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WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

WAMKELEKILE WELKOM

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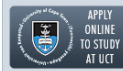
FEATURED NEWS STORY



Two educators to be honoured this week

UCT will present two of the year's four honorary doctorates during the June graduation ceremonies to recipients who are familiar with the university and the graduation podium in Jameson Hall. Education icon Stella Petersen completed three degrees and a teaching diploma at UCT. [Read more...](#)

HIGHLIGHTS



Cape Town
currently 17 °C
Partly cloudy skies

today
14°/19°C
Partly cloudy

tomorrow
14°/20°C
Partly cloudy

7-day forecast >>
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EVENTS

Portrayals of Women in Drum Magazine Advertisements: 1981 - 2010, by **Mlenga Jere**
08 Jun

OER workshop
08 Jun

Cape Town steel band & marimba festivals
10 Jun - 11 Jun

UCT Forest Management Framework site visit & meeting
14 Jun

On interpreting experimental data on biomolecular systems using molecular simulation, by **Prof W van Gunsteren**
14 Jun

Sectional Title Scheme Management
20 Jun

Transport Demand Analysis & Project Assessment
20 Jun - 24 Jun

OER workshop
21 Jun

School Libraries in SA: International Debate
21 Jun

International Year of Chemistry 2011 at UCT
23 Jun - 05 Jul

Celebrating Innovative Health Management in the Public Sector
29 Jun - 30 Jun

IET SA Universities Power Engineering Conference 2011
13 Jul - 15 Jul

Analysis of complex sample surveys using Stata
18 Jul - 22 Jul

Community-Based Development & Project Monitoring
25 Jul - 29 Jul

Justin Krawitz (piano)
26 Jul

Business Plan writing
27 Jul

IN THE NEWS

Wednesday, 8 June 2011

Student piques interest with her TB findings



Malika Davids, a doctoral student in UCT's Lung Infection and Immunity Unit in the Department of Medicine, certainly had her fellow delegates sitting up and taking notice of her poster presentation at the recent World Immune Regulation Meeting V in Davos, Switzerland. [Read more...](#)

Grad numbers up for mid-year ceremony



June graduation ceremonies are typically smaller than the December versions (for which staff in Student Records are grateful!) but this year's June numbers are still up on the same period last year, if only marginally. Here's a quick rundown. Provisional grand total for diplomas, bachelor's, master's, honours and doctoral graduands across the six faculties: 1 336. That's up from the 1 293 in June 2010. [Read more...](#)

Noero paints SA history red



Professor Michael 'Jo' Noero, of the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, is the winner of UCT's Creative Works Award for 2011, an honour that will be presented to him at a graduation ceremony this week. The award is made specifically for Noero's design of the Red Location Museum of Struggle, located in Red Location, New Brighton, in the Eastern Cape. [Read more...](#)

Medical focus on Anglo-Boer War takes UCT Book Award



The fields of history and medicine converge in the 2011 UCT Book Award winner, *Healers, Helpers and Hospitals: A history of military medicine in the Anglo-Boer War*. Written by Professor JC (Kay) de Villiers, who formerly held the Helen and Morris Mauerberger Chair of Neurosurgery at UCT, the two-volume work focuses on that far-reaching conflict, fought at a time when war killed more people through disease than through wounds. [Read more...](#)

Africa's call to UCT



The relationship between South African universities and sister institutions across Africa has been topical for much of the past decade. At the University of Cape Town the matter has recently been thrown into sharp relief by the debates surrounding the Centre for African Studies and the proposal to form a new school that would provide a different platform for the study of Africa. [Read more...](#)

Synergies between Afropolitanism and UCT's strategic themes



As recently announced by vice-chancellor Dr Max Price, Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo will assume responsibility for internationalisation, thus reuniting this objective with Afropolitanism, which is a strategic aspect of the broader initiative. In this article Nhlapo looks at the synergy between these two strategic areas, as well as the links between Afropolitanism and the areas of transformation, research, teaching and learning, and social responsiveness. [Read more...](#)

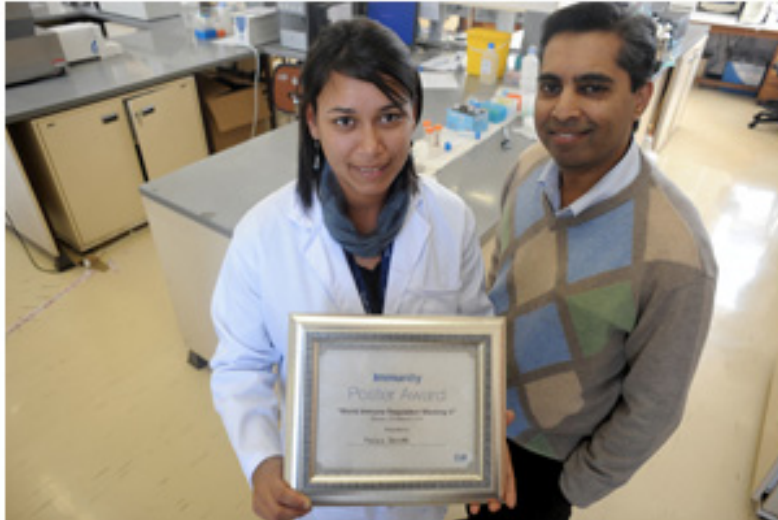
Passing of Albertina Sisulu, honorary graduate



UCT mourns the passing of struggle icon Albertina Sisulu (92), recipient of an honorary doctorate from the university in 2005. The honorary degree was a tribute to Mama Sisulu who had "devoted her life to peace, justice and the cause of democracy in South Africa", according to the citation. [Read more...](#)

Today's news

Student piques interest with her TB findings ☐8 June 2011



Breakthrough: Malika Davids, here with supervisor Prof Keertan Dheda, caused a stir at a recent immunology conference.

Malika Davids, a doctoral student in UCT's Lung Infection and Immunity Unit in the Department of Medicine, certainly had her fellow delegates sitting up and taking notice of her poster presentation at the recent World Immune Regulation Meeting V in Davos, Switzerland.

In keeping with the conference theme, Davids' poster covered her own work on immune regulation, but specifically in patients with extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis. Also known as XDR-TB, this is a strain of TB that Davids' supervisor, Professor Keertan Dheda, calls "virtually untreatable and probably one of the biggest health threats facing the African continent in the 21st century".

Davids had a couple of novel findings to share at the conference. Such as that, in patients with XDR-TB, a newly discovered T helper cell known as a T helper 17 (or T_h17) is produced not by a group of white blood cells (or T cells) known as CD4, but by another known as CD8. (CD4 T cells are the ones targeted, notably, by the HIV virus.)

Because T helper cells are key to the immune system, that finding could have all kinds of if-yet-unknown implications for the treatment of XDR-TB.

Of even more interest though was Davids' finding on regulatory T cells, or T_{reg}, so called because they regulate the immune response of other cells to prevent, especially, excessive and so potentially harmful immune-system

reactions to infections.

In patients with other forms of TB infection, these regulatory T cells - "master cells", Dheda dubs them - make up only about 5% of CD4 T cell count in the immune system. In XDR-TB, however, they form between 15% and 20% of CD4 T cells and, as has been shown in the lab, has a part to play in killing the mycobacterium responsible for tuberculosis.

What these high levels of regulatory T cells mean for XDR-TB infection or treatment is still to be determined. But it is a noteworthy discovery, as Davids quickly found out at the conference.

"I got a lot of questions from people," she recalls.

She also got something else: the best poster award in the development of effector and regulatory T cells category, made by the journal *Immunity*.