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**02 October 2017**

## **UCT to host Annual Western Cape Research Ethics Committees Workshop**

**06 October 2017 | 08h00-16h00 | Belmont Square Conference Centre, Cape Town**

The University of Cape Town's Faculty of Health Sciences Ethics Office and Human Research Ethics Committee will host the second Western Cape Human Research Ethics Workshop in Cape Town.

The workshop intends to increase participants' knowledge of recent developments in health research ethics and provokes critical thinking around ethical considerations in health research. Delegates from UCT, Stellenbosch University, University of the Western Cape, Cape Peninsula University of Technology and the SA Medical Research Council are expected to attend.

Leading researchers from all participating institutions are scheduled to address the workshop, including Emeritus Professor Tim Noakes (UCT), who will deliver a keynote address on "Social media as a tool in clinical practice and research" and Dr Zackie Achmat, who is scheduled to deliver a plenary talk on "Standard of care and its impact on research participants and communities".

Other highlights and key issues to be addressed include the ethics of race and ethnicity in research, advances in HIV prevention research and a keynote talk addressing the current issues in the field of biomedical research and health ethics.

Sidney Engelbrecht, Manager: Research Ethics at UCT and organiser of the workshop, said: "We are building on last year's successful workshop hosted by Stellenbosch University; and targeting Human Research Ethics Committee chairs, members and administrators who participate in the review, discussion and approval of health research protocols and clinical trials."

Prof Marc Blockman, Chairperson of the UCT Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC), added: "The HREC notes that there are many complex ethical issues associated with the proposed inclusion of ethnicity or race as variables for analysis; hence the need for justification for the use of race or ethnicity as variables for analysis. We are hoping that the various contributions and break away sessions enable a uniform approach that can be adopted by all RECs as they adjudicate on protocols."

**Notes to editors**

Media representatives/journalists interested in attending the event are requested to RSVP to [Sidney Engelbrecht](#) Tel: +27 (0)21 650 5057 by Tuesday, 3 October.

Please see the [programme](#) for further details.

***ENDS***

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

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