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Origins of a COVID-19 vaccine or the future of robotic surgery – UCT Summer School 2022 has it all

The story of the Oxford/Astra-Zeneca vaccine

How was the world able to get a COVID-19 vaccine in a few months when it usually takes a few years? At the University of Cape Town (UCT) Summer School, Dr Sean Elias, post-doctoral scientist and public engagement with research leader at the Jenner Institute, United Kingdom will share how the Oxford/Astra-Zeneca vaccine went from concept to licensure.

Elias will cover the key factors behind this incredible scientific achievement and discuss the challenges faced then and now including manufacturing, vaccine inequality, vaccine hesitancy, and vaccine misinformation.

Lastly, he will discuss the future of vaccine development and whether humanity has truly learnt lessons that can prepare us for any future pandemic on a similar scale.

Details: Monday, 10 January 2022; 13:00

Available [online](#) or [live-streamed](#) to a venue on the UCT campus.

Robotic surgery: the sci-fi future is now

Professor John Lazarus a urological surgeon at UCT will history of surgical robotics, from its origins over fifty years ago, to its key role in present day surgery. The lecture will also explore what its science fiction-like future may hold.

Groote Schuur Hospital is the first state hospital in South Africa to have the da Vinci surgical robot that will have a major role in managing prostate cancer. Lazarus will consider this landmark moment and its implications for patients and trainees. Via videos he will show how the robot works and what robotic surgery looks like. Lastly, he will consider the wider philosophical implications of robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) to humanity, given the fact that AI is starting to have a big real-world impact.

Details: Tuesday, 18 January 2022; 11:15-12:15.

Available [in-person](#) or [online](#).

View the [UCT Summer School programme](#) with courses on technology, innovation and IT to conservation and nature.

Courses are available in-person or online and there are various special offers detailed in the [brochure](#).

General enquiries

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