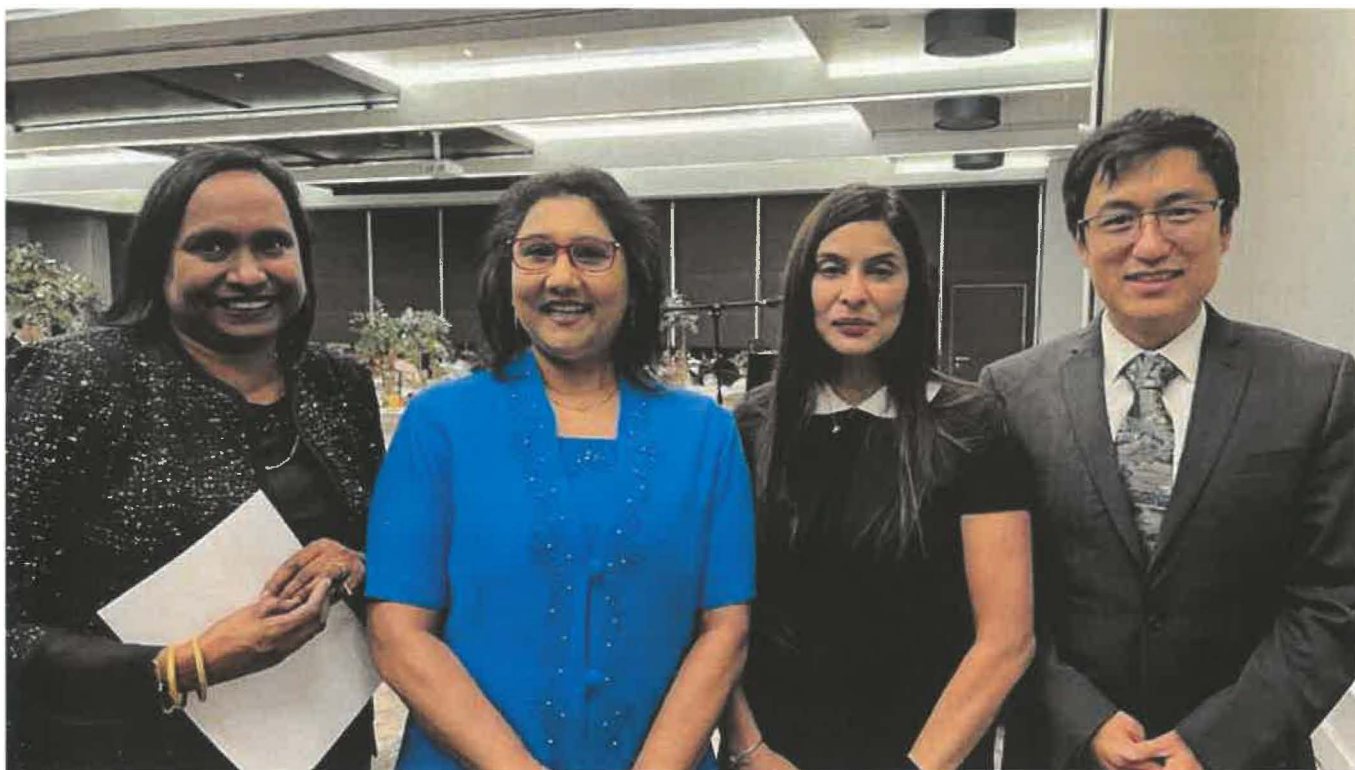


5 UKZN academics named members of the Academy of Science of SA, and 1 admitted into South African Young Academy of Science



Thajasvarie Naicker, Kogieleum Naidoo, Deevia Bhana and Yin-Zhe Ma. Picture: Supplied

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Published 9h ago

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Durban — The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) has congratulated six of its top scholars who have been named in the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS).

UKZN said that five UKZN academics are among 29 of South Africa's leading scholars and scientists inaugurated as members of the ASSAf while one young academic was admitted into the SAYAS.

The new ASSAf members from UKZN are:

- Professor Deevia Bhana - DSI/NRF South African Research chair in Gender and Childhood Sexuality.
- Professor Rituparno Goswami - Academic leader (Research) at the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science.
- Professor Yin-Zhe Ma – Academic at the Physics Cluster at UKZN and a core member of the Square Kilometre Array team.
- Professor Thajasvarie Naicker - Academic in the College of Health Sciences.
- Professor Kogieleum Naidoo - deputy director: Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) and head: CAPRISA TB and HIV Treatment Research Programme. and Honorary Associate Professor in the Department of Nursing and Public Health, UKZN.



Rituparno Goswami. Picture: Supplied

New members are elected each year by the full existing membership. Membership in the academy is a great honour and is in recognition of scholarly achievement. Members are the core asset of the academy and give their time and expertise voluntarily in the service of society.

The 29 new ASSAf members bring the total membership of ASSAf to 659.

The scholars and scientists were inaugurated at the annual (ASSAf) Awards ceremony held in Pretoria recently.

The new SAYAS member is Professor Asanda Mditshwa, an associate professor of horticultural sciences at UKZN.

Mditshwa was one of ten SAYAS members inaugurated at the same time.



Professor Asanda Mditshwa is an associate professor of horticultural sciences at UKZN. Picture: Supplied

SAYAS was launched in October 2011 as a means to enable South Africa's young scientists to fully participate in local and internationally relevant research and development agendas.

It provides a national platform where leading young scientists from all disciplines in the country can interact, and also access international networking and career development opportunities.

SAYAS members are young scientists below the age of 40, have PhDs and are deemed excellent in their fields of expertise.

UKZN vice-chancellor and principal, Professor Nana Poku, congratulated the newly inaugurated members.

"Membership in the academy is reserved for the country's leading scholars and scientists. Their election as members of ASSAf cements their stature as among the country's best scholars. The mere fact that they were elected into the membership by existing members of the academy is proof that they also command the respect of their peers," Poku said.