



note from the
the
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Welcome to the first *FST* issue in 2022 and our eleventh year of publication. This column lists and celebrates MySAAFoST's achievements.

MySAAFoST started at the Cape Town Congress in 2017. In 2019, the growing initiative was led by Emma Johnson, and she has achieved much during her term from that time until the end of 2021. She was the first and outgoing, active National Chair of the MySAAFoST initiative.



Credit: Emma Johnson

Emma is currently a Culinary and Snacks Technologist at Mane Flavours, South Africa and is a BSc Food Science (Chemistry) alumna at Stellenbosch University. She is a past SAAFoST matric bursary recipient, and her involvement in SAAFoST has included being a Cape Branch Member, SAAFoST Congress Member in 2017 and 2021, Cape Branch Vice Chair, Council Member and, more recently, 2021 IFT Emerging Leaders Network delegate. She remains a committee member of MySAAFoST today.

"The past two years have seen tremendous growth for MySAAFoST. The pandemic brought about the need to establish a national working group, which met monthly to discuss committee objectives. The 19-member working group, with the support and guidance of Council and EXCO members, successfully managed to accomplish multiple projects. These included many in-person/online webinars, the establishment of the MySAAFoST column in *FST* magazine, the launch of Instagram and Facebook social media handles and hosting interactive webinars at Congress 2021."

"The outgoing MySAAFoST committee are also proud to have established the MySAAFoST organogram, which highlights its leadership structure and member interaction with branches. To honour the MySAAFoST leadership objectives, the ingoing Chair and Vice Chair will have seats on SAAFoST Council."

"SAAFoST is proud of the accomplishments of the outgoing MySAAFoST committee and looks forward to watching the initiative grow from strength to strength!" she says.



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2022's new MySAAFoST Chair

The 2022 MySAAFoST Chair is Dr Nwabisa Mehlomakulu, a lecturer at the Department of Consumer and Food Sciences at the University of Pretoria. Her education background is in Food Biotechnology where she has attained the following degrees: BSc Food Biotechnology, BSc Hons' Food Science and an MSc in Biotechnology from the University of the Free State. She also obtained a PhD in Wine Biotechnology from Stellenbosch University.



Credit: Dr Nwabisa Mehlomakulu

Her journey with MySAAFoST started in 2018 as part of the interim committee, in terms of building the association to become nationally visible and active. "I am proud that we managed to achieve that through the activities hosted at the SAAFoST Congress. The focus on young professionals and students by the Association is what struck me the most. It is thus, when the opportunity presented itself, I put my hand up to chair the association. My vision for the association is to plant a seed to graduates and young professionals to think and actively participate in food entrepreneurship in the country to ensure economic emancipation and food security," she says.

Should you wish to find out more about MySAAFoST, please contact Tsetse Baloyi tsetse@saafof.org.za

Warm wishes
Tricia Fitchet – Editor