



*A High Tea  
Celebrating*

# WOMEN IN STEM



October 14 2022

12h30 - 16h00

**UNITE Building,**  
UKZN Howard College Campus

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



### KOGIE NAIDOO

Professor Kogie Naidoo, MBCHB, PhD, is based at the Centre of the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) where she serves as both Deputy Director and the Head of the Treatment Research Programme. She is also an Honorary Associate Professor in the College of Health Sciences, UKZN. Her research has shaped both local and international guidelines on TB-HIV treatment integration. She is lead investigator in several Phase II and III TB-HIV and drug resistant-TB treatment trials. Prof Naidoo serves on the WHO HIV Treatment Guidelines Committee, as board member of the South African HIV Clinicians Society, and for J&J Global Public Health HIV working group. She serves on data safety monitoring committees for various community-based TB treatment and prevention strategy studies. Prof Naidoo has published > 120 peer reviewed publications, has authored several Global Health textbooks, supervised several Masters, PHD's and post-doctoral research fellows. She also serves as a reviewer for several leading international journals and was awarded the SA Medical Research Council post intern research scholarship in 1994, the Fogarty Ellison Research Scholarship in Global Health in 2005, and the 2013 Union Scientific Prize awarded by the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease.



### ZAKITHI MKHIZE

Zakithi Mkhize is a PhD candidate at the HIV Pathogenesis Programme (HPP) at the Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine, UKZN. She is also a Sub-Saharan African Network for HIV/TB research excellence (SANTHE) PhD fellow. She is currently working in HIV cure studies, particularly on understanding the dynamics of transcription during HIV infection and latency. She is passionate about using science to make life changing medical discoveries and is hopeful that we will see a cure for HIV in our lifetime. Zakithi is also an avid science communicator and youth STEM activist. Her YouTube channel BlackGirlScientist is used as a platform where she shares her journey through science, helping others just like her to navigate the field.

## Programme

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12h30-12h45 | <b>Arrival and Registration</b>                                                                                                                                                |
| 12h45-13h00 | <b>Welcome and Lucky Draw</b><br><b>Professor Cristina Trois</b><br>SARCHI Chair in Waste and Climate Change, UKZN                                                             |
| 13h00-13h20 | <b>Ice-breaker</b><br><b>Beach and Bush</b>                                                                                                                                    |
| 13h20-13h45 | <b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS: A Woman in STEM</b><br><b>Professor Kogie Naidoo</b><br>Deputy Director and Head of Treatment: CAPRISA                                                     |
| 13h45-14h00 | <b>#BlackGirlScientist</b><br><b>Zakithi Mkhize</b><br>PhD Candidate, HIV Pathogenesis Programme: UKZN                                                                         |
| 14h00-14h15 | <b>Integrating the Person with the Professional</b><br><b>Rakhi Beekrum</b><br>Counselling Psychologist                                                                        |
| 14h15-14h35 | <b>STEM Career Quiz</b><br><b>Beach and Bush</b>                                                                                                                               |
| 14h35-14h50 | <b>You Are Your Future</b><br><b>Professor Nomali Ngobese</b><br>UKZN Alumnus, Mail & Guardian Top 200 Young South African and Food Security Specialist: North-West University |
| 14h50-15h00 | <b>Vote of Thanks</b><br><b>Michelle Lang</b><br>Janssen Haematology KZN                                                                                                       |
| 15h00-16h00 | <b>High Tea</b><br><b>Round Table Discussions</b><br><b>Photo Opportunity</b>                                                                                                  |

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### RAKHI BEEKRUM

Rakhi Beekrum, a UKZN Alumnus (MSocSci - Psychology) is a psychologist, motivational speaker and mental health advocate with over 13 years of experience. Her expert advice is featured regularly in South African and international publications, on national radio, and she is well-known on social media and has featured on national television. With a background in media and communication, Rakhi is passionate about spreading mental health awareness and reaching out via social media to those who do not have easy access to individual therapy. Her expert advice has been featured in different forms of media (e.g. print, radio, television and social media) to help individuals lead more meaningful lives. Her current focus has been mental health in the workplace.



### NOMALI NGOBESE

UKZN alumnus Prof Nomali Ngobese is a 2022 Mail & Guardian Top 200 Young South African from North-West University. She earned this recognition for using Science and Innovation to create an equitable future where every person has access to resources and opportunities. Prof Ngobese achieves this by combining her expertise in indigenous plants and potato cultivation to train small-holder farmers. She is known for her work in food security, highlighting underutilised crops to alleviate hunger and boost economic development in rural communities. She completed all of her degrees at UKZN, which culminated in a PhD in Bioresources Systems in 2017. Before joining North-West, Prof Ngobese was the Deputy Head of the Department of Botany and Plant Biotechnology at the University of Johannesburg. She is a registered Professional Natural Scientist in Botanical Science with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (popularly known as SACNASP). Recognition of her work has led to features in popular media platforms like [Million STEM](#) and [ISET Science Careers](#) as well as a nomination as an emerging researcher for the [2022 NSTF South-32 awards](#).

