“Mental pain is less dramatic than physical pain, but it is more common and also more hard to bear. The frequent attempt to conceal mental pain increases the burden: It is easier to say “My tooth is aching” than to say “My heart is broken.”

– C.S. Lewis

Mental health research is the theme of the latest issue of **SCIENCE MATTERS**, as we take a glance at the mental health system of the country and delve into the common and not so familiar mental disorders from early childhood into adulthood.

Look out for the special report on the DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development which hosted researchers of the Consortium of Health Orientated Research in Transitioning Societies (COHORTS) to present findings from the five country longitudinal health research studies. We also report the latest findings by the Wits Maths Connect Secondary (WMCS) Project, an NRF-SARChI Chair of Mathematics Education initiative.

Throughout 2019 the NRF has been celebrating 20 years of Advancing Knowledge, Transforming Lives and Inspiring a Nation. On Thursday 21 November, the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB), a national facility of the NRF situated in Makhanda, hosted an event to celebrate its golden anniversary. A special thanks goes to all of the DSI-NRF SARChI researchers and NRF staff who contributed to this issue.

**SCIENCE MATTERS** is produced by:
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