

# SAMSA e-bulletin

Your newsletter promoting research and mentoring of academics in Southern Africa



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## Exhibition at SAMSA 2016

SAMSA encourages institutions to showcase their products and programs during its meetings through exhibitions for a nominal fee of \$300 for members and \$500 for non-members. This in turn improves the visibility of the member and international institutions. For more information regarding the exhibition contact the SAMSA president at [nyabadzaf@sun.ac.za](mailto:nyabadzaf@sun.ac.za)

## Message from the Editorial desk

Dear SAMSA members and newsletter readers,

Welcome to our first *SAMSA Newsletter 2016* which we hope will keep you updated about SAMSA activities and networks across the region and abroad. We hope you have been enjoying the new year and are geared up for its challenges and rewards. As a usual reminder, the SAMSA newsletter will be used for announcements, providing information about upcoming events and conferences. We invite SAMSA members to continue supporting the newsletter by contributing articles and news items to the editorial team. News items can be sent directly to the editor's e-mail address:

[chirovef@gmail.com](mailto:chirovef@gmail.com)

**Newsletter editor**  
**Dr Farai Chirove**



## Join SAMSA today

SAMSA is an organisation which can connect you to a wider network and excellent opportunities with regional and international mathematical scientists. The executive committee continues to invite new members to join SAMSA in 2016. The subscription for new members is as follows: students, USD10, staff, USD20 and institutions, USD240. To know more about the member benefits, visit <http://samsa-math.org>

## Message from the President's desk

On behalf of the SAMSA executive, I welcome you all to this first issue of the *SAMSA Newsletter 2016*.

SAMSA has had a lot of success stories in 2015 and we continue to delight in the support and growth of its membership. Our 2015 conference was phenomenal and epic, thanks to the University of Namibia. Through SAMSA, 35 members were supported to attend the conference. Hats off to the executive committee for sourcing the funding. The MASAMU activities continue to impact the region, thanks to Prof Jenda of Auburn University.

SAMSA continues to expand its influence and this year we meet at our elective conference at the University of Pretoria. I look forward to seeing you in Pretoria. This conference promises to be monumental. Visit: [www.samsa-math.org](http://www.samsa-math.org) for more information.

## Important Notices

- 1. Kovlevskia Research grant for female mathematicians in Southern African region** ([click here](#))—The grant is awarded to female candidates from the region who have demonstrated outstanding work with respect to research and publications in pure and applied mathematics.
- 2. CIMPA School Angola 2016**—African Mathematical School in Harmonic Analysis, PDEs and Applications will take place in Luanda, Angola ([click here](#)).
- 3. CIMPA conference funding**—SAMSA was again awarded CIMPA funding for the conference in South Africa 2016. The president would like to thank the executive for the collective team effort and Prof Giulia Di Nunno for such great support.

## Thanks to LOC 2015

The 2015 Namibia SAMSA conference was a historic success that saw a number of young and experienced researchers exchange valuable research ideas in all areas of mathematics and its applications. The SAMSA executive would like to unreservedly express their gratitude to the University of Namibia Local organising committee for the sterling efforts they put together to make the conference a success.



## BCA transformed to BUAN

Join me in celebrating the growth in one of the institutions with active SAMSA members. Dr Kgosimore (SAMSA treasurer) in the department of basic sciences reported that the Botswana College of Agriculture (BCA) has from the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2016 transformed into a Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN) and the institution is currently undergoing transformation .

## SAMSA membership

The growth of SAMSA is measured by the base of its subscribed membership. We are glad to announce that the current SAMSA membership in 2016 is more than three-fold the membership in 2015. This increase is owed SAMSA's loyal members who continue to see the value of SAMSA activities and benefits thereof. SAMSA also benefits from institutional subscriptions. We trust and hope you will continue to support SAMSA both through subscriptions and attendance of SAMSA conference and research networks.

## Post graduate support 2015

One of the success stories for SAMSA 2015 was the substantial support for postgraduate students as well as some members of staff to attend and present their research to the renowned SAMSA audience. The mutual relations of SAMSA and other international mathematical organisations and societies continues to grow every year. The impact of this support always culminate in producing the future generation of Mathematicians in both pure and applied sciences and, international collaboration and cooperation in mathematical sciences research. The African Mathematics Millennium Sciences (AMMSI), Centre for Pure and Applied Mathematics (CIMPA), London Mathematical Society (LMS) and Centre for disease Control (CDC) are some of the international mathematical organisations which contributed significantly towards travel and subsistence support.



## AMMSI beneficiaries

The AMMSI funding provided full support for twelve participants and partial support for one participant. Of these, 42% were women and 58% were males. The photo on the left shows the AMMSI beneficiaries together with the SAMSA executive and patron.

## CIMPA beneficiaries

The CIMPA funding provided full support for four participants and partial support for one participant. 60% were women and 40% were males. The photo on the right shows the CIMPA beneficiaries together with the SAMSA executive and Prof Giulia Di Nunno.



## LMS beneficiaries

The LMS funding provided partial support for sixteen participants with 38% women and 62% males. These were mainly postgraduate students who attended the SAMSA conference.

## CDC beneficiaries

The CDC funding provided full support for two participants Prof Dorothy Hove-Musekwa, Zimbabwe and Prof Norbert Hounkonou, Benin.

## SAMSA 2016 University of Pretoria

The SAMSA 2016 conference preparations are underway. The conference will be hosted at University of Pretoria, South Africa. The local organising committee chairperson Dr Michael Chapwanya reported that all groundwork is done, the conference website ([click here](#)) is up and running and the abstract submission is open ([click here](#)). Members are encouraged to register early to avoid last minute hassles. Tell and invite a friend to attend SAMSA 2016.

## Funding opportunities

**AMMSI:** This is to remind you that 1st May 2016, is the next deadline for submission of requests for grants for support. As you are aware these grants enable postgraduate students to attend conferences organized in Africa and supported by AMMSI. Kindly circulate this information to all mathematicians in your region so that those who are organizing conferences to be held between July 2016 to October 2016 to submit their applications by 1st May 2016. The application form is available at the AMMSI website : [www.ammsi.org](http://www.ammsi.org)

**NEWTON INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS SCHEME:** The scheme benefits early career postdoctoral researchers. Details of the funding can be found on the [link](#).

## Dr Robert Smith's visit to Stellenbosch University

Dr Robert Smith and Prof Farai Nyabadza met in Zambia 2011 during the first MASAMU meeting. A collaborative link was set up that culminated in the research visit Dr Smith under took between 25 and 27 February 2016. He gave a presentation on 'Adding Education to "Test and Treat": Can We Overcome Drug Resistance?'. This is a classical example of collaborative agenda of the MASAMU program.



## AMMSI-Phillip Griffiths Prize: 2016

The AMMSI-Phillip Griffiths prize is an annual award, starting in 2016, to African mathematicians, living in Africa, who have made outstanding contributions to mathematics, application of mathematics or promotion of mathematics, as evidenced by research and its impact. The Prize was made possible through a grant to AMMSI by Professor Phillip Griffiths, a Professor Emeritus in algebraic and differential geometry in the School of Mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Princeton, New Jersey who also chairs the Science Initiative Group (SIG) at the Institute, which nurtures science in the developing world through programs such as RISE, of which AMMSI is an affiliate network.

The prestigious prizes in 2016 was awarded to two renowned professors, one of whom is the SAMSA patron. These are Professors Omar El-Fallah (Morocco) and Edward Lungu (Botswana). Congratulations to our two great professors. We are proud of you and we hope to sustain the tone of the legacy whose footprints you have established. We present snap shots of their positive contribution and impact of their efforts to the African mathematics fraternity.



**Professor Edward Lungu**

Professor Edward Lungu has made a significant and outstanding contribution in applied mathematics especially in the mathematical modelling of infectious diseases. He nurtured and continues to nurture the next generation of African Mathematicians. He is one of the founders of SAMSA and the currently serving as its patron. He also takes a leading role as the principal investigator in Simons Foundation Africa Mathematics Project (AMP) entitled, "Research and Graduate Studies in Mathematics and its Applications: A Network Approach (RGSMA)". He is currently a full professor at the Department of Mathematics, Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), Palapye, Botswana.

Professor Omar El-Fallah is known for his exceptional contribution to mathematics in the areas of Banach algebras, reflexivity of operators and Dirichlet spaces as well as his role in educating and mentoring the next generation of African mathematicians. He is a full professor at the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Sciences, University Mohammed V Rabat, Morocco. He is also the Director, Laboratory of Analysis and Application .



**Professor Omar El-Fallah**