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07 May 2012

**Africans to fill gap in curing malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease**

**Professor Kelly Chibale of UCT Drug Discovery and Development Centre to speak on Drug Discovery in Africa: Challenges, Status and Opportunities: 8 May 2012, 16h00, LT3 PD Hahn, Upper Campus**

The general lack of interest in developing drugs, particularly against infectious diseases, by the pharmaceutical industry has left a major gap to be filled by basic science researchers in academic and other institutions, says Professor Kelly Chibale of the University of Cape Town.

It is vital for African scientists to enhance the continent's drug discovery capabilities to address its health needs, says Professor Chibale, the Director of the UCT Drug Discovery and Development Centre (H3-D).

The health sector in African countries continues to struggle with high levels of malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and cardiovascular disease, all major causes of death on the continent.

**The development of drugs to deal with these diseases in Africa will come under the spotlight during UCT's Africa Month when Professor Chibale presents a seminar titled: "Drug Discovery in Africa: Challenges, Status and Opportunities".**

Professor Chibale will also talk about how H3-D seeks to address the shortage of modern pharmaceutical industry skills and technological platforms in the various areas of drug discovery. This would allow the continent to deal with the increasing economic impacts of various diseases.

During UCT's Africa Month, all faculties will be involved in presenting lectures, exhibitions, concerts and seminars across the university. UCT has expanded its annual Africa Day celebrations to a full month of events focusing on various aspects of the continent and its development.

## **Drug Discovery in Africa: Challenges, Status and Opportunities**

**Time: 4pm**

**Date: 08 May 2012**

**Venue: LT3 PD Hahn, Upper Campus**

***ENDS***

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

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