

NEWS FROM:



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UCT forensic science expert to discuss war on violence against women in SA

"No woman No cry" – a journey into forensic pathology services and violence against women in SA: inaugural lecture by Professor Lorna Martin: Wednesday, 26 October 2011 at 17h30. Student Learning Centre Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building, Faculty of Health Sciences, UCT

Professor Lorna Martin will discuss her experiences as a forensic pathologist and present some of her findings on violence against women in South Africa, when she gives her inaugural lecture on 26 October 2011, at the University of Cape Town.

She was the first woman and the youngest person in South Africa to be appointed as the head of a division of forensic pathology. She was elected as the Head of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences at UCT in 2009. She was recently awarded, by peer review, the Fellowship from the College of Forensic Pathologists.

Professor Martin has published extensively on combating violence against women and children, and has presented on the topic at many conferences and outreach programmes, both locally and internationally. Her articles include "Mortality of women from intimate partner violence in South Africa: a national epidemiological study" in *Violence and Victims*, and "The virgin cleansing myth: cases of child rape are not exotic" in the *Lancet*. She was the recipient of the White Ribbon Award in 2001 from Women Demand Dignity for her research.

Professor Martin has participated with the Medical Research Council in studies on femicide and with various collaborators in a national study of injury mortality in South Africa. Her pioneering work on the medico-legal management of rape survivors, produced with UCT colleague Professor Lynette Denny, was later adapted into the national policy and guidelines for the management of rape survivors and the

World Health Organisation (WHO) "Guidelines for medico-legal care for victims of sexual violence". Prestigious organisations around the globe (including WHO, Johns Hopkins University, Scotland Yard, the Department of Justice New Zealand) have invited her to participate in conferences and on steering committees, and to provide expert opinions on high-profile cases.

Before she stopped counting, Professor Martin had performed more than 8,000 autopsies, examined approximately 2,000 rape survivors and 500 drunken drivers, and testified in hundreds of court cases. On the lighter side of a difficult science, she has also been asked to participate in the making of movies and documentaries for television, as well as provide scientific input for popular crime novels.

Professor Martin is the Head of Forensic Science in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences at UCT. She completed her medical degree at the University of the Witwatersrand in 1989 and worked at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital as an intern. She then joined the District Surgeon's office in Johannesburg, where she developed her interest in violence against women.

Professor Martin moved to Cape Town in 1996 and completed her MMed Path (Forensic) at UCT in 1999. She was appointed as a specialist in the Division of Forensic Medicine in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences at UCT and went on to become a Chief Specialist and Head of Division in 2004, a joint appointment between the provincial administration and UCT.

Inaugural lectures commemorate the inaugural lecturer's appointment to full professorship. They provide a platform for the academic to present the body of research that they have been focusing on during their career. The lecture also provides UCT with the opportunity to showcase its academics and share its research with members of the wider university community and the general public in an accessible way.

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