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Facing the giants of the Tobacco industry and protecting health care

9 March 2022 | 18:00 | Microsoft Teams | [Register online](#)

The sphere of science and academia engages with the tobacco industry and vaping advocates. Starting in a laboratory with “smoking cells” and tuberculosis bugs has morphed into advocacy for clean air, support for smokers and fighting back against giants.

Professor Richard van Zyl-Smit from the University of Cape Town’s (UCT) Lung Institute and consultant pulmonologist at Groote Schuur Hospital (GSH) will be presenting at the virtual Vice-Chancellor’s Inaugural Lecture on 9 March 2022. His lecture is titled “Where there is smoke there is fire: Facing the giants of Tobacco, Industry and Academia without getting burnt”.

Protecting one’s mental health in the long game of academia and health care remains a challenge, especially when not everyone loves what you do or say.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has further complicated the balance of life and work in mental health. I will be taking you on a journey through smoke, lungs and Nobel Prizes in this inaugural lecture,” said van Zyl-Smit.

- [Watch a short video clip by Professor Richard van Zyl-Smit.](#)

He established the first formal smoking cessation clinic at GSH, which is currently the only one of its kind in the country.

For the past 15 years, van Zyl-Smit has been actively involved in poverty-related respiratory health issues and is president-elect of the South African Thoracic Society; incoming co-chair of the American Thoracic Society International Health committee; and a global ambassador for the Global Initiative for Asthma.

Please [register online](#) to attend the lecture.

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Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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