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UCT hosts public lectures on water challenges

20 October 2017 | 13h00-16h00 | Studio 1, Chemical Engineering Building | Upper Campus, UCT

The University of Cape Town's Future Water Research Institute and the Centre for Bioprocess Engineering Research (CeBER) will today, Friday 20 October 2017, jointly host two public lectures under the theme "Society, water and wastewater".

The first lecture, to be presented by Associate Professor Craig Sheridan, Director: Centre in Water Research and Development at the University of the Witwatersrand, is titled "Water in South Africa: Devastating droughts, population expansion, climate change, poor governance, energy and food shortages and macro-pollutants." In his lecture, Prof Sheridan will paint a picture of how society impacts water and how water impacts society in the context of South Africa.

This will be followed by Professor George Ekama's lecture titled "Some opportunities and challenges for urban wastewater treatment". Prof Ekama will consider two urban water management strategies to conserve fresh water quality and quantity – the separation of urine at source and sea water toilet flushing.

While considerable work is still required to evaluate these new approaches, and quantify their advantages and disadvantages, Prof Ekama is arguing the point that investment in dual water distribution and wastewater collection systems may be worth making to unlock benefits for more sustainable urban development.

Prof Ekama is Professor of Water Quality Engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering at UCT, and recently received the prestigious Palermo University Prize in recognition of a long-standing collaboration on wastewater research that he has with Palermo University. In his work, he emphasises the "importance of team work and the [collaboration] of multiple organisations".

Notes to editors

[Future Water](#) is a transdisciplinary research institute at the University of Cape Town, addressing issues of water scarcity in South Africa largely through water sensitive design. It recognises the importance of integrating technical, social, environmental and economic perspectives towards robust sustainable solutions.

The University of Cape Town's [Centre for Bioprocess Engineering Research](#) (CeBER) is one of five UCT-recognised research groupings that is hosted by the Department of Chemical Engineering. CeBER fosters the future leaders in bioprocess engineering in South Africa and forges the way in cutting edge research toward sustainable bioproducts and processes.

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