

NEWS FROM:



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26 January 2012

UCT medical professor joins global fellowship on occupational health

University of Cape Town Professor Mohamed Jeebhay has been elected as a fellow of the Collegium Ramazzini.

The Collegium is an international scientific society, founded in 1982, that examines critical issues in occupational and environmental medicine with a view towards action to prevent disease and promote health. It comprises about 180 fellows from around the world, elected for their contributions to these fields.

Professor Jeebhay's core research interests include improving access of workers to occupational health services, worker's compensation and occupational health policy development in South Africa. Other major focuses include the risk factors associated with exposure to workplace bio-aerosols, the development of occupational allergy and asthma, and developing preventive strategies to protect workers' health. He is passionate about promoting occupational and environmental health research, advocacy and training in the Southern African region. His election is an acknowledgment of his contribution in the past two decades in these areas, in particular his seminal research on work-related seafood allergy and asthma conducted along the west coast of South Africa and his contribution towards promoting occupational health in South Africa.

Professor Jeebhay is based in the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Research (COEHR) in UCT's School of Family Medicine and Public Health. He joins fellow UCT professors Rodney Ehrlich, Leslie London and Jonny Myers as Collegium fellows from the COEHR.

"This award reflects both Mohamed's international standing and the considerable international esteem in which the COEHR is held," said Professor London, Director of the School of Family Medicine and Public Health.

The Collegium provides an excellent opportunity for Jeebhay and the COEHR to engage with the other world-renowned scientists in developing strategies to deal with occupational and environmental lung diseases, a major public health problem in sub-Saharan Africa.

About the Collegium Ramazzini

According to its website (<http://www.collegiumramazzini.org>) the Collegium Ramazzini assesses present and future risks of injury and disease attributable to the workplace and the environment; focuses especially on the identification of preventable risk factors; and transmits its views on these hazards and their prevention to policy-making bodies, authorities, agencies and the public. The Collegium Ramazzini also seeks to translate to legislators, regulators and other decision makers the policy implications of scientific findings.

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