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23 October 2023

UCT to host mini symposium on tuberculosis research

27 October 2023 | 09:30 | Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, UCT Health Sciences Campus, Observatory

The Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM) in partnership with the Holistic Drug Discovery & Development Centre (H3D) at the University of Cape Town (UCT) will host a mini symposium on tuberculosis research at the IDM's Wolfson Lecture Theatre on Friday, 27 October 2023.

The mini symposium is part of the Nobel Symposium in Chemistry (23–27 October 2023) under the theme, Tuberculosis and Antibiotic Resistance: From Basic Drug Discovery to Clinic. This is the second Nobel Symposium under the Nobel in Africa Initiative, which was launched in 2022. It brings together a group of 50 of the world's leading scholars in the field in South Africa and the African continent, in conversation with scientists from leading global institutions.

While Nobel Symposia are closed sessions, each symposium is accompanied by public outreach events hosted at South African universities and research institutes.

Tuberculosis is considered the world's deadliest infectious disease, having killed more than 1.6 million people globally in 2022. The World Health Organization (WHO) launched an ambitious End TB strategy in 2015 to reduce TB incidence by 80% and TB deaths by 90% by 2030. With multidrug resistance of mycobacterium tuberculosis on the rise, this strategy is critically dependent on the development of a better vaccine, improved diagnostics, and new drugs to fight TB.

The event promises to showcase the latest advances in drug discovery and treatments for tuberculosis.

Topics to be covered:

- Population genomics identifies novel determinants of TB treatment outcomes: Professor Sarah Fortune, Harvard University, USA
- Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection of host cells in space and time: Dr Maximiliano Gutierrez, The Francis Crick Institute, United Kingdom

- Chemical synthesis-driven studies of tuberculosis lipids and lipidomics: Professor Adriaan J. Minnaard, University of Groningen, Netherlands
- Chemical synthesis of antibiotics: Professor Andrew G Myers, Harvard University, USA
- New treatments for TB: Professor Tone Tønjum, Oslo University, Norway
- TBC: Professor Laura Kiessling, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA.

[View the mini event poster.](#)

[Read the Nobel Symposium in Chemistry media advisory.](#)

symposium Ends

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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