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14 September 2023

UCT lecture delves into costs and benefits of alternative health care interventions

Monday, 18 September 2023 | 17:00-19:00 | Wolfson Lecture Theatre, IDM Building, Health Sciences campus | <u>Register</u>

The costs and benefits of alternative health care interventions will be under the spotlight when Professor Edina Sinanovic presents her inaugural lecture on Monday, 18 September. The lecture is titled "Getting the most out of life - Understanding the opportunity cost of your decisions".

According to Professor Sinanovic, head of the Health Economics Division at the University of Cape Town, the combination of constrained resources and increasing demands in health care is making priority setting a crucial factor for health policy. This, she said, is particularly essential in South Africa where a great deal remains to be done for the country to achieve universal health coverage through the implementation of the National Health Insurance (NHI).

"If the aim of the NHI is to maximise benefits to the society with a limited budget – and conversely minimise opportunity costs – there is a need to measure the relative costs and benefits of alternative interventions. A health care intervention that is cost-effective is one in which additional health benefits have been leveraged against their additional costs, resulting in a more efficient healthcare provision," said Sinanovic.

In this lecture, Sinanovic will reflect on her life and career to date, focused on providing policymakers with the economic evidence they need to maximise the use of limited resources. She will outline the critical role of economic evaluation in health priority setting and the work she has done in this area, especially in relation to tuberculosis interventions and the Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

Professor Sinanovic is a member of the Strategic Scientific Advisory Board of the Botnar Research Centre for Child Health at the University of Basel, which is dedicated to advancing global child and adolescent health. She has also served as a member of the World Health Organization Immunization and Vaccines Related Implementation Research Advisory Committee.

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Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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