

Cape Universities Body Imaging Centre (CUBIC) opened a new research facility at the University of Cape Town



The first research full-body high-field Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner in Africa was delivered to CUBIC-UCT on 14 February 2015.

The 3 Tesla Siemens Skyra which is valued at R24 million is the end product of four years of fundraising by a multi-disciplinary

team headed up by Professors Bongani Mayosi and Ernesta Meintjes.

The funds were secured from the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), the National Research Foundation (NRF), and the Cancer Research Trust (CRT).

CUBIC UCT is a joint initiative between Siemens, University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch University and the Medical Research Council (MRC).

CUBIC UCT, one of the Faculty of Health Sciences' core research facilities, is situated adjacent to the Psychiatry block at Groote Schuur Hospital.

This state-of-the-art scanner is able to non-invasively assess the structure, function, metabolism, and integrity of tissues, facilitating diagnosis and enabling studies of disease progression and prognosis. The facility also has a mock scanner room where the experience and sounds of the MRI sequences are recreated, to prepare

subjects for the scanning procedure. This is especially useful in research with children.

As a cutting-edge neuroimaging research facility, the unit includes a conference room and will host a variety of hands-on courses and seminars aimed at MRI radiographers, radiologists, and other interested parties.

Although the core focus of the centre is research, it also provides a limited clinical service.

The main purpose of the facility is to advance our understanding of diseases specifically relevant to South Africa and Africa in order to improve healthcare management in South Africa.

For further information please visit our website at: www.cubic.uct.ac.za