



2 August 2023

Invite: Rheumatic heart disease remains rampant in poorer communities

3 August 2023 | 17:00-19:00 | New Learning Centre Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building, Anzio Road, Observatory

Despite being largely unseen in developed countries, rheumatic heart disease (RHD) remains rampant in poorer communities and low-resourced settings around the world. This is according to the University of Cape Town's (UCT) epidemiologist Professor Mark Engel.

Professor Engel from UCT's Department of Medicine will present his inaugural lecture, titled "We are here too – Contributing African Strep A research towards eliminating rheumatic heart disease" on Thursday, 3 August 2023.

According to Engel, Strep A – the bacteria responsible for the antecedent sore throat infection believed to initiate the immune processes involved in RHD development – is largely unresearched in Africa.

He collaborates with colleagues across Africa to apply a wide range of investigative approaches, from molecular to population-based research to all aspects of RHD. In 2016 he established the AFROStrep study in an effort to improve the understanding of the role of group A streptococcus in RHD development.

His work, supported over the years by South Africa's National Research Foundation, the South African Medical Research Council, the American Heart Association and National Institutes of Health in the USA, has been presented nationally and internationally. Together with the late Professor Bongani Mayosi, he managed the RHDGen Study, an Africa-wide initiative to investigate molecular aspects of RHD, reporting novel insights in susceptibility genes and proteomic profiles in RHD.

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

ENDS

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