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# SA scientist Quarraisha Abdool Karim wins about R10m French prize

By [daya001](#) - May 27, 2020

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Acclaimed HIV researcher Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim, who discovered {that a} topical gel might cease many ladies catching the virus, has been awarded one in all France's high science prizes.

Abdool Karim gained the €500 000 (about R9 577 995) Christophe Merieux Prize for her work for the Durban-based Centre for the AIDS Programme of Analysis in South Africa (Caprisa), which she heads.

Caprisa is run on the College of KwaZulu-Natal's medical faculty.

The Institut de France, which runs the prize, praised her work tracing "the cycle of transmission" of the virus, with "younger girls usually getting it from males 10 years their senior".

## Hailed

Additionally they hailed her work on vaccines for the virus and of the way to deal with individuals who have tuberculosis and are additionally HIV optimistic.

Abdool Karim is greatest identified for a examine that discovered {that a} gel of the anti-retroviral drug tenofovir was efficient in decreasing the danger of ladies catching HIV and genital herpes throughout intercourse.

Abdool Karim, 60, has beforehand gained her homeland's highest honour, the Order of Mapungubwe, in addition to a prestigious L'Oral-Unesco for Ladies in Science award.

Her husband, fellow epidemiologist [Salim Abdool Karim](#), is the federal government's predominant scientific advisor for Covid-19. She additionally sits on the board of specialists tackling the pandemic there.

The award was attributable to be introduced in Paris subsequent week, however the ceremony was cancelled due to the coronavirus.