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## **14 November 2013**

# Upcoming UCT event and interview opportunity

- 4th International Society of Intraoperative Neurophysiology Congress Experts to talk about Intraoperative Neurophysiology, used as an early warning
  system to avoid causing permanent injury during surgery
- Professor Heather Zar to comment on childhood pneumonia finding new strategies for the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of the condition, including for HIV-infected children

Date	Event/Topic	Highlights/Speakers	Contact
14 – 16 November 2013	4th International Society of Intraoperative Neurophysiology Congress  Venue: Nedbank Clock Tower Building, BOE Auditorium, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town	At the three-day event, neurophysiologists, technicians, surgeons, neurologists and anaesthesiologists will discuss topics related to Intraoperative Neurophysiology (ION).  ION is used to detect and monitor the electrical signals of the brain and spinal cord in real time during an operation. Previously there was no way to know when injury was occurring or impending during surgery.  ION provides a clearer view of important tracks of the brain or spinal cord and is used as an early warning system to avoid causing permanent injury during surgery.	Loga Makwela Cell: 078 258 3965 loga.makwela@uct.ac.za
	Childhood pneumonia -	World Pneumonia Day was observed recently.	Kemantha Govender Cell: 084 737 6522

### finding new strategies for its diagnosis, prevention and treatment

Professor Heather Zar, head of UCT's Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, says childhood pneumonia still kills almost 1.3 million children every year and that many of these deaths are preventable.

Professor Zar, an A-rated researcher, has a strong research programme focusing on childhood pneumonia - the major killer of children under five - and finding new strategies for the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of the condition, including for HIV-infected children.

Her research group is undertaking an exciting birth cohort study of childhood pneumonia (in the Drakenstein area near Paarl in the Western Cape). It includes the study of maternal health, social determinants, nutrition and environmental exposures in the context of a strong immunisation and child health programme.

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#### **ENDS**

## Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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