



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

31 May 2019

Inspiring young scientist selected for international leadership initiative

A University of Cape Town (UCT) PhD student working in the field of drug discovery has been selected for the 2019 CAS Future Leaders Program, one of the most prestigious and fiercely contested leadership programmes in the world.

Dickson Mambwe is one of only 30 early-career scientists selected from across the globe to participate this year. As a child his life was almost claimed by malaria, he sees being in malaria drug research and discovery as a calling rather a mere career.

“Where I grew up in Zambia, the diagnostic tools were not yet highly developed so it took weeks to identify the problem,” he explains.

Mambwe’s mother eventually took a bus to the city where physicians at the Arthur Davidson Children’s Hospital made the diagnosis. Mambwe spent the next three months on anti-malarial drug Chloroquine.

“Because of this – for my family and especially my mother – doing drug discovery research today is the best career course I could have taken,” he says.

Being selected for the CAS Leadership Program comes hot on the heels of his participation in the Next Generation Scientist Program by Novartis and University of Basel in Switzerland last year.

Said Mambwe: “Who knew a boy from rural Mansa, Zambia could come this far, stand a chance and become successful at opportunities like this? I feel proud and immensely humbled by the achievement and look forward to representing UCT.”

Offering young scientists an opportunity to tap into the global research pipeline and gain exposure to global perspectives, the programme is an excellent opportunity to expand networks and even connect with potential research partners.

Since its inception 10 years ago, there have only been two other participants selected from Africa (both also from UCT). The programme is an initiative of the American Chemical Society.

Mambwe hopes that being selected to participate in opportunities like these may serve as proof of just how far hard work, commitment and consistency can take you.

"I count my blessings as they come, big or small," Mambwe says. "I've always aspired not only to making a difference, but to be a source of inspiration to others as well, because, truly, one is never defined by one's circumstances."

[Download high-resolution picture](#)



Dickson Mambwe

PIC: Supplied

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Angelique Botha

Media Liaison and Monitoring Assistant
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: +27 (21) 650 2583
Cell: +27 (64) 276 6234
Email: angelique.botha@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za