

**ABSTRACT  
PARALLEL WORKING SESSION**

**HEALTH**

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**Water Quality and Water Scarcity: Drinking Water in South Africa under a microscope. What can Universities contribute?**

Drinking water standards or guidelines are important in ensuring that water suppliers are uniform in the provision of good quality and safe drinking water. Without such standards, the consumers' health may be compromised yet every living creature depends on this indispensable commodity.

The World Health Organization (WHO) regularly issues updated drinking water guidelines with an expectation that countries which subscribe to the ideals of good health would also review their standards periodically as well. In South Africa, the question that has been frequently asked is "How safe is the water that we drink?"

In the paper to be presented we shall highlight the contribution that the University of Johannesburg has made in carrying out research on improving the water quality. Furthermore, research issues pertaining to water scarcity and what other research institutions can do will be elaborated upon.