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UCT to honour literary giant Zakes Mda and medical pioneer Professor David Sanders in June

The University of Cape Town will award honorary degrees to two experts chosen not only for what they have contributed in their respective fields of expertise, but also to society as a whole.

Literary giant, Zakes Mda, and primary health care champion, Professor David Sanders, will receive honorary doctorates at the second of the mid-year graduation ceremonies at 15h00 on Friday 8 June 2012.

Mda, who will receive an honorary doctorate in literature (DLitt), is a novelist, poet, playwright, painter, composer and filmmaker. He has distinguished himself as a writer and, through his work, continues to have a significant impact as a commentator and thought leader. The many windows to the world that his work offers, the remarkable life journey that he has travelled and the literary benchmarks that he has set, have earned him recognition the world over. This includes being awarded the Commonwealth Book Prize, the Sunday Times Fiction Prize, the M-Net Book Prize and the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Legacy Award for *The Heart of Redness* (2003) in the US. Most notably *The Madonna of Excelsior* (2004) was selected one of the Top Ten South African books published in the decade since the dawn of democracy in 1994.

At the same ceremony David Sanders will be awarded the Doctor of Science in Medicine. Sanders is an iconic figure in the field of public health, nationally, regionally and internationally. He has pioneered thinking on the implementation of the World Health Organisation's model of primary health care, with its emphasis on equity and health as a right. His work has contributed to advancing understanding of primary health care as a framework for health and development and to improvements in child health through research, teaching and training, and policy advocacy and service development.

ENDS

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