

Our Ref: VC-MC-2021 04 20 University of Cape Town

20 April 2021

The Office of the Vice-Chancellor
The University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Cape Town
7700
South Africa

Dear Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng,

I am writing to you today to express our solidarity, from the community at the University of Southampton to that of the University of Cape Town.

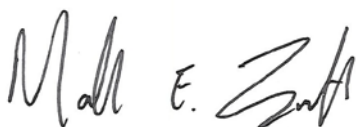
We were shocked by the devastation of the fire over the past couple of days and we truly hope that this awful fire will rapidly be brought under control so that you might set about recovering.

The University of Cape Town remains a most highly valued partner and we are proud of our links with the Faculties of Health Sciences and Engineering – critical links, specifically on the management of disease in research and closely linked with Groote Schuur Hospital. One example is the work of [the CHERISH team](#) who sharpened their focus on diabetes and the design of a person-centred intervention to improve diabetes control during their visit to the University of Cape Town in October 2019.

Our collaboration in the International Blast Research Network looking at injury is unique and we are delighted to work closely with the Blast Impact and Survivability Research Unit (BISRU) at the University of Cape Town. Since our first Blast Injury Workshop in South Africa in March 2019 we have continued our work and there is hope for another in-person workshop when permitted.

Although we are far away please be assured that our thoughts are with you at this time of trauma. We hope that all staff and students at the university and its partners are safe and well. Do let us know how we might be of support.

With kind regards,



Professor Mark E. Smith CBE
President and Vice-Chancellor