



**Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price,  
has pleasure in inviting you to the inaugural lecture of**

**Professor Jonathan Blackburn**  
Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine  
Faculty of Health Sciences

Topic:  
**'Discovery and Innovation in Chemical Biology: Biosynthesis,  
microarrays, mechanisms and diagnostics'**

**Wednesday, 21 August 2013 at 17h30**

**Student Learning Centre Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building  
Faculty of Health Sciences  
University of Cape Town**

**Admission: Free  
Guests to be seated by 17h15**

Please RSVP by **15 August 2013** for catering purposes to: Jolene Steenkamp  
Tel: 021 650 4870 • Fax: 021 650 5628 • Email: [jolene.steenkamp@uct.ac.za](mailto:jolene.steenkamp@uct.ac.za);  
For more information: <http://www.uct.ac.za/calendar/events/inaugurals>



Jonathan Blackburn was born in Cambridge, UK, and graduated from the University of Oxford with a BA (Honours, 1<sup>st</sup> class) degree in chemistry in 1988. He received a D.Phil in chemistry from the University of Oxford in 1992 for his studies with Professor Sir Jack Baldwin, FRS, on penicillin biosynthesis. Jonathan then moved to the University of Cambridge where he carried out postdoctoral research on the directed evolution of new enzymes, in the group of Professor Sir Alan Fersht, FRS, at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology. During that period, Jonathan also held the Rutherford Research Fellowship at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

In 1995, Jonathan was awarded a prestigious 10 year Royal Society University Research Fellowship (URF) which marked the start of his life as an independent academic; he initially held his URF in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Cambridge and then in 1996 he moved across the road to the Department of Biochemistry.

In 1999, Jonathan founded a start-up biotechnology company in the UK, Sense Proteomic Ltd, to commercialise the protein function microarray technology invented in his academic group. Jonathan took leave of absence from Cambridge for two years in 2000 to act as executive director and chief scientific officer of his company. Following a takeover by Procognia Ltd in 2002, Jonathan became the chief scientist of the merged organisation, which employed 70 scientists worldwide, a post he held until early 2006. As a biotech entrepreneur, Jonathan has raised around R75m in venture capital financing and is the inventor on nine granted patents and 14 pending patents.

In 2003, Jonathan moved to Cape Town with his now wife, associate professor Nicola Mulder, and for four years he was an EPSRC Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Manchester, UK, as part of the £3.5m EPSRC-funded GlycoArrays consortium. In 2006 he co-founded the Centre for Proteomic & Genomic Research – a not-for-profit organisation funded by a R20m grant from the Cape Biotech Trust to provide equipment infrastructure and expertise in the functional genomics sector – where he held the post of executive director of research until he was appointed to the South African Research Chair in Applied Proteomics & Chemical Biology at the University of Cape Town in 2008.

Today, Jonathan serves on a number of local, national and international committees including: the National Health Research Committee (Department of Health, RSA); the biotechnology subcommittee of the International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry; the Nominations and Elections Committee, Human Proteome Organisation; the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Committee; and the IIDMM Executive Committee. He also sits on the editorial advisory boards of the *Journal of Proteome Research*, the *Journal of Proteome Science & Computational Biology*, and *Expert Review of Proteomics*.

Over the years, Jonathan has been actively involved in research capacity development, both overseas and in South Africa, and has supervised 21 postdoctoral researchers, 20 PhD students and 11 master's students. Virtually all of his former students and postdocs have remained involved in biomedical research in either academia or the biotech industry and a number have moved into leadership positions locally or abroad.

As an academic, Jonathan applies the expertise he has gained in both academia and in a start-up biotech environment to drive independent and collaborative translational research programmes in the field of chemical biology. His academic expertise ranges from the synthesis of novel enzyme substrates and inhibitors, through mechanistic enzymology, protein biochemistry, molecular biology and proteomics, to the creation of novel biomolecules by directed evolution. He is particularly interested in the applications of microarray and mass spectrometry technologies in diagnostic device development, diagnostic marker discovery, as well as in mechanistic studies and the high throughput study of protein-drug interactions.

**Prof Jonathan Blackburn**  
*Inaugural Lecture Reply Slip*

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**Name**

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**Email address**

<input type="checkbox"/>	I /We will attend the lecture
<input type="checkbox"/>	Number of seats required for the lecture
<input type="checkbox"/>	I /We will attend the reception
<input type="checkbox"/>	Number of people attending the reception
<input type="checkbox"/>	I /We will not attend

**RSVP by 15 August 2013 to:**

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