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## **First Vice-Chancellor's Inaugural Lecture for 2017 tackles the mitigation of explosions to save lives**

The University of Cape Town's first Vice-Chancellor's Inaugural Lecture for 2017, titled "Explosion Protection: Reality or Fantasy" is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 12 September 2017 at 17:30 in Lecture Theatre 1, Snape Building, Upper Campus. The lecture will be presented by Professor Genevieve Langdon, deputy head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and director of the Blast Impact & Survivability Research Unit at UCT.

Commenting on the lecture, UCT Vice-Chancellor Dr Price said: "Explosions often make headlines because they cause devastating damage and loss of life. Professor Langdon's work seeks to save lives through improved protection and the reduction of the environmental impact of blast-protection systems. She will talk about the reality of explosions, the different types of explosions that happen and the ways that we can protect against their devastating effects."

The Vice-Chancellor's Inaugural Lecture series provides newly appointed full professors with the opportunity to introduce themselves and their area of academic expertise to both the university community and a broader public audience. The lectures are open to anyone in and outside the UCT community at no charge. This series is different from the faculty inaugural lectures, which are academic in nature, aimed at colleagues in the faculty, and are not necessarily accessible to the wider public.

The lecture to be delivered by Prof Longdon will be the first in a series of six, with the others scheduled to be hosted between October this year and February 2018. Professor Langdon will describe some of the protection options available and how they work. She will also discuss some recent projects at UCT that seek to understand the response of materials and structures to explosion loading by measuring what happens during an explosion.

Professor Langdon is the recipient of the Southern African Association for the Advancement of Science (S2A3) silver medal for outstanding research by a person under 40 years old. She also holds a C1 National Research Foundation rating and has co-authored more than 60 journal papers, in addition to numerous conference papers and book chapters. She is currently the secretary of the International Impact Engineering Society and serves on the editorial board of the International Journal of Impact Engineering. In 2011 she was a founder member of the South African Young Academy of Science, where she pursued outreach to the next generation of science learners.

**ENDS**

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