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UCT Lung Institute celebrates 20 years

The excellent work done by the University of Cape (UCT) Lung Institute was highlighted when the institute celebrated its 20-year anniversary recently.

Located at the Faculty of Health Sciences campus, the institute provides clinical services and its researchers work in the fields of respiratory medicine, tuberculosis (TB), allergies, occupational medicine and dermatology.

"African-sourced education, research and service is at the heart of our mission as an institution. These words have truly guided you in your work in communities," said Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng at a dinner to celebrate the occasion.

"It's not enough for us as UCT to be the best university in Africa, to be relevant to the world's needs and to be sustainable as an institution. We also need to be the best for Africa," she added.

In partnership with various departments at UCT, the institute also offers training to students studying towards health professions and collaborates extensively with training and research institutions both locally and internationally.

The work of researchers in the institute demonstrates that it is continually assisting UCT in its efforts to become the best university in Africa, and for Africa, with excellent work being done in various units. These include the Allergy and Immunology Unit, the Centre for Child and Adolescent Lung Health, the Centre for Lung Infection and Immunity, the Centre for TB Research Innovation, the Knowledge Translation Unit and the Lung Clinical Research Unit.

The institute's managing director, Associate Professor Rodney Dawson, said the anniversary was an opportunity to celebrate the institute's coming of age, to pay homage to partners

and pay respects to founder of the Lung Institute, Emeritus Professor Eric Bateman as well as to thank the university for its support.

“We are an African institution of learning. But what has happened is that we’ve become an African institution that dictated global policy and expanded beyond African borders,” Dawson said.

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VC Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng (second from left) celebrates the UCT Lung Institute’s 20th anniversary with (from left) institute founder Emeritus Professor Eric Bateman, head of the Knowledge Translation Unit Associate Professor Lara Fairall and institute director Associate Professor Rodney Dawson.

Photo: Brenton Geach/UCT

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