

16 March 2018

Dear ASSAf Member

CALL FOR NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS 2018

The annual process of nominating and electing new Members to ASSAf has now commenced, in accordance with Regulation 1 of the Academy (copy attached). The relevant nomination form is attached.

You are hereby requested to submit nominations of outstanding South African scientists/scholars who have made significant contributions to the advancement and application of science/scholarship, nationally and internationally. Nominees must be currently working and/or contributing to scientific/scholarly activities in South Africa to a significant extent.

The membership of South Africa's nationally and internationally recognised science academy, ASSAf, ultimately determines the quality and scope of the role the Academy can play in the country's life and progress. With its emphasis on evidence-based studies on topics of national importance, ASSAf Members have significant opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills to influence policy and practice.

The Academy is committed to enhancing the representativity of its membership to meet the very important requirements of being a truly broad scientific Academy, including black and white South Africans, male and female, in order to achieve its objectives.

As a deliberately multi-disciplinary body, the Academy needs to increase its membership in presently still under-represented areas including agriculture, mathematics, earth sciences, education and economics.

This means that the Membership must collectively commit itself to using its prescribed mechanisms for the election of new Members in a way that will make our organisation one that, as an Academy, has the confidence and trust of all South Africans, and the capacity to undertake the kinds of studies of important national questions that are increasingly required of us.

Please remember that it is typical of all major science academies that the number of nominees significantly exceeds the number of elected Members/Fellows in each election cycle; many are only selected in their second or third year of (automatically once-repeated) nomination, and some never. There should thus be a substantial cohort of nominees to generate a "typical" academy selection cycle for ASSAf's continued good progress and reputation; conversely, non-election of a (good) candidate after a first-time nomination is not a disgrace (as is the case for most of the world's other science academies).

An updated list of current ASSAf Members is available on the [website](#).

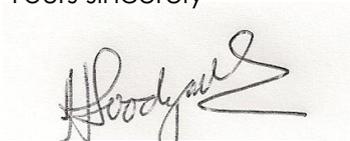
Nomination Process

1. Request the nominee to complete Section A. Please note that this form must be signed by the nominee and be emailed back to you (electronic signatures will be accepted).
2. As the primary nominator, please check Section A and add to it if you wish.
3. Complete Section B and Section C of the nomination form. Please note that Section B, the citation, should be used to strengthen the nominee's application. Add the names of the three other nominators (ASSAf Members) on Section C and obtain their signatures (electronic signatures will be accepted). Separately faxed or emailed scanned copies of certificates with their signatures are acceptable.
4. Send the completed nomination form comprising Sections A, B and C, as an emailed attachment and the candidate's full CV to Mrs Renate Venier at renate@assaf.org.za, alternatively as a fax to 086 210 5592, by no later than **20 April 2018**.

You are welcome to email any enquiries regarding the nomination process to Renate Venier at renate@assaf.org.za.

The Academy thanks Members for taking the time to participate in the nomination process of new Academy Members.

Yours sincerely



Prof Himla Soodyall
General Secretary: Academy of Science of South Africa