

# NICOLA NEWSLETTER



Dear NICOLA Members,

04/2020

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic across the world is changing the way we work, live and interact with one another, and will have lasting effects long after the last of the symptoms disappear. With cases in South Africa rising from the first case on 05 March, to over 1000 reported positive cases, South Africa is effectively at war with the virus.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the nation following a special cabinet meeting on matters relating to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 15, and again on 23 March 2020, during which a full lockdown for 21 days was announced. Considering the effects the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the South African and global economy, the current impacts on international travel and the uncertainty around the timing of measures being implemented to help stop the spread of the virus, a decision has been taken to postpone the planned **SUSTREM CONFERENCE** until 28 and 29 October 2021. The conference theme and venue remain the same and further details will be made available on the website shortly. It is unfortunate therefore that there will not be a face to face NICOLA conference in 2020. In addition, all NICOLA-Connect events will be suspended until further notice, and no face to face training events will be scheduled for at least the next three months.

NICOLA, similar to any other organisation, needs to be agile and adjust to the challenging conditions and look for alternative ways we can still deliver value for our membership base. As face to face meetings are cancelled and workloads become stretched, online training becomes more and more appropriate and advantageous. We are currently preparing a programme of online knowledge sharing webinars, free for our members. Suggestions for topics or themes are welcome, please contact either Heidi Snyman ([heidi@nicola-org.com](mailto:heidi@nicola-org.com)) or Hayley Thomas ([hayley@nicola-org.com](mailto:hayley@nicola-org.com)). A calendar of proposed online training events will be communicated and shared on our website – so please keep an eye open for this. In the interim we have provided some suggestions of available online training resources that members may want to make use of:

- [ITRC Training Resources \(variety of topics\)](#)
- [ITRC Explainer videos on PFAS](#)
- Risk Assessment: [EPA Exposure Assessment Tutorials](#)
- [CL:AIRE Remediation Technologies e-learning](#) (courses are free but you need to register)

For those members who are involved in the position papers, thank you for your efforts to date, we hope you are able to continue your good work through email and telephonic communications within your working groups, and we look forward to sharing your progress with your peers.

We hope you all stay safe and healthy during this time and we look forward to hearing from you.



Christina Masimula  
Chairperson: NICOLA