Welcome to the third edition of SCIENCE MATTERS. This newsletter aims to make the research funded by the NRF accessible to all stakeholders, showcasing leading research projects, researchers and related events.

History features a lot this issue. We look at dinosaurs: two which were discovered in China and another, considered to be one of the world’s largest, discovered in the Free State; how hybridisation played a key role in human evolution; and how a star zipping through the Universe holds clues about a supernova that occurred 90 000 years ago.

Find out how alien plant and animal species are costing our economy billions every year. SA researchers look for ways to combat this. Local researchers are also applying science to the art of winemaking for the benefit of this R9 billion industry.

Race plays a role in the health of South Africans in an article on non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

A special thanks to our researchers and other staff members who contributed articles, information and images.

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