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**31 October 2023**

## **Daily pressures of surgical service delivery in health systems under strain**

**2 November 2023 | 18:00-20:00 | Neuroscience Institute Lecture Theatre, E-floor, Main Building, Groote Schuur Hospital**



In her inaugural lecture, Professor Lydia Cairncross will describe the complex interface between the daily pressures of surgical service delivery in health systems under strain and the pursuit of formal academic medicine.

Photo: Je'nine May

Professor Lydia Cairncross, the head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Cape Town/Groote Schuur Hospital Academic Complex will deliver her inaugural lecture on Thursday, 2 November 2023 to mark her promotion to full professor.

Titled "Access to Surgical Care – the Imperative for Health Equity Action in Academic Medicine", Professor Cairncross will describe the complex interface between the daily pressures of surgical service delivery in health systems under strain and the pursuit of formal academic medicine. She will reflect on her research, clinical and activist work in relation to her special areas of interest in endocrine and oncology surgery and explore the potential for academic medicine to catalyse a more just, equal and community-centred health system.

Professor Cairncross is a recognised national leader and published scholar in her subspecialist field of surgery, playing a key role in developing context appropriate national policy guidelines for breast cancer and endocrine surgical conditions and spearheading innovative systems-based research to promote earlier cancer diagnosis. She has engaged with civil society and philanthropic organisations – such as Project Flamingo, PinkDrive and Gift of the Givers – to expand access to surgical care for public sector patients.

In parallel with her professional work as a surgeon, Professor Cairncross has been involved in campaigning for the right to health and improvements in the quality and accessibility of health care throughout her medical career. This work has included participation in the Treatment Action Campaign and the People's Health Movement of South Africa. She has contributed to the country's public discourse on health policy, including the NHI proposal. She runs community training on understanding the need for a strong, well-resourced and community centred public health service.

Please [RSVP](#) to attend the lecture.

***ENDS***

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

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