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|  | UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWNFACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES |  |

INVITATION TO A SEMINAR ON

**THE EBOLA EPIDEMIC:**

**THE UCT FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCE’S RESPONSE**

28th October 2014

17h00 - 18h30

Faculty of Health Sciences, Barnard Fuller Building, Anzio Road

Frances Ames Room

The Ebola epidemic in West Africa is gaining momentum and showing no signs of abating. Representing a challenge to health experts including lab scientists, infectious disease clinicians, public health experts as well as psychological and social scientists, this calls for an urgent response from UCT. As a research-led university, we need to be giving the evolving epidemic more attention. The national Minister of Health has announced a South African response in terms of aid, and the appointment of a committee of experts to advise his ministry on Ebola. Dr Motsoaledi said Prof Martin Veller from Wits would be responsible for managing an emergency operation to an Ebola-stricken country, should the need for one arise.

This seminar will be addressed by Dr Gem Patten from Medicines sans Frontiers as well as
Dr Kathryn Stinson from the UCT School of Public Health and Family Medicine’s Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Research (CIDER), both of whom are epidemiologists with very recent experience in Sierra Leone. Sarah Crawford-Browne from the PHC Directorate, who spent over 2 years some time ago as a trauma counsellor in Kailahun, an epicentre of the epidemic, will also share her perspective. Their first-hand reflections will be valuable in developing an appropriate response by the Faculty, which could include the preparation of a UCT team of clinicians and scientists to be ready to visit West Africa in 2015, if called upon.

Prof Wim de Villiers, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, will open the seminar which will be chaired by Prof Reid, Director of the Primary Health Care Directorate in the Faculty.

*DIRECTIONS: Enter the main entrance of the Health Science Faculty, Barnard Fuller Building, Anzio Road, go through security, go straight until the end of the passage with the glass doors in front of you, turn right then left underneath the spiral staircase, Frances Ames Room will be in front of you with the cafeteria on the right hand side.*

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