

— Directors Roundtable Forum: Future-Proofing Research and Innovation Leadership

- Tuesday, 2 September 2025
- 13h00 – 16h30
- Limited to 20 participants
- Protea Hotel Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa

— **CATEGORY:** Research Management (RM) | Innovation & Technology Transfer (I&TT)

— **TARGET AUDIENCE:** Directors of Research, Technology Transfer Offices, and Senior Institutional Leaders

Overview:

- This exclusive Directors Roundtable Forum will bring together Directors and leaders of Research and Technology Transfer Offices to engage in a high-level strategic dialogue on enhancing institutional research and innovation leadership. The forum will serve as a dedicated leadership platform for continuous engagement on pressing challenges and opportunities in research governance, innovation management, and institutional resilience.

Format – Strategic Discussion Areas:

- **Succession Planning at DVC and VC Levels – Safeguarding Institutional Legacy**
 1. Establishing structured governance and transition frameworks to ensure seamless leadership continuity.
 2. Mitigating risks associated with leadership changes in research and innovation management.
 3. Institutionalizing leadership development pathways for research and technology transfer offices.
- **Bridging Teaching, Learning, Research, and Technology Transfer – Creating Synergistic Growth**
 1. Advancing interdisciplinary integration to enhance institutional impact.
 2. Expanding the role of research and technology transfer in curriculum development and student engagement.
 3. Strengthening commercialization pathways to maximize research outcomes.
- **Leading Value Addition of Research and Innovation Services – Preparing for the Unexpected**
 1. Repositioning research managers as strategic enablers of institutional agility.
 2. Addressing emerging challenges in funding, regulatory compliance, and global partnerships.
 3. Aligning research priorities with national and international innovation strategies.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Formation of a **standing platform** for research and innovation leaders to collaborate on contemporary issues.
2. Development of a **strategic engagement** roadmap for institutional resilience in research and technology transfer.
3. Strengthened policy advocacy and institutional influence on research governance frameworks.

This Directors Roundtable Forum will shape the future of research and innovation leadership, ensuring that institutions remain **resilient, forward-looking, and prepared for the unexpected.**
