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## **UCT professor elected by National Academy of Sciences**

University of Cape Town Professor Di McIntyre has been elected as a foreign associate to the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine (IOM) in Washington, DC. IOM members provide policy advice on health issues, and their work has global influence and impact.

IOM membership is considered one of the highest honours in the fields of health and medicine because the organisation recognises individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service. Professor McIntyre was one of 70 new members and 10 foreign associates to be named during the IOM's 42nd annual meeting. Out of 1,700 members there are only 112 foreign associates, which now include Professor McIntyre.

Professor McIntyre is based at UCT's Health Economics Unit (HEU) in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, where she holds the SA Research Chair in Health and Wealth. In 1990 she founded the HEU and was its director for 13 years. She serves on the Ministerial Advisory Committee on National Health Insurance and provides general technical support activities in South Africa and other African countries. She has served on a number of policy committees and has chaired the Minister of Health's Medicine Pricing Committee from its establishment in 2003 until 2008. Over the last couple of decades, her reputation as a credible researcher offering evidence-based policy advice in health care financing has flourished. She has built up a formidable track record of success in building both human and institutional capacity in health economics throughout Africa.

Professor Marian Jacobs, the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, said: "This nomination acknowledges the impact that Professor McIntyre's academic achievements and leadership in health economics have had in the pursuit of health equity in South Africa, on the African continent, and throughout the global South. Contributions from academics of her stature have been central to our recognition as a leading institution, in particular to UCT's recent placement in the Top 50 Health Science Faculties by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings."

IOM President Harvey V Fineberg said: "The IOM is greatly enriched by the addition of our newly elected colleagues, each of whom has significantly advanced health and medicine. Through their research, teaching, clinical work, and other contributions, these distinguished individuals have inspired and served as role models to others. We look forward to drawing on their knowledge and skills to improve health through the work of the IOM."

Established in 1970 by the National Academy of Sciences, the IOM has become recognised as a national resource for independent, scientifically informed analysis and recommendations on health

issues. With their election, members make a commitment to volunteer their service on IOM committees, boards and other activities. Projects during the past year include studies of environmental factors in breast cancer, health IT and patient safety, nutrition rating systems and graphics on food packaging, the scientific necessity of chimpanzees in research, establishing crisis standards of care during catastrophic disasters, improving care for epilepsy, and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder.

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