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**24 March 2025**

## **UCT lecture to address growing public health concern of kidney disease in adults and children**

*One in 10 adults worldwide now have chronic kidney disease and millions die each year*

**27 March 2025 | 17:30 SAST | New Learning Centre Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building, Anzio Road, Faculty of Health Sciences, UCT**



Professor Mignon McCulloch

Photo: Supplied

Professor Mignon McCulloch, head of the Clinical Unit of Paediatric Nephrology and Solid Organ Transplantation, including kidney and heart, at the [Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital](#) (RCWMCH) and a senior lecturer at the University of Cape Town (UCT), will deliver her inaugural lecture titled "First Aid for Kids Kidneys in Africa and Beyond" on Thursday, 27 March 2025 at 17:30 SAST.

It will take place in the New Learning Centre Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building, Health Sciences campus.

Professor McCulloch's lecture will address the growing public health concern of kidney disease worldwide in adults and children. It will concentrate on using alternative forms of dialysis that do not rely on sophisticated technology. Her work shows that African solutions for African problems exist with good results, which can be applied elsewhere in the world by giving any child needing dialysis an opportunity to receive such treatment.

'Lessons learned from a regional training program' will also be presented, reviewing children's kidney specialists trained at RCWMCH/UCT and going back to their home institutions across Africa with a 100% return rate, often the first such doctors in their countries pioneering children's kidney care.

Professor McCulloch said: "World Kidney Day was celebrated earlier this month, and startling figures show that one in 10 adults worldwide now have chronic kidney disease and millions die each year because they do not have access to affordable treatment.

"For children, access to treatment of kidney disease is even more limited, and the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital/UCT kidney team and the subject of my PhD includes cheaper alternatives of management of kidney disease by improvisation techniques as well as training paediatric nephrologists for Africa in Africa," she said.

Professor McCulloch's background is in paediatric nephrology and paediatric intensive care. As the deputy chair of the Saving Young Lives Committee, she has been part of a life-saving training programme which used the basics of dialysis training to 600 professionals that resulted in saving 450 lives.

This groundbreaking researcher has held many positions of leadership not only in Africa but also internationally, including president of the South African Paediatric Association, which dealt explicitly with COVID-19 issues during the pandemic as an important advocacy voice for children; president of the South African Transplantation Society; and president of the International Paediatric Transplantation, which promotes paediatric transplantation worldwide. She will also take over the Saving Young Lives Steering Committee chair in 2025.

One of her proudest achievements was hosting the International Paediatric Nephrology Association 2025 as congress president in February 2025 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre with 1 000 international delegates, including 100 sponsored Fellows and first-time nurses.

Her research interests with the team of paediatric nephrologists at RCWMCH include acute kidney injury, not only for children in high-income regions but also in less-resourced settings, as well as access to dialysis and kidney transplantation in infants and children and adolescents.

Professor McCulloch has just completed her PhD, titled Paediatric Acute Kidney Injury Management in an African Setting, and will graduate on 1 April 2025. She has published over 200 peer-reviewed papers with a research h-index of 32 and an i10-index of 94 and was promoted to full professor in 2018.

- Members of the media wishing to attend the event are requested to [RSVP](#).

***Ends***

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

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