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Media Release

20 September 2007

UCT attains most Research Chairs nationally in the 3rd round of the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI)

The University of Cape Town obtained 19 more Research Chairs on the National System of Innovation (NSI) today – the 20th of September, when the National Minister for Science and Technology, Mr. Mosibudi Mangena launched the third round of the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI). This launch saw UCT taking up the most number of national research chairs – 26 in total.

The aims of SARChI are, among others, to retain and attract qualified research scientists in the NSI, in particular in the Higher Education sector, to reverse the systemic decline in research outputs and knowledge generation and in order to increase South Africa's competitiveness in the knowledge economy, to stimulate strategic research across the knowledge spectrum, and finally, to create research career paths for highly skilled, young and mid-career researchers so as to address the historical racial, gender and age imbalances.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UCT, Prof. Njabulo S. Ndebele reiterated that UCT is proud of its record of academic excellence. "It is an honour for UCT to have such high numbers of academics on South Africa's National System of Innovation. We always strive for research excellence and to be a leading research institution in Africa and internationally. Obtaining these chairs is confirmation of the dedication and commitment to this vision, and we are pleased to have achieved the number of chairs obtained today. Their work contributes to the development of a better South Africa."

Assuming their responsibilities over the next few months, Research Chairs are tenable for five years, and are renewable twice for this period, based on the incumbent's performance. The Department of Science and Technology has announced that 72 Research Chairs have been awarded over the first three SARChI rounds. Subsequent rounds are intended to bring a total number of Research Chairs to 210 by 2010.

ENDS.

Issued by:

Gerda Kruger – Executive Director: Communications and Marketing; University of Cape Town

**UCT research chairs in SARChI
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| Name of Research Chair | Name of primary institution | Title of applicant | Initials | Surname | Tier? |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------|------------|-------|
| Functional Proteomics | UCT | Prof | JM | BLACKBURN | 1 |
| Immunology of Infectious Diseases in Africa | UCT | Prof | F | BROMBACHER | 1 |
| Drug Discovery | UCT | Prof | K | CHIBALE | 1 |
| Marine Ecology & Fisheries | UCT | Dr | KL | COCHRANE | 1 |
| Clinical Neurosciences Research | UCT | Dr | MI | COMBRINCK | 2 |
| Customary Law, Indigenous Values, and Dignity Jurisprudence | UCT | Prof | DLC | CORNELL | 1 |
| Lung Infection & Immunity in Poverty Related Diseases | UCT | Dr | K | DHEDA | 2 |
| Minerals Beneficiation | UCT | Prof | J-P | FRANZIDIS | 1 |
| Archive & Public Culture | UCT | Prof | CA | HAMILTON | 1 |
| Bioprocess Engineering | UCT | Prof | STL | HARRISON | 1 |
| Climate Change | UCT | Prof | BC | HEWITSON | 1 |
| Animal Evolution & Systematics | UCT | Prof | DS | JACOBS | 2 |
| Poverty & Inequality Research | UCT | Prof | M | LEIBBRANDT | 1 |
| Health & Wealth in SA | UCT | Prof | DE | McINTYRE | 1 |
| Migration, Language & Social Change | UCT | Prof | R | MESTHRIE | 1 |
| Land Reform & Democracy in SA: State & Civil Society Dynamics | UCT | Prof | L | NTSEBEZA | 1 |
| Urban Policy | UCT | Dr | EAP | PIETERSE | 1 |
| Islam, African Publics & Religious Values | UCT | Prof | AI | TAYOB | 1 |
| Vaccinology | UCT | Prof | A-L | WILLIAMSON | 1 |