



Meet three UCT inventors



1 **Dr Lutete Khonde** co-created a simpler, faster and cheaper way of synthesising ergothioneine in a lab, with a much greater yield than previous processes. Ergothioneine, a super antioxidant, is studied all over the world for its role in ageing, its ability to increase athletic performance and for developing new anti-tuberculosis drugs. Khonde's process has now been patented and he is working with the Department of Chemistry to find ways to bring the process to market.



2 Biomedical engineer **Dr Sudesh Sivasaru** draws inspiration from nature to design his patented medical devices. In the five years since Sivasaru arrived at UCT, he has invented numerous devices with applications ranging from stroke rehabilitation and asthma therapy to devices that aid orthopaedic surgeons in resolving problems with knee joints. These devices have received a number of national and international awards.

3 **Dr Ann Meyers** from the Biopharming Research Unit is studying how plant proteins could produce a cheaper alternative to conventionally produced vaccines and the reagents used in diagnosing diseases. She is currently working on the production of vaccines against African horse sickness, Rift Valley fever and foot-and-mouth disease, as well as the expression of antibody reagents against several of these viruses for diagnostic purposes.



UCT spin-off companies

ENGINEERING



Isiqu Orthopedics

SCIENCE



HEALTH SCIENCES



Dream Haven (Pty) Ltd



Seraptix CC

Innovation in numbers

2 300 research contracts processed per year

Total value of contracts in 2016 exceeded **R1.4 billion** **383** invention disclosures received and evaluated since inception (1999)

144 active inventions

19 spin-off companies launched in 11 years

360 patent applications granted since 2011

UCT HOLDS EQUITY IN 7 SPIN-OFF COMPANIES

R87 million of equity in spin-off companies

R36 million in accumulated income since 2001 from intellectual property (IP) exploitation activities



Research Contracts & Innovation (RC&I) supports UCT's research activities by centrally managing, authorising and negotiating research and research-related professional services contracts entered into with our wide variety of clients and funders. RC&I also oversees, implements and nurtures technology development and commercialisation activities at UCT.