

# UKZN Pro-vice chancellor elected as the seventh president of TWAS

The Pro-vice chancellor for African Health at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, has been elected to serve as the seventh president of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS).

TWAS is for the advancement of science in developing countries (Unesco-TWAS). The TWAS council, elected by members every four years, is responsible for supervising all academy affairs.

Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim, who is also a professor in clinical epidemiology at Columbia University in the U.S., is a world-leading Aids researcher in the country and will be the first woman to serve as TWAS president.

Abdool Karim succeeds Sudanese mathematician Mohamed Hassan.

She said it was an honour and privilege to be elected as president of TWAS and to have the opportunity to build on the strong foundations established over four decades by her predecessors in realising the aspirational vision of the founder, Nobel Laureate Abdus Salam.

"While we have made progress in collaboration with the global network of science academies and strategic partnerships, much more remains to be done during these socially, politically and economically challenging times," said Abdool Karim.

She added it was also an opportunity for scientific excellence in developing countries to flourish continuing to find solutions to the ongoing and new challenges that face the



Professor  
Quarraisha  
Abdool Karim.  
**PHOTO:  
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most vulnerable in communities.

Abdool Karim is the associate scientific director of the centre for the Aids programme of research in South Africa (Caprisa). As an infectious diseases epidemiologist, her research focuses on the evolution of HIV, the factors influencing HIV acquisition, and the development and evaluation of interventions to prevent HIV infection in young women.

She has been recognised for her scientific work with more than 30 honours and awards, including the 2014 TWAS-Lenovo Prize, the Order of Mapungubwe from the president of South Africa, the 2016 L'Oreal-Unesco International Award for Women in Science for Africa, and other awards.

—Witness Reporter.