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## **Maximising the value of platinum group metals reserves remains a pressing issue**

**19 September 2024 | 17:30 SAST | Hahn 2, First Floor, PD Hahn Building, upper campus**

University of Cape Town (UCT) professor of inorganic chemistry [Gregory Smith](#) will deliver his lecture as part of the UCT Inaugural Lecture series on Thursday, 19 September 2024. The lecture is titled "The Marriage of Organometallic Chemistry – Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue".

Professor Smith leads the Organometallic Chemistry Research Group in the [Department of Chemistry](#) at UCT.

He said organometallic chemistry is where the worlds of inorganic and organic chemistry collide, giving rise to compounds that are the backbone of innovation in catalysis, materials science, medicinal chemistry, and organic synthesis.

"For a country like South Africa, which holds a staggering 90% of the world's platinum group metals (PGM) reserves, the challenge of maximising the value of these resources remains a pressing issue. The lack of beneficiation and value addition is a significant obstacle for the nation's minerals industry," he added.

Professor Smith said the lecture's title stems from the idea that organometallic chemistry represents a significant integration or blending of two previously distinct fields — organic and inorganic. He said the "marriage" has led to new discoveries and advancements that might not have been possible within either field alone.

"The use of "marriage" in the title suggests a harmonious and productive union, emphasising how bringing together different scientific approaches can lead to innovation. The choice of this title reflects the significance of this interdisciplinary approach in advancing chemical research," he said.

Professor Smith's main research interests encompass the design, synthesis and characterisation of mononuclear and polynuclear inorganic and organic materials, particularly polymer and dendrimer synthesis.

Media interested in attending the inaugural lecture in-person or online are requested to [RSVP](#).

**ENDS**

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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