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UCT conference to address challenges in treating and understanding lung disease

**21st Century Challenges of Chronic Lung Disease: 14-16
November 2011, at the Institute for Infectious Disease &
Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences Campus,
University of Cape Town, Observatory**

The University of Cape Town, in association with the Hull/York Medical School, University of York, will host a conference on "21st Century Challenges of Chronic Lung Disease" on 14-16 November 2011, in the Institute for Infectious Disease & Molecular Medicine (IIDMM), on the Faculty of Health Sciences Campus of the University of Cape Town. Senior clinical and basic scientists will present a research-based overview of specific challenges associated treating chronic lung diseases and how current research efforts are increasing the opportunities for future therapies.

Chronic lung conditions such as tuberculosis (TB), asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are major global public health problems whose prevalence in South Africa is extremely high. Treatment generally controls symptoms rather than curing the disease. The principle aim of this meeting is to bring together researchers working on a range of chronic lung diseases to address outstanding clinical questions through the exchange of ideas and opinions, and to co-ordinate international efforts to help develop effective treatment.

Focus on Africa

Of particular importance in sub-Saharan Africa are the high rates of HIV and TB infection, and the specific clinical problems associated with this co-infection. A special focused session will present research from scientists at the forefront of this emerging area.

Senior scientists attending the conference will include: Professor Valerie Mizrahi, Director of the IIDMM; Professor Frank Brombacher, Principal Investigator at the IIDMM; Professor Willem Hanekom of the SA TB Vaccine Initiative at UCT; Professor Siamon Gordon of the University of Oxford; Professor Gerhard Walzl of Stellenbosch

University; Professor Howard Clarke of the University of Southampton; Professor Cecilie Svanes of the University of Bergen; Professor Robert Wilkinson of Imperial College London; Professor Aras Kadioglu of the University of Liverpool; and Associate Professor Mattias Svensson of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.

The conference is supported by the Worldwide Universities Network, the SA Immunology Society and Becton Dickinson South Africa.

ENDS

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