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Invite: Lecture on advancing effective HIV treatment in South Africa

22 August 2024 | 17:30 SAST | Wolfson Lecture Theatre, IDM Building, Health Sciences Campus

What advances have been made in the development of new antiretroviral treatment and treatment strategies over the past 20 years? Why do people take or not take their life-saving daily medication?

The University of Cape Town's (UCT) Professor Catherine Orrell will address these in her inaugural lecture to be held on Thursday, 22 August, marking her promotion to full professorship. The lecture is titled "Toward effective HIV treatment in South Africa – injustice, clinical pharmacology and adherence."

Since the early 1990s, a sense of injustice has driven Professor Orrell's interest in HIV – from the era of Aids denialism, when access to treatment was limited to small clinical trials, to today, when ongoing global inequity once again denies people with HIV in Africa access to new formulations.

"I will talk through my experience and involvement as a clinical pharmacologist in the development of new antiretroviral treatment and treatment strategies over the past 20 years, as well as my fascination with adherence: why people do or do not take their life-saving daily medication," said Professor Orrell.

Professor Orrell is an HIV clinician, clinical pharmacologist, and clinical trial specialist. Since 2004, she has been a principal investigator on more than 20 antiretroviral clinical trials, including a range of efficacy, toxicity, pharmacokinetic, drug interaction, and dosing studies. She has in-depth experience conducting research in state-of-the-art research facilities at UCT, community settings, and primary healthcare clinic environments.

She leads a clinical research site in Gugulethu – the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation Centre for Adherence and Therapeutics. The site is currently conducting clinical trials of novel methods to monitor and improve antiretroviral therapy adherence and is exploring the use of long-acting antiretroviral therapy in adolescents and young people living with HIV.

Please [RSVP](#) to attend the lecture in-person or request the link to watch the lecture online.

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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