

## NEWS FROM:

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### **UCT research suggests why liver disease progresses only in some**

A study by Medicine doctoral student Mashiko Setshedi at the University of Cape Town addresses how and why liver disease progresses in some individuals but not in most people.

Setshedi's PhD thesis, *Impairments in Signalling Cascades Mediating the Progression of Liver Disease from Chronic Hepatitis to Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Animal and Human Models*, demonstrated that in experimental and human models of chronic alcoholic steatohepatitis, hepatic insulin resistance and persistent inflammation were associated with inhibition of signalling through insulin/IGF/IRS1, NOTCH and Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin.

From a clinical perspective, this research paves the way towards defining personalised medical approaches needed to more accurately assess the risk of developing end-stage liver disease or hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). These approaches could ultimately progress the use of "smart medicine" to choose molecular therapeutic targets to prevent cirrhosis and HCC development.

Setshedi has an MBChB from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (1996) and an MPH from the University of Cape Town (2008). She specialised in internal medicine at King Edward VIII Hospital in Durban and completed her training in gastroenterology and hepatology at Groote Schuur Hospital. During this time she was admitted as a Fellow of the College of Physicians of South Africa (2002), and earned the Certificate in Gastroenterology of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa (2008). Her PhD was supervised by Dr Suzanne de la Monte of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, US, and co-supervised by Professor Michael Kew of UCT's Department of Internal Medicine.

**ENDS**

**Please note:** Information in this release is based on the supervisor's citation for the PhD thesis. UCT advises journalists to obtain a copy of the thesis and/or interview the PhD graduate to verify and expand on this information.

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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