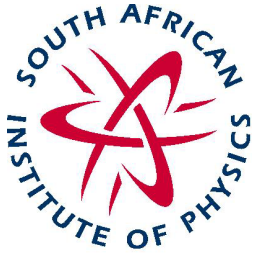


South African Institute of Physics



NPO Registration Number: 130-172 NPO

SAQA Professional Body ID: 777

<http://www.saip.org.za/>

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Media Release

Learners excel in Physics

On Friday, 26 September 2023, the South African Institute of Physics (SAIP) will announce the South African Physics Olympiad (SAPhO) results to the media, the schools involved and the learners who excelled in the SAPhO examination.

About 162 learners from selected Secondary schools were invited to write the SAPhO 2023. The total number of participants was higher than previous two and was administered as a hybrid Olympiad; written online and partially manually.

“South Africa, like every other country in the world, has amongst its youth, a latent talent that needs to be identified, nurtured and monitored, to allow them to reach their full potential”, says Case Rijdsdijk, SAPhO Convener. “There are talent scouts for potential sports men and women, why not for Mathematics and Sciences? After all our future lies in education and a technologically based economy. Identifying future scientists and engineers is essential and SAPhO is one pathway to success”.

Considering the difficult circumstances, we are experiencing, the SAPhO results were most satisfactory.

Mr Alexander Warrington, a Grade 12 learner from El Shaddai Christian School in the Western Cape was the top achiever in this year’s Olympiad, with a score of 75%. He will receive a Gold Certificate, R2 500 and the SAIP Medal, which will be presented to him by the South African Institute of Physics.

His teacher Ms Beth Evers said, “ Alex is passionate about Physics, and spends much of his free time researching topics. He also has unique problem-solving skills, and I am delighted with his achievement.”

Alexander himself said; “I love Physics and I'm so glad to have had the opportunity to participate and I'm profoundly grateful for the people who have supported me and invested in me up until this point.”

In second place was Ms Melissa Muller, a Grade 12 learner from Rhenish Girls’ High School, Western Cape, who won this year’s Silver Certificate with a score of 74% and R1 500.

Her teacher Ms Lana Schreuder congratulated Melissa and mentioned that she is a hard-working learner who strives for excellence and always achieves fantastic results. She displays critical thinking- and problem solving skills and we are very happy about her silver prize for the South African Physics Olympiad. She added that the school is grateful to the SAIP for the wonderful opportunity participating in the SAPhO.

Melissa herself said, “I really enjoyed writing the Olympiad as I enjoy challenges where you have to think outside of the box.”

Mr. Ilan Ben-attar, from St Alban’s College, Gauteng, who with 70%, scooped third place with a Bronze Certificate and R 1 000. He said: Thank you for the opportunity; it's great to be rewarded for the time and energy I put into preparing.” And

Other Council Members

Prof. E.E. Van Dyk (Treasurer, NMU); Prof. M. Chithambo (Past-President, RU); Dr. E.N. Maluta (President-Elect, UNIVEN)
Prof. R.D. Strauss (NWU); Prof. A. Cornell (UJ); Dr. R. Modiba (CSIR); Dr. E. Mapasha (UP); Dr. T. Salagram (UCT); Dr. D. Kar (WITS)

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his teacher Mrs Sandra Schwartz thanked the SAIP once again for the opportunity to stretch their learners, she added that they will continue to encourage them to make the effort to enter.



Mr. Alex Warrington
SAPHO Winner 2023



Ms. Melissa Muller
2nd Place



Mr. Ilan Ben-attar
3rd Place

SAPHO will also award those who scored between 70% and 60% Distinction Certificates for their achievements and those who scored between 59% and 50% will receive Merit Certificates. The remaining learners will receive Participation Certificates to acknowledge their participation in the Olympiad.

The SAPHO Convener, Case Rijdsijk, has said that he is grateful to [the Department of Science and Innovation, DSI](#), and [the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement, SAASTA](#), for their support and funding. In addition, he also voiced his thanks to the SAPHO moderator, Mr Paul Molefe, SAIP Executive Officer, Dr Brian Masara, and the Project Manager, Ms Ndanganeni Mahani, for all their efforts in making SAPHO a success. Finally, Mr Tebogo Mokhine from the SAIP Office for online SAPHO software management.

SAPHO is hosted by the South African Institute of Physics with the aim of identifying young South Africans with ability in Physics, in the hope that these students will continue to study Physics at tertiary institutions and Universities within South Africa. This is the only Physics Olympiad registered with ASTEMI Olympiads and Competitions in the country and anyone excelling in this carries lasting prestige with them. ASTEMI is the Association of Science Technology Engineering Mathematics & Innovation that registers STEMI Olympiads & Competitions.

SAIP is the “Voice for Physics in South Africa”. It is a professional body for practising physicists in a variety of disciplines ranging from Cosmology to Medical Physics. It has several goals, one of which is raising the awareness of Physics and its importance to our daily lives, much of which can be achieved through education. In summary, SAIP is working on improving physics education and research, developing and nurturing an inclusive next generation of physicists.

The President of the SAIP, Prof RM Erasmus, [comments](#).

Ends

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