

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf),
in partnership with the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)
cordially invites you to the
ASSAf Distinguished Visiting Scholar (DVS) Lecture on

The Global Syndemic of Obesity, Undernutrition and Climate Change

Prof Boyd Swinburn

School of Population Health, University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Date: 9 November 2021
Time: 09:00 – 10:15
Platform: Zoom with Streaming on ASSAf and Wits University Facebook Pages
RSVP: [Click here](#) to register (On registration you will receive a confirmation email)

Programme

Facilitator: Prof Karen Hofman, University of the Witwatersrand

09:00 – 09:05 **Welcome Address:** Prof Himla Soodyall, ASSAf

09:05 – 09:10 **Opening Remarks:** Prof Zebulon Vilakazi, University of the Witwatersrand

09:10 – 09:50 **The Global Syndemic of Obesity, Undernutrition, and Climate Change:** Prof Boyd Swinburn, University of Auckland, New Zealand

09:50 – 10:10 **Q&A:** Facilitator Prof Karen Hofman, University of the Witwatersrand

10:10 – 10:15 **Closing Remarks:** Prof Karen Hofman, University of the Witwatersrand



Professor Boyd Swinburn is Professor of Population Nutrition and Global Health at the University of Auckland, New Zealand and Honorary Professor, Global Centre (GLOBE), Deakin University, Australia. Prof Swinburn trained as an endocrinologist and has conducted research in metabolic, clinical, and public health aspects of obesity. His major research interests centre on community and policy actions to prevent childhood and adolescent obesity, and reduce, what he has coined, 'obesogenic' environments. He leads the INFORMAS initiative (www.informas.org) to monitor and benchmark food environments in over 60 countries. He established WHO's first Collaborating Centre on Obesity Prevention at Deakin University in 2003, led two Lancet Series on Obesity in 2011 and 2015, was co-chair of World Obesity Policy & Prevention section 2009-2019 and co-chair of the Lancet Commission on Obesity 2015-2019. He has been an advisor on many government committees, WHO Consultations, and large scientific studies internationally.



Professor Himla Soodyall is Executive Officer of the Academy of Science of South Africa ASSAf. She is a Research Professor in Human Genetics at the University of the Witwatersrand (and was Principal Medical Scientist at the National Health Laboratory Service (previously Soodyall has done ground-breaking genetic research into the peoples of sub-Saharan Africa in which her studies have identified some of the oldest DNA found in living people today, adding weight to the theory that modern humans evolved in the area now known as southern Africa



Professor Zebulon Zenzele Vilakazi was appointed Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Wits University in January 2021. Previously holding the position of Vice-Principal and DVC Research, he brings a wealth of experience, insight and knowledge to the University and the Executive Team. Prof Vilakazi is committed to making a positive impact on society through creating and advancing global knowledge; and fostering graduates to be leaders with integrity.



Professor Karen Hofman is Research Professor and founding Director of the SA Medical Research Council Centre for Health Economics and Decision Science: PRICELESS SA (www.pricelessa.ac.za) at the Wits School of Public Health. She is a Member of the ASSAf Standing Committee on Health. A University of the Witwatersrand medical graduate and qualified paediatrician, she served on faculty at Johns Hopkins and was Director of Policy at the NIH Fogarty Center. Since 2009, Karen has led multidisciplinary policy research to evaluate interventions that provide the biggest return on investment.