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**UCT Professor to offer new ways of thinking about the immune system and
HIV**

**Inaugural Lecture: 'Moving Targets. HIV and the Immune System; in
Search of Self-Preservation'**

**Wednesday, 31 October 2012, at 17h30, Student Learning Centre Lecture
Theatre, Anatomy Building, Faculty of Health Sciences**

Professor Clive Gray, Chair of Immunology and head of the Division of Immunology at the University of Cape Town, will use his inaugural lecture to propose some new thinking on how we should look at the immune system in the context of HIV. He will discuss new avenues of research within the Division of Immunology, that will offer a different approach for coming to grips with biomedical HIV research.

According to Professor Gray, "Moving Targets" refers to the dynamic nature of the immune system and of HIV itself. The immune system is a target by HIV and the virus is targeted by the immune system. This bi-directional battle means nothing is static – and targets are constantly moving.

Part of the talk will be to unravel this concept and what it might mean for people infected with HIV, and how best to understand these complexities. A search for self-preservation is around two areas: a) prevention strategies, such as HIV vaccines; and b) defining how to measure our body's integrity, and how best it can be preserved to maintain our survival.

After his lecture, Professor Gray will launch a photographic exhibition entitled "Undefined Moments and Visual Tales." The photographs depict the spontaneous moments of different people living in the communities we partner with, says Gray. "It provides an added dimension to our biomedical research in South Africa and does not allow us to forget why we are doing our work." The exhibition will be on display in the IIDMM foyer immediately following the lecture.

Professor Gray is an avid photographer who travels in many parts of Africa, capturing the diversity of peoples and their social rituals. His photographs have been exhibited in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Chapell Hill, London and San Francisco.

Background information:

Clive Gray was born in London and completed his BSc (Hons) at the University of Western England. After moving to South Africa in the mid-eighties, he spent 11 years at the University of the Witwatersrand, based in the Department of Surgery's MRC Transplantation Research Unit. While in the Department of Surgery, he completed his MSc (Med) and PhD (Med).

After receiving his PhD in 1994, he moved into HIV research to investigate how the virus affects the body's lymphoid tissue. In 1995, Clive received the prestigious James Gear Fellowship from the Poliomyelitis Research Foundation, which enabled him to take up a postdoctoral position at the Centre for AIDS Research at Stanford University, California, USA.

He returned to South Africa in 1998, taking up a position at the then National Institute for Virology (later the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, or NICD) where he established an internationally recognised HIV immunology laboratory. With other colleagues at the NICD, he was funded by the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative (SAAVI) to better understand the immunopathogenesis of HIV infection, that is how the immune system is damaged, but also plays a role in the development of disease; what constitutes survival and differentiation of memory CD4 and CD8 T cells; and what would be required from vaccine-induced immunity.

He has published widely in this area and has been involved in investigations to understand the very first immunological events during acute HIV infection, working closely with the Centre for AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) and the international Centre for HIV AIDS Vaccine Immunology.

Over the past 25 years, Clive has been training students and young scientists to become future leaders in the field, not only in South Africa but also on the African continent. In 2004 he received the International Leadership Award from the Elizabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation, allowing him to develop an on-line education website to simplify the link between basic and clinical immunology, www.immunopaedia.org.za. The site received the Science Prize for Online Resources in Education or SPORE in 2010 from the journal *Science*.

Since moving to the University of Cape Town in 2011 to become Chair of Immunology, Professor Gray has developed research and teaching structures to enhance the Division of Immunology, and to make it a world-class centre of research, teaching and service.

He is currently the chairperson of the Immunology Expert Committee of the National Health Laboratory Service and is a member of several international, scientific and technical advisory boards. He is on the executive of CAPRISA and the IIDMM.

Date: 31 October 2012
Time: 17:30 - Guests to be seated by 17:15
Venue: Student Learning Centre Lecture Theatre
Anatomy Building
Faculty of Health Sciences

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