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Uncovering the link between structural mechanics, rheumatic heart disease and global climate change

13 September 2023 | 18:00-20:00 | Snape Teaching Studio 3B, Snape Building, UCT Upper Campus

The University of Cape Town (UCT) will host its seventh inaugural lecture of the year on Wednesday, 13 September 2023, to be delivered by Professor Sebastian Skatulla.

The lecture will discuss the link between structural mechanics, rheumatic heart disease and global climate change.

“Structural mechanics is a discipline of civil engineering and considers the effect of forces on structures in terms of inducing motion, deformation, damage and fracture,” said Professor Skatulla. “These very general concepts of mechanics are equally applicable to ‘structures’ in the widest sense. Structural mechanics plays a significant role in addressing some of our biggest challenges in South Africa: prevention and treatment of rheumatic heart disease; and prediction of global climate change and sea level rise due to the retreat of Antarctic ice shelves.”

Professor Skatulla was appointed senior lecturer for structural engineering and mechanics in the Department of Civil Engineering in 2009. He was promoted to associate professor in 2018 and to professor in 2022.

His research activities are centred in multiscale and multiphase continuum methods. Current activities comprise the poroelasticity of Antarctic sea-ice and shelf-ice, and growth phenomena in biological tissue. He founded the first polar laboratory on the African continent in 2019. His current focus is on establishing an international South African-led research project to conduct long-term observations and structural glaciological modelling of the Fimbul Ice Shelf as affected by global climate change.

Please [register online](#) to attend the lecture.

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