



**Media Advisory**

**28 February 2020**

## **World Obesity Day: Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University tackling issues associated with Obesity**

Members of the media are hereby invited to cover and be part of the celebration of World Obesity Day to be hosted by the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University which will take place on Wednesday 4 March 2020.

The university's participation in this international event marks its contribution towards the realisation of the UN's Sustainable Development (SDG) Goal 3 - which seeks to bring about healthy lives and promote well-being for all.

Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital (DGMAH)/SMU bariatric Surgery Unit has recently been accredited to perform metabolic and bariatric surgeries, making it the first public hospital in Gauteng to do this.

The performance of bariatric and metabolic surgeries represents an important advance in health care delivery in SA because it gives access to those who are poor but also in need of this life changing surgery.

“By hosting an event of this nature, we have a responsibility as a health sciences institution to take the lead in raising awareness and educating communities around obesity, its contribution to lifestyle diseases, how it affects quality of life and to deal with the stigma related to it”, says Dr Eric Pule, Director Marketing and Communication.

There will be free health assessment services on the day such as Body Mass Index (BMI), blood pressure and sugar tests. These tests will help identify those that are at risk of contracting obesity related illnesses and will also identify what should be done about the diagnoses.

Members of the media will also have an opportunity to interview those that were once obese and whose lives were seriously transformed for the better, by undergoing bariatric Surgery. The Unit is headed by Prof Zack Koto - a world renowned weight loss expert who will also interact with the media for more information around obesity.

Details are as follows:

**Date 04 March 2020**

**Venue: Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University Library lawn (Garankuwa)**

**Time: 10h00 am**

**Please RSVP by 03 March 2020 by forwarding your names to [Phaladi.Seakgwe@smu.ac.za](mailto:Phaladi.Seakgwe@smu.ac.za)/  
[seakgwe@gmail.com](mailto:seakgwe@gmail.com)/[eric.pule@smu.ac.za](mailto:eric.pule@smu.ac.za)**

**Ends**

**Issued by the Marketing and Communication Department.**

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