2019 SARIMA CONFERENCE

**3 – 6 September 2019, Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset-West,
Western Cape, South Africa**

www.sarimaconf.co.za

Call for Abstracts

SARIMA invites you to make a contribution to the 2019 Annual Conference – your opportunity to present stimulating findings, best practices, case studies and the chance to make a difference to the future of research and innovation management in Southern Africa.

CONFERENCE THEME: "Global Future – Local Needs"
How do we meet local needs while ensuring our research remains globally relevant? Does our research offer us a place on the future global stage but tackle local problems? What is the role of research and innovation management in connecting us globally and keeping us locally relevant? Our sessions explore these tough questions in an era where the gaps between science in the developed world and needs in the developing world have widened, and funders have to make tough decisions about what to fund and how it makes a difference. Research and innovation shapes societies of the future – and we need to ensure that that future includes us!

We will be selecting speakers that can bring a regional perspective to this topic, as well as inviting a number of International speakers from beyond the region to bring a global perspective.

The programme comprises several sessions with different formats that are designed to stimulate and promote engagement and discussion. We welcome abstracts for structuring of sessions which could present a different perspective, as well as abstracts that fit our planned sessions.

Delegates are also invited to submit poster presentations relating to the session topics. Posters will be on display throughout the conference.

Invitation to Submit Abstracts:

Abstracts are sought for oral or poster presentations under the following session topics:

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (I & TT)

1. **How Big Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) drive innovations**: Businesses have been analysing transactional and customer data for many years. These companies use the information to identify new markets, manage risk, provide targeted marketing and better services. Recent advances in computing systems and greater access to data have resulted in the concept of "big data", referring not only to the size of data repositories, but to its importance as a valuable resource. Data-driven and tech savvy organisations, such as Facebook and Google, have demonstrated the power of big data and its use in AI. Traditional companies are needing to rapidly catch up to remain competitive. We are looking for abstracts about institutional initiatives on big data and AI, the changing landscape of research and skills development with these new technologies, IP protection and commercialisation strategies, case studies of successful commercialisation, and legal impediments and risks. *(Note there is a separate topic on Biobanks and Data Banks where data management strategies may be discussed.)*

2. **Social Science, Humanities and Arts Commercialisation**: The entrepreneurial and innovative research outputs from the Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts (SSHA) disciplines are largely untapped in terms of valorisation/commercialisation. What does innovation in these disciplines look like and how do we encourage researchers in SSHA to realise the significant impact

that may be achieved from their work? How do the commercialisation models differ from those in STEM? How can we nurture SSHA startups, community organisations, partnerships and research units? We are looking for abstracts on case studies in SSHA commercialisation, ways of embedding an entrepreneurial mindset and initiatives showing how research undertaken in SSHA faculties have benefited society through dedicated commercialisation efforts.

3. **Trends in Industry engagement and Entrepreneurship**: The creation of SMMEs is a vital part of the solution to address poverty, inequality and joblessness in our countries. Industry-University (I-U) engagements can play a significant role in strengthening current SMMEs, and/or stimulating the creation of new startups, as well as supporting entrepreneurs. We are looking for abstracts indicating strategies and initiatives to encourage and facilitate I-U collaborations and how these have facilitated entrepreneurship and the creation of new ventures based on R&D outputs. What are some of the structural impediments that needs to be addressed to facilitate entrepreneurship and have organisations, institutions and governments addressed these? What are some of the important institutional factors that facilitate entrepreneurship?

4. **Catalysing cross-disciplinary inventions - sparking the fire of innovation**: With the advent of open innovation, researchers at universities are increasingly engaging in collaborative research, whether with peers in their own institutions, or with other institutions, science councils and private companies. However, collaborations are still chiefly in disciplinary silos and true cross-disciplinary innovation is rare except in areas such as nanotechnology, biomedical engineering and mechatronic engineering. We invite abstracts sharing ideas and experiences around structured cross-disciplinary innovation models, institutional initiatives for sparking cross-disciplinary innovation and case studies of successful inventions where cross-disciplinary problem solving resulted in highly innovative outputs.

5. **Contracting for commercial success**: University Technology Transfer Offices often struggle to get IP out of the door and into society where it can make an impact. Many institutions struggle with the trend of increasing IP costs compared to projects commercialised, or an increase in the ratio of patents to licenses, while others have strategies that reverse these trends. We invite abstracts discussing tactics and strategies to get technologies out of the institution and into society. What increases the likelihood of commercial success? Trends in IP costs compared to projects commercialised or patent to license ratios, or other, could be used to demonstrate the point.

6. **Funding models fine-tuned**: There is often a significant gap in the funding of development work required to take the outputs of lab research to a prototype product or service that can be grown into a business. There is then a second funding gap with a lack of external investment to grow the business. This session aims to unpack what the funding landscape looks like in SADC. Furthermore, to determine whether these gaps are real, or a result of inadequately positioned proposals and/or aimed at the wrong types of funds. We invite abstracts from funders and research and innovation managers about the funding landscape as well as ways to access funds at different stages of the project or business.

7. **Approaches to student IP rights, and shifts in IP Policies**: The IP Policies at our institutions are meant to guide our decisions on IP ownership, rights and enforcement in relation to student IP. However, many are silent on key issues such as student rights, the use of facilities, and IP management. In addition, there may have been a shift in practice from what the institutional IP Policy states. We invite abstracts demonstrating different approaches to student IP rights, case studies, and policy perspectives. Are students empowered and incentivised to pursue commercialisation of IP they have created?

8. **Fintech**: Financial technology, or Fintech, describes emerging technologies in areas such as finance, investment, transaction security, and payments that offer automated financial products or services through the internet, such as lending platforms, cryptocurrency, peer-to-peer transaction verification technologies (e.g. blockchain), crowd funding platforms, and data-driven financial services. We invite abstracts discussing Fintech innovation and its possibilities and challenges, including the economic impact of Fintech, the disruption of traditional financial industries, IP protection strategies, models of technology transfer and commercialisation, services and funding available for development and incubation of Fintech, local and international business success stories, regulatory and legal hurdles, and the future of Fintech.

9. **Inter-institutional agreements and commercialising co-owned IP**: An increase in collaboration between researchers at different institutions has led to an increase in jointly created IP. This has the potential to significantly complicate successful IP licensing if not thought through properly at the onset. Should the IP be jointly owned? Or should one institution own the IP and have a revenue-sharing agreement with the other institution? Should one institution take the lead in commercialising it? What happens if they are unable to do this, or if circumstances have changed since the project started? This session aims to consider the pitfalls and the opportunities of commercialising and managing co-created IP. We invite abstracts discussing case studies, or highlighting issues to consider when negotiating an inter-institutional agreements.

10. **Technology Marketing:** In order to attract investor interest, a technology needs to be marketed. What is the best way to do this? Is a solid technology package necessary, or just a good story? How do we demonstrate benefits and market potential? Do we pre-determine whether the innovation is best suited for licensing, a development partner or a spinout, or do we let the market decide? We invite abstracts sharing successful and unsuccessful technology marketing strategies and initiatives.

RESEARCH MANAGEMENT

11. **Big Data and the Research enterprise - Implications for Research Management practices**: Many researchers are dealing with larger and larger datasets in their research, whilst new positions such as "Data Managers" are becoming more and more common in research teams. We invite abstracts that contribute to discussions surrounding how RM&TT practitioners can strategically plan for, and respond to, this growing phenomenon, covering topics such as technical skills development and analytics, individual career progression and subject/domain advancement, and policies and frameworks in the context of globalisation.

12. **Trends in Research Management and Administration (RMA):** Research consist of a complex and diverse set of activities, which are constantly changing due to external influences like global trends, funders and their agendas, and breakthroughs in knowledge boundaries. How best can RMA keep pace with these changes? What are the latest innovations in RMA? What should we be doing now, and in the future, to create research conducive environments? Should all RMA be disciplinary specific or is there still a role for the generalist? Should RMA be centralised or decentralised?

13. **Industry engagement in Research - push-pull:** Today, researchers are expected to adapt to different work environments and industries, work across discipline boundaries, and apply their research and expertise to solving real-world problems in industry. University-Industry collaboration contributes towards expanding the relevance of research carried out in public institutions, fosters the commercialisation of public R&D outcomes, and increases the mobility of labour between public and private sectors. We invite abstracts that illustrate the opportunities and challenges of both short-term and long-term collaborations with industry, such as contract research, consulting, joint projects and public-private partnerships. How can institutions develop more strategic and open-ended, collaborations, and work with firms to develop stronger innovative capacity?

14. **Drivers of change in Research Management**: What elements of Research Management practices need to be disrupted in order for Research Management to progress? It could be in the way we support our researchers, develop human capacity in the next generation of researchers, develop ourselves as RM&TT practitioners in line with the SARIMA Professional Competency Framework (PCF), network in the RM&TT field, promote collaboration at different levels within our institutions, render services and broker information within our institutions, and respond to changes in ethics, policy or technology. We invite abstracts on what drives, and thus promotes, change in the research management space.

15. **Speaking "ReMish" - The Language of Research Management**: When research is conducted across multi-country teams, very specific communication strategies need to be employed to ensure that research teams understand each other. This will result in the best possible outcomes of the research undertaken. RM practitioners are key to this, often working with their counterparts in other countries to ensure communication within the research teams. We invite abstracts that showcase ways of communicating efficiently to ensure that research flows and that there is a global understanding of what is happening in a very complex environment.

16. **Research Audits for Impact (Research Road Maps)**: In recent years, "research impact" has become a major topic of debate within institutions, largely due to the processes for evaluating research and the allocation of funds. The beneficial consequences of research can be either, or both, academic and societal: academic includes publications, collaborations, new research questions, while societal includes better quality of life, increased understanding of values and beliefs, and so on. The emphasis on demonstrating research impacts is currently outpacing the development of robust, widely accepted tools to measure research impacts. We invite abstracts illustrating tools to measure impact, as well as discussions on how governments should measure impact, and whether a national commitment correlates to institutions ensuring research outcomes make an impact.

17. **Banking our Assets: Biobanks and data banks**: Biobanks and data banks have become hot topics in research management in the last two decades. How do we set up and/or manage biobanks or databanks at our institutions? Are datasets and biological samples considered institutional assets? How are these curated and managed? What (changing) policies and procedures govern these resources, and how does the progression towards Open Access affect these? Could these "assets" be useful to leverage additional grant funding, and are these resources commercialisable? We invite abstracts on case studies and best practice models used surrounding the setup, maintenance and closure of biobanks and data banks.

18. **Update on biodiversity regulations**: A large proportion of the world's biodiversity is in developing countries and, as an example, South Africa ranks as one of the top ten countries with three out of 35 global hotspots. Protection of this biodiversity is a high priority and many of the uses associated with this biodiversity are linked to traditional knowledge (TK). Because of the close relationship between indigenous communities and their surrounding biodiversity, it is recognised that TK has the potential to assist in the conservation of biodiversity as well as to guide sustainable exploitation. However, the slew of legislation enacted to protect biodiversity and TK in South Africa has had a significant impact on the research landscape, but there is a

lack of understanding of the legislation and its implications. We invite abstracts providing updates on biodiversity legislation and processes, as well as IP protection for traditional knowledge systems.

19. **Researcher Development in an evolving ecosystem**: This session focuses on strategies and interventions by research managers to strengthen the support researchers' receive from their supervisors and managers, so that development needs are identified more accurately, formal provision is tailored more closely to needs, and the potential for informal on-the-job learning is maximised. Universities are increasingly classified as more of a "teaching university", "research-intensive university" or "entrepreneurial universities" (among others). These require various models and resources to ensure talent retention and career planning through graduate training and research support. We invite abstracts illustrating best practices in developing researchers across different types of institutions in an evolving ecosystem.

20. **The skills requirement for the Office of Research Support**: Research management and administration (RMA) is an eclectic profession requiring a wide range of skills and competencies ranging from the technical to the social. This is further complicated by the changing nature of the research environment and research itself. We invite abstracts that focus on the research administrator and manager of the 21st century. Who is she/he? What attributes should we look for in new candidates or foster in existing staff? What innovative ways can be best harnessed for the professional development of research managers?

How to Submit an Abstract:

Delegates wishing to present an oral or poster presentation are invited to submit a 250-word summary for consideration and inclusion in the programme.

Abstracts must be submitted online via www.sarimaconf.co.za. Please click on *ABSTRACTS.* Guidelines on how to use the online abstract system are available on the abstract site. The deadline for submissions is **29 March 2019.** The Conference Organising Committee reserves the right to allocate abstracts to oral and poster presentation sessions depending on space availability and reserves the right to remove a particular session topic. Abstracts received will be acknowledged and notification of acceptance or rejection will be communicated by email by **30 April 2019**. Only MS Power Point will be accepted for oral presentations.

Please note:
All presenting authors are requested to fully register for the conference by **30 May 2019**. If registration and payment for the 2019 SARIMA Conference has not been received by this deadline, the presentation cannot be listed in the programme.

Abstract preparation guidelines
The following fields should be populated during online submission of the abstract:

Profile
The presenting author should create and complete the online submission and not a co-author.
All communication will be sent to the author who created the profile.
The biography is compulsory, as the chairperson will use this to introduce each speaker.

Title
Insert the full title of the proposed presentation. Title should not exceed 15 words.

Co-authors
Insert full names and contact information.

Co-presenter
Please select this function if another author will be co-presenting the paper with you at the conference (due to time limitations, as far as possible only a single author should present in an oral presentation parallel sessions).

Session topic
Select the session topic under which you would like to present.

Text
Insert the text of the abstract. You will not be able to type additional words once the 250-word limit has been reached, so please check your abstract once submitted. Do not insert the title or co-authors in this text block. Check that special characters have copied correctly. Check that the full abstract has been successfully uploaded by logging out and logging in to your profile again.

Text will be limited to 250 words. Your abstract should state clearly what your presentation will cover, how it will contribute to the particular session and be of benefit to the audience.

(Oral) Presentations
Only MS Power Point will be accepted for oral presentations
PowerPoint presentations must be saved as a .pptx file
16x9 format
Video presentations are to be in mp4 format.

Poster guidelines

The poster boards are 2.45m high and 90cm wide. The posters should comfortably fit onto the boards in portrait style. Oversize posters can unfortunately not be accommodated. **Either A0 or A1 can be printed** *(Portrait style not landscape)*

Poster exhibitors are requested to make A4 copies of their posters (suggested 10 copies at least) as well as their business cards available as handouts for delegates. Poster adhesive as well as a 'plastic sleeve holder' for the copies will be supplied by the organisers for each poster.

Please note the following deadline dates for presenters:

29 March 2019	Deadline for abstract submissions
30 April 2019	Feedback in terms of whether your submission has been accepted
30 May 2019	Deadline for registration
25 July 2019	Early bird registration closes
3 – 6 September 2019	Conference

We look forward to receiving your abstract and your valuable input