Gear Fellowship, Travel grant, and major impact project. For more information, visit: <https://www.prf.ac.za/>

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## JOBS and POSITIONS

### **Professor/Associate Professor & Head: Division of immunology, Department of Pathology University of cape Town Faculty of Health Sciences & The National Health laboratory Service (NHLS)**

Enquiries about this position should be directed to Professor Raj Ramesar, Head: Department of Pathology at [Raj.Ramesar@uct.ac.za](mailto:Raj.Ramesar@uct.ac.za). To apply, please e-mail your CV, cover letter and other documents in a single pdf file to Ms Vathiswa Mbangi at [recruitment05@uct.ac.za](mailto:recruitment05@uct.ac.za). You can download UCT Application Form: <http://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc>. **Closing date: 22 March 2021**

### **Post-doctoral position Life Science – University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)**

Applications from potential postdoctoral fellows. Two postdoctoral positions are available at Dr. Sophie Deng's Laboratory, Stein Eye Institute, University of California, Los Angeles, USA. Qualified candidate should have a PhD and/or MD with a strong background in cell biology and molecular biology. Please send CV and names of three references to Dr. Sheyla Gonzalez at [s.gonzalez@jsei.ucla.edu](mailto:s.gonzalez@jsei.ucla.edu). The closing date for applications is **March 09, 2021**. Application form can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.nature.com/naturecareers/job/postdoctoral-scholar-university-of-california-los-angeles-ucla-734470>

### **Postdoctoral Research Associate - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (St. Jude)**

The Moldoveanu laboratory invites applications for a highly motivated Postdoctoral Research Fellow to work on an interdisciplinary project that will involve structural biology, protein engineering, biochemistry, and chemical biology. Please send CV to [tudor.moldoveanu@stjude.org](mailto:tudor.moldoveanu@stjude.org). The closing date for applications is **March 09, 2021**. Application form can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.stjude.org/moldoveanu>

### **Head of Data (Permanent position) – Wits Vaccines & Infectious Diseases Analytics (VIDA) Research Unit**

Required minimum education and training: Master's Degree in data management, Statistics, or related quantitative or analytic field Master's Degree in Project Management PhD will be an added advantage. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and their CV to [vacancies2@witshealth.co.za](mailto:vacancies2@witshealth.co.za)

### **Bioinformatics Scientist (FIXED TERM CONTRACT - 12 MONTHS)**

Centre for Respiration Diseases and Meningitis, Sandringham, Johannesburg  
Enquiries may be directed to Gomotsang Mogomane @ 011 386 6425, email application to [Recruiter2@nicd.ac.za](mailto:Recruiter2@nicd.ac.za)

### **Sales Specialist – The Scientific Group**

Please email your CV to [beverleys@ascendismedical.com](mailto:beverleys@ascendismedical.com)



**Senior Specialist Scientist (permanent) - South African Medical Research Council (MRC)**  
**Cape Town, Western Cape**

Please visit: <https://forms.gle/cB7Fygyisuc8EJHB8>

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**IMPORTANT LINKS**

To renew your SAIS Membership please visit: <https://saimmunology.org.za/membership.htm>

To enrol for the COVID-19 vaccine please visit: <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>

To participate in the Nature poll - A year of virtual science conferences: how are you managing?  
Please visit: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00447-8>

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Please don't forget to send me any information on funding opportunities, meetings, workshops and/or conferences, so I can publish it. Additionally, if you are recruiting/hiring, I am more than happy to advertise it on LinkedIn/twitter and in the newsletter.

Thank you.

*Kind regards*  
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