



science  
& technology

Department:  
Science and Technology  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Dear Sir/Madam/Dr./Prof.

## **INVITATION TO A FORUM ON THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FELLOWS PROGRAMME IN CAPE TOWN AND PRETORIA ON 26 AND 29 AUGUST 2014**

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will be hosting two National System of Innovation (NSI) forums on the Research and Innovation Fellowship (RIF) Programme in Cape Town at the University of Cape Town (UCT) on 26 August 2014 from 9h30 to 12h00, and in Pretoria at the DST offices on 29 August 2014 from 9h30 to 12h00.

Formerly known as the Global Research and Innovation Fellowship Network (GRIFN), RIF is a partnership between the United States National Science Foundation (US NSF) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The RIF Programme offers a unique opportunity for the NSI in placing fellows from top US universities in South African institutions to tackle development issues and engage in cutting-edge research and innovation. The Programme will be presented by a USAID team from Washington who will be visiting South Africa in the week of 25 August 2014. A RIF information pack is attached.

You may be aware of the GRIFN forums facilitated by the DST in September 2013. The response following these forums was overwhelming with 62 South African applications submitted. From this, 24 were approved and Fellows have been arriving in South Africa between June and July to take up their Host opportunities.

We kindly request your attendance at this forum, and that of your colleagues responsible for research and development. Kindly confirm your availability on or before 19 August 2014 for one of the scheduled sessions. The Programme for the two sessions is attached. The map and directions to the UCT venue is attached.

For planning purposes kindly indicate if you'll be attending in Cape Town or Pretoria. To confirm your attendance or for enquiries, kindly contact Ms Gcino Mlaba on 012-843 6391 or email at [gcino.mlaba@dst.gov.za](mailto:gcino.mlaba@dst.gov.za).

I look forward to your participation at the forums.

Kind regards,

**MS LISA DU TOIT**  
**DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS**  
**DATE: 11/08/14**

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