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Media invite: Multimillion-rand new device to help with monitoring and treating TB in the Western Cape

13 November 2019 | 16:30 – 19:00 | Groote Schuur Hospital, Lecture Theatre 2 on E-floor New Main Building

The Western Cape has had insufficient PET-CT (Positron Emission Tomography-Computed Tomography) capacity to meet the rapidly growing demand for these scans for clinical studies in tuberculosis (TB) to monitor progression from infection to disease, and to provide early indication of the efficacy of new TB drugs and drug combinations.

In 2017 the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) provided funding of \$2,265,000 to establish a PET-CT Scanner for the Cape Universities Body Imaging Centre (CUBIC) Facility at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

PET has revolutionised the imaging of the human body. By means of ingenious combinations of chemical markers with isotopes that emit positrons, a large variety of metabolic and other processes can be detected and imagined in a unique way.

UCT Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng says that the question that drives UCT's vision is: "How can we continue to maintain our high standards and make a lasting, sustainable impact in higher education and in wider society?" She highlights excellence as one of the institution's values and the key trademark that should be visible in all UCT endeavours. "It must be the guiding principle in all we do. Research has long been the cornerstone of excellence at UCT, and we want our researchers to keep contributing to local and global knowledge, but we also recognise that excellence does not rest in the university's research endeavours and academic successes alone. It is also present in our professional, administrative support and service staff."

Media are invited to the launch of this PET-CT Scanner at Groote Schuur Hospital. The Western Cape Health MEC Professor Nomafrench Mbombo, UCT Vice-Chancellor

Professor Phakeng and the Chief Executive Officer of Groote Schuur Hospital, Dr Patel will be among the speakers.

Please RSVP to Cubic@uct.ac.za. Refreshments will be provided.

ENDS

Note to editors

The BMGF has invested heavily in these areas of TB Research and Development and has recognised Cape Town as being the leading site globally for clinical TB research as a result of the world-class TB research groups which are based at UCT and Stellenbosch University (SUN).

Funding: Key funders for the facility are the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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