

# INVITATION

**The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)  
cordially invites you to the Virtual Science Forum  
South Africa (SFSA) session on**

**The Protection of Personal Information Act No 4 of 2013: A Code of Conduct for Research**

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**Date:** 10 December 2020  
**Time:** 13:45 – 15:15  
**Venue:** Virtual  
**RSVP:** Click [here](#) to register to attend the session.

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In South Africa (SA) the use of personal information for research is regulated by the National Health Act No 61 of 2003 and its 2012 regulations, the Department of Health *Ethics in Health Research: Principles, Processes and Structures Guidelines* and the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) No 2 of 2000. This changes with the coming into force of the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) No 4 of 2013 on 1 July 2020 [<https://www.justice.gov.za/infoereg/docs/InfoRegSA-POPIA-act2013-004.pdf>]. All public and private bodies that are processing personal information have until 1 July 2021 to ensure that they are compliant with the law.

To guide the application of POPIA to research, the Academy of Sciences of South Africa (ASSAf) considers it essential to develop a POPIA Code of Conduct for Research. This will ensure certainty, transparency and clarity in the use of personal information for research. ASSAf also considers that it is imperative that there is **one** Code to guide the use of personal information for research in all sectors (including health, social science, genomics, etc.). ASSAf is now embarking on a process to facilitate the development of a Code of Conduct for Research, by engaging a wide spectrum of stakeholders including researchers, ethicists and legally trained people. As per the requirements of POPIA and the draft guidelines for the development of codes of conduct, there will be a series of engagement activities that will ensure inclusivity with multiple stakeholders prior to the submission of the Code to the Information Regulator for approval.

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