

## **World renowned genetics expert to present a special lecture at the Faculty of Veterinary Science**

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Dr Stephen J O'Brien, Head of the Laboratory of Genomic Diversity of the National Cancer Institute in the USA will be presenting a special lecture at the Faculty of Veterinary Science on 9 July 2010 at 15:00. The title of the lecture is: A Moving Landscape of Conservation Genetics in Mammals.

Dr O'Brien is recognized for research contributions in human and comparative genetics, evolutionary biology, HIV/AIDS, retro-virology, and species conservation.

He is the author and co-author of over 650 publications including the highly acclaimed book 'Tears of the cheetah: And other tales from the genetic frontier'. Some of his noted achievements include the description of the first human gene to influence HIV-1 infection and AIDS progression, annotation of the feline genome, documenting the epidemic prevalence of FIV among wildcat species, defining new species of orang-utan, clouded leopard and elephant, and developing the discipline of conservation genetics by describing the remarkable genetic uniformity of the African cheetah, a prelude to genetic assessment of endangered species.

The lecture, which will take place in Room 135 of the Arnold Theiler building at the Faculty, will be followed by a cocktail.