

26 May 2026

Dear ASSAf Member

2026 Academy of Science of South Africa Science-for-Society Gold Medal Award

It is my pleasure to invite you to submit nominations for the ASSAf Science-for-Society Gold Medal Award. This annual award was established by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) in 2002 and its purpose is to recognise outstanding scientists who have applied scientific thinking in the service of society. The award is open to all fields of science and scholarship - spanning the natural sciences, engineering, health sciences, social sciences, and the humanities - ensuring an inclusive recognition of excellence. Up to two awards are made each year.

Requirements and procedure are as follows:

- Nominations for the awards can be made by any Member of ASSAf (Members of Council and members of the awards panel are not permitted to nominate candidates).
- A nomination from a non-member of ASSAf should be channelled through a Member of the Academy who supports it.
- Nominations must contain a motivation relating to the criteria for the award as set out in Regulation 2 [see points (i) – (v) below]:
 - Outstanding application of scientific or scholarly thinking in the service of society
 - Scientific or scholarly achievements in each of the following:
 - (i) Using the common ground of scientific knowledge and activity to remove barriers to allow people to develop to their full intellectual capacity;
 - (ii) Endeavouring in diverse ways to inspire, promote and recognise excellence in scientific and technical practice in order to promote appropriate role models in society;
 - (iii) Investigating and publicly reporting on various matters in order to promote and apply scientific thinking in the service of society;
 - (iv) Promoting science education and a culture of science in the population at large; and
 - (v) Endeavouring to establish and develop close relations with scientific organisations in South Africa and with similar bodies in other countries.
- It is important that nominators frame their motivations according to these criteria, irrespective of how distinguished the candidates are in their respective scientific fields. The motivation should preferably not exceed six pages and must be accompanied by a full curriculum vitae.

- Unsuccessful candidates may be re-nominated but re-nominations must be motivated in accordance with the 'Science and Society' criteria (nominations will not be carried over from year to year).
- Nominations and the candidate's full CV must be submitted to Mrs Renate Venier in electronic format at renate@assaf.org.za by no later than **23 June 2026**.

Members of the Academy are urged to take up this opportunity to participate and acknowledge outstanding colleagues for their outstanding work.

Yours sincerely



Prof Christian Pirk

General Secretary: Academy of Science of South Africa