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8 March 2019

UCT students selected to meet Nobel laureates in Germany

Four University of Cape Town (UCT) students are among 20 top young South African scientists successfully nominated by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) to attend the 69th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting dedicated to physics in Germany in June 2019.

The students are Mr Jake Gordin (Master's, Astrophysics and Space Science), Ms Julia Healy (PhD Astronomy), Dr Itumeleng Monageng (PhD Astronomy graduate) and Kimeel Sooknunan (Master's, Astrophysics and Space Science). They will be among the 580 young scientists from 88 countries who will join 42 Nobel laureates at the meeting, which takes place from 30 June to 5 July in Lindau.

Ms Healy says: "I am very honoured and excited to be representing UCT and South Africa at such a prestigious event. I am looking forward to the opportunity to meet some of the greatest scientific minds in my field, but also the opportunity to network with other young scientists from across the world.

"This meeting will provide an opportunity to broaden our horizons and take us out of our everyday life to see new possibilities, through the eyes of those people we're about to meet. I'm really looking forward to meeting Professor Donna Strickland and to bring back some inspiring ideas for me to encourage more young women into science."

ASSAf nominates young scientists every year to attend the event, where they enjoy in-depth exchanges with Nobel laureates.

"The South African scientists will serve as ambassadors for the country in the area of physics and at the International Day South Africa is hosting [at the event]," said ASSAf executive officer Professor Himla Soodyall.

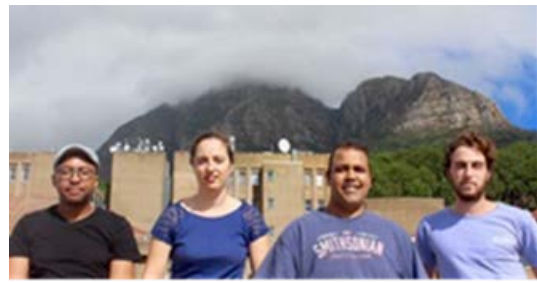
The six-day programme will include lectures and panel discussions, with many of the students also getting the chance to present their own work at one of the master classes or during a poster session.

Dr Monageng, currently a postdoctoral researcher at the South African Astronomical Observatory, says: "I'm very excited to be part of an event that connects young researchers from all around the globe with Nobel laureates where we'll be drawing lots of inspiration directly from some of the most distinguished scientists".

The Academy is an official partner of the Lindau Foundation, and is able to send young scientists to this event through funding provided by the Department of Science and Technology.

Photos:

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Caption: Top left are from L-R Dr Itumeleng Monageng, Ms Julia Healy, Ms Kimeel Sooknanun and Mr Jake Gordin
PIC: Supplied/UCT

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Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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