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UCT professor to deliver visionary lecture on advancing African health education

29 May 2025 | 18:00 SAST | New Learning Centre Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building, Health Sciences Campus

Professor Jacky van Wyk, head of the [Department of Health Sciences Education](#) at the University of Cape Town (UCT), will deliver her inaugural lecture titled "Grounded in context, growing for impact: Advancing African scholarship in health professions education" on Thursday, 29 May 2025 at 18:00 SAST in the New Learning Centre Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building, Health Sciences Campus.

The lecture is a powerful invitation to rethink how we educate for health, placing African voices, needs and solutions at the centre of global conversations. Professor Van Wyk will highlight the critical role of community, mentorship and collaboration in strengthening health systems and transforming health education across South Africa and the continent.

A widely respected scholar and educator, Professor Van Wyk's leadership has shaped curriculum design, faculty development and postgraduate training in the health sciences. Through her work with organisations such as the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER), the Sub-Saharan Africa-FAIMER Regional Institute (SAFRI) and the South African Association of Health Educators (SAAHE), she has championed emerging educators and expanded the reach of African scholarship in shaping policy and practice.

"This lecture reflects on my journey as a health professions educator committed to advancing locally responsive education and scholarship in South Africa and the African region. Grounded in social accountability and inclusive pedagogy, I share experiences from intersectoral collaborations, postgraduate supervision, and initiatives like FAIMER, SAFRI and SAAHE," she said.

"I highlight how building communities of practice and mentoring emerging educators can strengthen local capacity and drive health systems transformation. As editor-in-chief of AJHPE [African Journal of Health Professions Education], I advocate for African scholarship that informs policy and empowers practice. The lecture offers reflections, lessons and a call to invest in local solutions for sustainable impact."

Professor Van Wyk's leadership as the Academic Director of the Sub-Saharan African Regional FAIMER Institute underscores her commitment to advancing health professions education in resource-constrained settings.

Her impact extends globally through her editorial roles, research publications and keynote addresses at conferences. Her accolades include the SAAHE Distinguished Teacher Award, marking her as a trailblazer in promoting excellence and equity in education.

She has played a transformative role in Health Professions Education (HPE) in South Africa and the broader African region. She helped establish SAFRI, advancing scholarship and leadership among African educators.

As a SAAHE contributor, she has promoted interprofessional collaboration and knowledge sharing. Her sustained mentorship and postgraduate supervision have significantly strengthened the HPE community and improved educational quality across sub-Saharan Africa.

- [RSVP](#) to attend the lecture in person.

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