



Doctoral Research Fellowship

Non-Communicable Disease Research Unit
Parow, Cape Town
1 year contract, renewable for additional 2 years

Applications are invited for a **NRF-Funded Doctoral Research Fellow** under the Professional Development Programme.

The successful fellow will work closely with Associate Professor Julia Goedecke on a study entitled: “*Non-communicable disease risk in black South Africans: dissecting the role of glucocorticoids*”, which forms part of the Newton Advanced Fellowship, funded by the Academy of Medical Sciences.

The aims of the proposed project are to gain genetic insight into the variation in the hypothalamic pituitary adrenal axis in a black population, and to understand the physiological consequences of this variation and associations with non-communicable disease risk. As part of the PhD fellowship, the PhD fellow will be trained in genetic epidemiology and glucocorticoid biochemistry at the MRC Human Genetics Unit and the University/BHF Centre for Cardiovascular Science in Edinburgh, respectively. A representative sample of 2500 black South Africans will be genotyped for variants within the SERPINA6 and SERPINA1 genes, which have been causally related to fasting cortisol concentrations in Caucasians. Genetic variants associated with cortisol levels in a black population will be identified. Participants with genotypes associated with the greatest diversity in fasting cortisol levels will undergo detailed biochemical analyses, including total cortisol binding capacity, cleavage of corticosteroid binding capacity, free cortisol and alpha1-antitrypsin concentrations.

Qualifications and requirements:

The candidate is required to have a MSc degree in the health sciences or molecular biology or other related health and biological sciences obtained within the last 5 years.

The successful candidate will be required to register for his/her PhD degree at the University of Cape Town or the University of Witwatersrand and will be required to spend a year being trained and performing analyses at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

The total value of the fellowship is R210 000 per annum.

Applicants are requested to submit the following:

1. A covering letter indicating why you are appropriate for the award;
2. Curriculum vitae, including references;
3. Copy of your ID book;
4. Certified copies of your qualifications.

Only South African citizens will be considered.

Start date 1 May 2015 or as soon as possible thereafter.

PLEASE QUOTE THE REFERENCE NUMBER (R833) IN ALL COMMUNICATIONS.

The MRC retains the right not to make an appointment.

Closing Date: 7 April 2015

**If you have not heard from us within 30 days of the closing date,
this will mean that your application has been unsuccessful.**

Forward your application, comprising a full CV, a covering letter of motivation and contact details of three referees, to **Mrs Janet Ndimande**, Human Capital Management Division, MRC, P.O. Box 19070, Tygerberg 7505 or fax 086 742 8365 or via e-mail to recruitment@mrc.ac.za.

For further inquiries, please contact Associate Prof Julia Goedecke at 021-9380267 or Julia.goedecke@mrc.ac.za