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**04 January 2018**

## **Imbizo brings together African students with world's leading computational neuroscientists**

07<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018 | Muizenberg Beach, Cape Town

The University of Cape Town (UCT), together with the University College London (UCL) and the University of Oxford, will host a prestigious summer school in January 2018 to help develop computational neuroscience in Africa.

Computational neuroscience is a relatively new discipline within the broader field of neuroscience, that uses computers and mathematical theory to try and understand how the brain works.

The second IBRO-Simons Computational Neuroscience Imbizo (isiCNI) is a three-week intensive course, which brings together African and International students under the guidance of world-leading experts in the field.

The school is a combination of lectures on advanced topics in computational and theoretical neuroscience as well as practical exercises in brain simulation and data analysis. Lecturers and tutors are from world-class academic institutions across the globe. Under their guidance, each student works on a mini-research project, which they present at the end of the school. The students work hard, but are also given the time and space to forge strong relationships, which will serve as the basis of collaborations in the years to come.

The first gathering of its kind took place in January 2017 and was a huge success. Dr Joseph Raimondo from the UCT Neuroscience Institute is one of the lead organizers: "For us, the most encouraging sign of success is that students formed a tight-knit group, who are still in regular contact."

The students were also very enthusiastic about the first Imbizo, as this testimonial from one of the students underlines: "I really feel EXTREMELY privileged and lucky to have had this chance. I learned an incredible amount, and I'm leaving with a gigantic amount of motivation."

It is widely understood that science is stronger with the expertise and input of diverse voices. "Africans are currently under-represented in the field of computational neuroscience, but represent a vast untapped human resource, which is poised to make valuable contributions in humanity's quest to understand the brain," adds Dr Raimondo.

You can follow the second IBRO-Simons Computational Neuroscience Imbizo with the hashtag #isiCNI2018 on Facebook and Twitter.

**Notes to editors:**

Students who are interested in mathematics, physics, computer science and statistics and want to know how these can help understand the brain, should apply for the 2019 summer course on the isiCNI [website](#).

A report on isiCNI2017 can be found [here](#).

Further information and registration details can be found on the isiCNI [website](#)

Media representatives/journalists interested in the Imbizo are welcome to contact the organizers via [email](#).

**Images:**



*Image: 2017 summer course participants concluding week two on the beach*

**IBRO SIMONS  
COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE IMBIZO**

**Application Deadline:  
August 15th, 2017**

Muizenberg Beach, Cape Town  
January 7th - 28th, 2018



**Faculty:**

Peter Latham - University College London  
Byron Yu - Carnegie Mellon University  
Mate Lengyel - University of Cambridge  
Yiota Poirazi IMBB / FORTH  
Srikanth Ramaswamy - EPFL Lausanne  
Surya Ganguli - Stanford University

Timothy Lillicrap - Google DeepMind  
Blake Richards - University of Toronto  
Joseph Raimondo - University of Cape Town  
Larry Abbott - Columbia University  
Adrienne Fairhall - Washington University  
Tim Vogels - University of Oxford

**#isiCNI2018**  
isicni.gatsby.ucl.ac.uk

imbizo | imbizo | Xhosa - Zulu  
A gathering of the people to share knowledge.

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Image: IBRO Simons Computational Neuroscience Imbizo flyer

**ENDS**

**Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department**

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