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UCT Faculty of Health Sciences leads drug-resistant TB workshop

Drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) is in the spotlight at a workshop entitled "Current Practices, Controversies and Clinical Challenges", taking place in the Faculty of Health Sciences at UCT from 3 to 5 September 2010.

One of the major issues for discussion on the agenda for the workshop is that of forced isolation or incarceration of patients with drug resistant TB. Valid medical concerns about risk to the community have to be weighed up against the ethical and legal human rights ramifications of enforced isolation of an individual, and availability of resources, and this controversial issue is bound to spark animated debate.

Other topics covered during the course of the workshop include the evolution and epidemiology of drug resistant TB in South Africa, diagnosis of the disease using current tools, and drugs and treatment regimes for infected adults and children.

Associate Professor Keertan Dheda, one of the organizers of the event, said: "I believe that drug-resistant TB is one of the biggest

health threats facing the African continent. It has the potential to destabilise an already compromised TB control system in South Africa.”

The workshop concludes on Sunday, 5 September 2010, with the closing address, delivered by Western Cape MEC for Health, Theuns Botha.

For further information (including media accreditation), please contact Belinda Chapman on 021 406 6407, email Belinda.chapman@uct.ac.za.

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