



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

SA-Swiss Bilateral Research Chair to advance African influence in Global Environmental Health

**Science & Technology Minister Naledi Pandor to
address launch at UCT on 3 June 2015 at 09h30
in Wolfson Pavilion, IDM building, Faculty of
Health Sciences, off Anzio Road, Observatory**

**Media please contact Mr Azwi Mufamadi on (Tel: 021 650 5427 /Email:
azwi.mufamadi@uct.ac.za) by 1 June 2015**

Science & Technology Minister Naledi Pandor will address the launch by the University of Cape Town and the Swiss Tropical Institute/University of Basel of a historic South African – Swiss (ZA-CH) Bilateral Research Chair, aimed at advancing an African voice in global environmental health research, at UCT at 09h30 on Wednesday, June 3, 2015.

This is the first time that another country has been involved in co-founding a research chair under the umbrella of the Department of Science and Technology/National Research Foundation SA Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI). Associate Professor Mohamed Aqiel Dalvie (UCT), an expert researcher in environmental health focusing on pesticides, endocrine disruption and air pollution, and Professor Martin Roosli (Basel), an environmental epidemiologist and an international expert in exposure assessment, aetiological research and health risk assessments of passive smoking, climate change, noise exposure and ambient air pollution, are the two joint Chair holders.

The collaboration will pave the way for a partnership between UCT and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, which will provide a training facility for environmental health practitioners. This will allow for research findings and recommendations to inform the study material used to train environmental health practitioners to narrow the gap between research and practice.

The Chair's research focus will include topics such as:

- Effects of pesticides on child health.
- Air pollutants and their impact on asthma.
- The health impacts of poor water quality and pollution of soil in an urban informal area, rural area and an industrial area.

- The relationship between climate change, ecosystems, chemical usage, health and environmental pollution (air, water, soil) in South Africa.

Speakers at the launch include the Minister of Science and Technology Naledi Pandor, Swiss Ambassador to South Africa Christian Meuwly, UCT Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price, Swiss State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation Mauro Dell'Ambrogio, the Chair holders Aqiel Dalvie and Martin Roosli and others. The launch will be followed by tea.

Date: Wednesday, 3 June 2015

Time: 09h30 (guests to be seated by 09h20)

Venue: Wolfson Pavilion, IDM building, Faculty of Health Sciences, off Anzio Road, Observatory.

Media who would like to attend the launch of the ZA-CH Bilateral SARChI Chair and lunch thereafter, should RSVP to Azwi Mufamadi at 021 650 5427 or azwi.mufamadi@uct.ac.za by 12h00 on Monday 01 June 2015.

END

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Azwi Mufamadi

Media Liaison and Monitoring Officer
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: (021) 650 5427 Fax: (021) 650 3780
Cell: (078) 528 6065
Email: azwi.mufamadi@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za