

AFRICAN CENTRES LEAD THE WAY

UCT won no less than three nominations – more than any other institution – when the African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation (ANDI) recently recognised 32 African research facilities as ANDI Centres of Excellence in health innovation.

Professor Keertan Dheda's group of the Lung Infection and Immunity Unit, was one of the three UCT nominations that was awarded as an ANDI centre of Excellence.. for TB Diagnostics Research.

Made up of scientists, policy makers, donors, governmental and non-governmental organisations from Africa and elsewhere, ANDI was launched in 2008 with the aim to encourage and boost the ability of African countries to develop its own new treatments and diagnostics. Up to now, the Network indicated at the time, Africa has had little say or control over the source and supply of medicines most needed by its citizens.

These 32 first official centres of excellence, spread across five sub-regions, are meant to lead from the front as they take on both their own and ANDI-initiated projects.

“This is the beginning of a process that we hope will encourage African governments to invest in their institutions and scientists to become world-class facilities in order to advance health innovation in Africa,” remarked Dr Solomon Nwaka, ANDI director, at the meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where the CoEs were announced.