



SABINA: Creating a network of excellence in natural products

The Southern African Biochemistry and Informatics for Natural Products (SABINA) is one of five networks of the Regional Initiative in Science Education (RISE). It is funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York through the Science Initiative Group and the South African Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Collaborative support

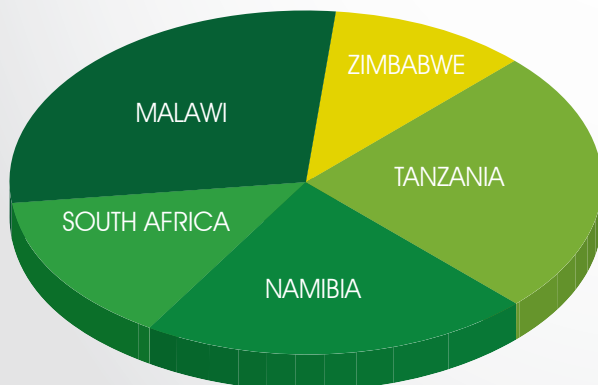
Network partners include the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Tea Research Foundation of Central Africa, the universities of Dar es Salaam, Malawi, Namibia, Pretoria, Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand. Each of these institutions house an individual natural products research node with a node coordinator and specialist areas of expertise. Other participating institutions include the Tshwane University of Technology, the University of KwaZulu-Natal, the universities of the Western Cape, Cape Town and South Africa, Rhodes University and the Agricultural Research Council.

Postgraduate education and training and capacity building

SABINA supports postgraduate training in chemistry, biochemistry and bioinformatics by developing and strengthening networks that integrate chemical and biological sciences in key universities in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. Key focus areas are natural products chemistry, biochemistry, synthetic chemistry, bioinformatics, food science, molecular biology and functional genomics.

- Postgraduate fellows are selected at the start of each phase.
- Fellowships are inclusive of a stipend and academic fees.
- Fellows are collaboratively supervised between the nodes, and provision is made for travel to the laboratory of co-supervisors in other nodes to conduct research.
- Network meetings allow for progress to be monitored and input to be delivered into student projects from cross-cutting disciplines.
- Training workshops are presented for members and fellows in science communication, proposal writing and manuscript presentation, among others.
- Fellows return to their home node to take up an academic position.
- Graduates remain SABINA members after graduation.

Nationalities of SABINA fellows:



Of these students, 50% are female.

By 2017, 17 PhD and 11 MSc students will have graduated from SABINA.

Contact information

Dr John Becker
 SABINA Network Academic Director:
 jbecker@csir.co.za
 +27 (0)12 420 6147

