



## **Science and Society in Africa under the spotlight**

September 2014

The South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) hosted a workshop entitled Science and Society in Africa at the Stellenbosch University in September 2014.

The focus of the workshop was on 'closing the gap' between science and society in Africa. It also explored the colonial-era legacies which confront African scientists.

The workshop had three keynote speakers, namely Professor Thomas Pogge, a philosopher and international relations specialist at Yale University who gave a keynote address on efforts to incentivise pharmaceutical innovation for the world's poor. A session led by Professor Saul Dubow, a historian of science and expert from the Sussex University, on scientific racism in South Africa's past, was also held. The third address on *ubuntu* and the scientific paradigm was given by Thaddeus Metz, a philosopher at the University of Johannesburg.

An understanding of the interface between science and society is politically and socially critical for development on the continent. It is also of global intellectual importance. One of SAYAS's goals is to provide platforms for young scientists to disseminate their research and 40% of abstracts accepted for the workshop were from early career scholars.

This workshop was jointly organised by SAYAS, the Philosophy Department of University of Johannesburg, the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at Stellenbosch University and the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town.