



# Research and Innovation Office Newsletter



COMPLIMENTS OF THE NEW SEASON!

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# World AIDS Day– 1 December

## Why should I get tested?

Around the world, 37 million people are living with HIV, the highest number ever, yet a quarter do not know that they have the virus.

Knowing your HIV status has many advantages. It is an essential entry point to HIV treatment, prevention, care and support services. People who test positive for HIV should be linked immediately to antiretroviral therapy to keep them alive and well and, when viral load suppression is reached, prevent transmission of the virus.

Knowing your HIV status also enables people to make informed decisions about HIV prevention options, including services to prevent children from becoming infected with HIV, male and female condoms, harm reduction services for people who inject drugs, voluntary medical male circumcision and pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis.

## Latest data

9.4 million people living with HIV don't know their status

1.8 million people were newly infected with HIV in 2017

8.1 million people living with HIV on treatment reported to be accessing viral load testing in 2016.

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/events/aidsday/>

The red ribbon is the universal symbol of awareness and support for people living with HIV. Wearing a ribbon is a great way to raise awareness on and during the run up to World AIDS Day.

Source: <https://www.worldaidsday.org/campaign/>

The National AIDS Council (NAC), of Zimbabwe have noted that Zimbabwe has a high HIV prevalence of 14%. They commemorated this day at Rujeko Secondary School in Glendale, Mazowe and their theme for the year 2018 was : 'Knowing your status.' this year's theme has been broadened to call on everyone to get screened for other conditions such as TB (Tuberculosis) and STIs( Sexually Transmitted Infections).

Those who are HIV positive need to know their CD4 count as well as their viral load. Knowing these will lead to Zimbabwe achieving its goal to end AIDS by 2030. NAC and all its partners in response to HIV/AIDS continue to call for strengthening of HIV/AIDS prevention strategies that include HIV/AIDS testing and counselling, Prevention of mother to child transmission, Zero discrimination, Use of condoms, among others.

Source: The Chronicle: Sunday Live. World AIDS Day 2018 around the corner, by Tadiwa Nyatanga-Pfupa

**GO GET TESTED..KNOW YOUR STATUS!**

Remember, always be positive about being negative...

## Tecknopark's transition to the 'Innovation Hub.'

In order to implement the new national strategic imperatives of commercialisation and industrialisation activities by state universities, the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) has upgraded its Technopark into an Innovation Hub. This Innovation Hub will be the unit by which innovative research outputs and other market led business opportunities will be commercialised. The Innovation Hub Concept is wider than the Technopark as it will encompass an Industrial Park, Science Park and Business Park.

The Industrial, Science and Business Parks will act as innovation spaces for product and service development and be headed by a Director of Innovation, Product and Service Development.

The major function of the NUST Innovation Hub will be to:

- Evaluate the results of R&D projects expected to have commercial potential
- Raise Awareness of Intellectual Property
- Apply for patents and other forms of IP protection
- Market technologies
- Provide expertise and technical assistance to the local researchers, Innovators and SMEs
- Establish national and international strategic alliances in areas important for successful technology transfer.

The Innovation Hub will serve to assist faculty and researchers in identifying research results that have commercial value and document the discoveries through a disclosure process. The disclosure-of-invention form should be simple and make it easy for the inventor to document the discovery; more detailed information can be obtained through interviews and subsequent interactions with the inventor. The complexity of the disclosure form should never be a deterrent to faculty participation in the technology transfer process.

The Innovation Hub exists to evaluate commercial potential of disclosed innovations by finding commercial applications for technology and for partners to realize the commercial potential, not to judge the value of the science. Such evaluations may be the most difficult of all tasks for the Innovation Hub. There are many approaches to invention evaluation. The evaluation process lays the foundation for future decisions about Intellectual Property (IP) protection and marketing.

The Innovation Hub has to determine whether or not to protect IP rights in an innovation; secure funding for filing patent, trademark, or copyright applications; and manage the protection process. The challenge of securing funding for protection of intellectual property internationally, especially when seeking protection in highly industrialized countries where the primary markets for the expected products lie, is often overwhelming and perhaps even impossible in many developing economies because of the tremendous expense. The only solution in many cases is to first secure protection in the country of origin, thereby "buying time" under the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) to find a corporate partner to pay the patent costs internationally as a business expense in the license agreement.

The Innovation Hub will conduct market research to identify potential industry partners, and then market the innovations. Research has shown that in the United States, the primary source for identification of licensees is the inventor. In industrialized countries, inventors typically are familiar with the marketplace in their area of scientific expertise; they may even know their counterparts in industry (potential licensees) on a personal basis through their professional networking activities.

## Tecknopark's transition to the 'Innovation Hub.'



**Mr Aleck Ncube**

Talking to RIO, Mr Aleck Ncube highlighted that the Innovation Hub is currently under construction at NUST and it is 75% in completion. He also stressed how this innovation hub is in line with the goals of the government to ensure that institutions of higher learning contribute to the revival of the economy.

The Innovation Hub is under the Pro Vice Chancellor's office of Industrialisation and Business Development. NUST is amongst one of the 6 universities to have this innovation hub constructed. Other universities in this programme include the University of Zimbabwe (UZ), Midlands State University (MSU), Harare Institute of Technology (HIT), Zimbabwe National Defence University (ZNDU) and Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT).

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!!**