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Soapbox Science: women boffins bring science into the public spotlight

6 October 2024 | 11:00-14:00 | Pierhead, V&A Waterfront

The University of Cape Town (UCT) will host the third edition of Soapbox Science, an initiative aimed at increasing the visibility of women in science and inspiring the public by sharing innovative research.

Inspired by the legendary Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park in the UK, this worldwide event brings science into the public spotlight, setting the stage for dynamic discussions on groundbreaking discoveries and stirring controversies.

"It's science like you've never seen before – taking to the streets and sparking curiosity at every turn," said Dr Lucia Marchetti, a senior lecturer in UCT's [Department of Astronomy](#) and speaker at the 2015 London Soapbox Science event.

The event receives funding from the [National Research Foundation](#), the [Department of Science and Innovation](#), [iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences \(iThemba LABS\)](#), and the UCT [Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine \(IDM\)](#). It also receives in-kind support from the [South African Astronomical Observatory \(SAAO\)](#) and the [V&A Waterfront](#).

Marchetti said this year's event will transform the Pierhead at the V&A Waterfront into an open arena for learning and lively debates. Nuclear physics and marine biology are just some of the topics to be covered by 11 remarkable speakers from South Africa's top institutions.

"Our speakers aim to engage with people from all walks of life to share some of South Africa's most groundbreaking scientific research. This is your chance to delve into the wonderful world of science in a fun and entertaining way," she said.

Led by Dr Marchetti, the event is organised by a group of enthusiastic women scientists: Dr Elisa Nemes and Dr Carly Young-Bailie from the UCT IDM, Dr Luna Pellegrini and Dr Thuthukile Khumalo from WITS/iThemba LABS, and Dr Rosalind Skelton from SAAO.

Said Marchetti: "Soapbox Science provides an exciting opportunity for the public to meet, engage, and be inspired by our great female scientists. We are all very excited and we hope many will come to engage with us on the day."

Don't miss the chance to witness South Africa's top women scientists in action, contributing to the global scientific landscape.

Notes to editors

Media interested in attending the event are requested to [RSVP](#).

For more information and to see the full lineup of speakers, visit the [Soapbox Science Cape Town Facebook Page](#).

About Soapbox Science

[Soapbox Science](#) is an initiative that aims to promote the visibility and boost career prospects of female and non-binary scientists through the establishment of grassroots, annual public engagement of science events; in addition to making an active contribution to changing academic cultures, social norms and public perception of science careers.

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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