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Identifying and Nurturing Future Scientists: From High School to Undergraduate Research Program and onwards to PhD and science-related careers.

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Abstract content
 (Max 300 words)

Global trends in the rapid advancement in Information Technology has resulted in a worldwide growing need for qualified engineers, technicians, physicist, and other science-related professionals in order to cope with and address human resources needs in the sciences. The South African school system and the higher education sector should therefore be in a position to prepare our youth for the national human resource challenges in the scientific and technological fields. Many school learners start out liking mathematics and science, but very few persist on through tertiary institution into mathematics and science-related careers. Even smaller is the number of those who choose to go from learning about science to discovering knowledge as scientists. In this presentation I will highlight the need for a Physics Undergraduate Research Program. I will then introduce the model of UJ Undergraduate Research Program (An Intensive Research Training Program for Undergraduate Science Majors) and its link to UJ Soweto Science Centre.

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