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14 May 2012

Editor-in-chief of *Science* magazine to speak on “Science and World’s Future” at UCT

Vice-Chancellor’s Open Lecture to feature Professor Bruce Alberts on Wednesday, 23 May 2012, at 13h00, LT3, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus

Bruce Alberts, editor-in-chief of *Science* magazine and professor emeritus of biochemistry and biophysics at the University of California in San Francisco, will speak on “Science and the World’s Future” on Wednesday, 23 May 2012, at 13h00 in Lecture Theatre 3, Kramer Law Building, in the first Vice-Chancellor’s Open Lecture for 2012 at the University of Cape Town

Professor Alberts will discuss how the knowledge and the problem-solving skills of scientists are critical for every nation – no matter how rich or poor.

He believes that the long-term success of global society calls for talented people from the scientific community in an array of professions. This will require that science departments at universities expand their view of their mission, and that society creates new pathways to move scientists into positions where they can make a difference, be it in public policy, industry, government, journalism, law, commerce or in public school systems.

Scientists have, for example, produced a deep understanding of the natural world that often enables an accurate prediction of the consequences of current actions on the future, such as climate change.

Professor Alberts also advocates that science education needs to be redefined, with much less emphasis on the memorisation of science facts and terms. He says we should be providing empowering experiences in problem-solving that take advantage of the curiosity that children bring to school and increase a student’s understanding of the world.

The lecture will be concluded with a discussion of *Science* magazine and its opportunities and challenges.

Professor Alberts is an American biochemist known for his work in science public policy and as an original author of *Molecular Biology of the Cell*. He is noted particularly for his study of the protein complexes that enable chromosome replication when living cells divide.

Professor Alberts will be available for interviews after his lecture. Vice-Chancellor's Open Lectures are open to the public but due to limited seating, UCT will need advance notice of attendance by journalists.

Time: 13h00 – Everyone to be seated by 12h45

Date: 23 May 2012

Venue: Kramer LT 3, Wilfred and Jules Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus

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