



INVITATION

VIRTUAL PUBLIC SEMINAR

VACCINE MANUFACTURE IN SOUTH AFRICA: Policy failures of the past can inform our options for a better future

You are invited to attend a Virtual Public Seminar, hosted by the Department of Engineering and Technology Management, Graduate School of Technology Management.

COVID-19 has reignited the debate about the local manufacture of vaccines and its critical link to public health. There are now multiple initiatives to build more resilient health systems and establish a global capability in vaccine supply. The possibility of future pandemics, and the need to avoid a repetition of the economic disintegration which has taken place over the last 18 months, has opened an urgent dialogue about intellectual property, technology transfer and technological capability.

South Africa's participation in the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine value chain could have been more significant, were it not for the slow implementation of a public-private partnership, established in 2003 to modernize the country's vaccine capability. Using a framework informed by the theories of innovation systems and industrial policy, this seminar will cover the background to the partnership, its achievements, its failings and its lack of preparedness for COVID-19. The presentation will also outline present technologies for the manufacture of vaccines, including the mRNA- and adenovirus-based products, and how the new approaches could change the sector. In the final section, these developments and the lessons from the historical analysis will be extended to suggest ways in which the partnership could be more strategically managed, and South Africa's response to future pandemics considerably strengthened.

Date: **Wednesday, 23 June 2021**

Time: **15:30 – 17:15**

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PROGRAMME

15:30	Participants login – BBC (<i>link will be provided to registered participants</i>)
15:40	Welcome: Prof Elma van der Lingen : Chair: Graduate School of Technology Management
15:45	Keynote Presentation: Prof David Walwyn
16:30	Discussions
17:00	Closing Remarks: Prof Elma van der Lingen

BIOGRAPHY



Prof David R Walwyn is a Professor in the Graduate School of Technology Management at the University of Pretoria. He is also appointed as a Visiting Professor in the Office of the SARChI Chair in Transformative Innovation, 4IR & Sustainable Development at the University of Johannesburg.

His research interests cover sustainability transitions, renewable energy, science and innovation policy, research management and industry localisation (with a particular focus on vaccines, renewable energy technologies and pharmaceuticals).

He currently teaches two courses in engineering economics and two courses in energy value chains, the latter at the Wits Business School. He supervises at least 15 Masters students each year on the management of technology and innovation Masters programme offered by the University of Pretoria, and has three PhD students.

He has published widely in the area of science and technology policy, research management, health sciences and biotechnology (1 patent, 44 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 6 book chapters, 50 conference papers and many articles in the Press on sites such as The Conversation and Engineering News). Further details are available on Google Scholar and ResearchGate (see https://www.researchgate.net/profile/David_Walwyn). He has also consulted on many policy projects relating to innovation policy and supported university technology transfer through techno-economic feasibility studies.

Dr Walwyn has a B.Sc. Chemical Engineering from the University of Cape Town and a PhD in Organic Chemistry from the University of Cambridge. He is a member of the Academy of Sciences of South Africa and an Associate Editor on the International Journal of Innovation and Technology Management.