

# Invitation

## 29th UP Expert Lecture

12 May 2022



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The Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Pretoria, Professor Tawana Kupe, cordially invites you to the 29th lecture in the UP Expert Lecture Series:

**'From novel virus to global pandemic: Understanding the origins and evolution of emerging and re-emerging viruses',**

presented by Professor Marietjie Venter, Centre for Viral Zoonosis, Department of Medical Virology, Faculty of Health Sciences.

**Date:** Thursday, 12 May 2022  
**Time:** 18:00 – 19:15  
**Venue:** Hybrid Lecture (from Senate Hall, University of Pretoria)  
**Enquiries:** Lynette Smith at [lynette.smith@up.ac.za](mailto:lynette.smith@up.ac.za)  
**RSVP:** [Click here](#) to reserve your place.

**The first 30 registrations will be able to attend in person, and all bookings after that will receive a link to view online.**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) identified disease X as the next pandemic threat, a year before the emergence of SARS-CoV-2, which sparked the COVID-19 pandemic. The true impact of the pandemic over the past two years far exceeded our expectations, with >18 million excess deaths worldwide, as well as extensive pressure on healthcare systems and the global economy. Although the world is finally opening up again, the pandemic is not yet over, and further variants and waves can likely be expected. This will also not be the last pandemic that we experience in our lifetime. In this Expert Lecture we will delve into how novel viruses with pandemic potential emerge, the evolution of COVID-19 throughout the pandemic, and look at the potential causes of emergence of new variants. We argue that a One Health approach of genomic surveillance in humans and animals is needed, to detect novel viruses and variants, and to allow us to be more prepared for future events.

The UP Expert Lecture Series provides a public platform for UP researchers to engage with a general audience on significant developments in their fields of expertise that are likely to have an impact in the future. We invite you to participate in our hour-long Expert Lecture Series and to be enriched and informed by the University's research output.

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