



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
 Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
 Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

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UCT interview opportunities on TB, HIV research achievements

- UCT academics making their mark in TB and HIV research** – Four of the 12 University of Cape Town finalists for the 2014/15 National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) – BHP Billiton Awards specialise in research focused on the diagnosis and treatment of TB, HIV and opportunistic infections such as cryptococcal meningitis. They are available to be interviewed on their respective research achievements:

Category	UCT Finalist	Background	Contact
T W Kambule Awards: Emerging researchers (Contribution to research and its outputs over a period of up to six years after a PhD degree or equivalent qualification has been awarded, predominantly in South Africa)	Dr Keren Middelkoop , Senior Researcher and TB Division Leader, Desmond Tutu HIV Centre, UCT	<p>Dr Middelkoop's research has made a substantial contribution to identifying what is required for Tuberculosis (TB) control in HIV-burdened Southern Africa.</p> <p>She was the first to report the impact of high-coverage Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) programmes on community TB notification rates and prevalence, highlighting the public health benefits of ART programmes. Her work has played a strong role in ensuring that TB transmission is recognised as a research priority internationally.</p>	Linda Rhoda Tel: 021 406 6685 Cell: 082 451 1045 Email: Linda.Rhoda@uct.ac.za
	Dr Grant Theron , Senior Research Officer,	<p>Dr Theron has made important contributions to how TB is diagnosed. He has also led the development of a device that can identify TB</p>	

	<p>Department of Medicine, UCT</p>	<p>super-spreaders.</p> <p>His work has impacted global and national health policy, been published in leading medical journals such as <i>The Lancet</i>, attracted prizes from international and national organisations, and received recognition in both the international and national press.</p>	
<p>T W Kambule Awards: Research and its outputs over the last five to 10 years by an individual</p>	<p>Associate Professor Graeme Meintjes, National Research Foundation South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) Chair in Lung Infection and Immunity in Poverty-Related Diseases, UCT; Full Member: Institute of Infectious Disease & Molecular Medicine (IDM), UCT; Honorary Clinical Lecturer: Department of Medicine, Imperial College, London</p> <p>Professor Anna-Lise Williamson, SARChI Chair in Vaccinology, IDM, UCT</p>	<p>Associate Professor Meintjes has made major research contributions in the field of clinical and immunological aspects of HIV. His research on the TB-associated immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (TB-IRIS) has defined the approach to diagnosis and treatment of this condition internationally.</p> <p>His collaborative research on cryptococcal meningitis, has also contributed to forming international guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of the condition.</p> <p>Professor Williamson heads the HIV Vaccine Development Group which is the only group in the developing world to have designed and constructed candidate HIV vaccines to be manufactured for Phase One clinical trials. She also established a number of sophisticated vaccine technology platforms.</p> <p>Professor Williamson is recognised internationally</p>	<p>Linda Rhoda Tel: 021 406 6685 Cell: 082 451 1045 Email: Linda.Rhoda@uct.ac.za</p>

	for her research on human papillomavirus (HPV) in Africa where she has made a significant contribution to knowledge particularly on genital HPV in HIV-infected couples.	
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Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Aamirah Sunday

Media Liaison Assistant
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town

Tel: (021) 650 4976 Fax (021) 650 5628

Cell: 073 650 7743

E-mail: aamirah.sunday@uct.ac.za

Website: www.uct.ac.za