



The RHDGen Health Scholars Programme

MSc Studentship in Molecular Genetics

CARDIOVASCULAR GENETICS LABORATORY

HATTER INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH IN AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Applications from suitably qualified candidates are invited for a 2-year fully-funded MSc Studentship in the Cardiovascular Genetics Laboratory in the Department of Medicine, at the University of Cape Town. The Department of Medicine is a large and active teaching, research and clinical service department with 21 Divisions and 11 Research Units including the Hatter of Cardiovascular Research in Africa (HICRA). The vision of the HICRA is to facilitate national and international collaborations in its fields of expertise. HICRA is an active and productive arena for the training of both clinician-scientists and biomedical scientists

Cardiovascular Genetics Laboratory

The Cardiovascular Genetics Laboratory forms part of HICRA and was established to study the genetic basis of heart disease in Africans. This work involves the study of rare families with inherited cardiomyopathies and the delineation of the genetic architecture of multifactorial disorders such as rheumatic heart disease. These studies hold promise in discovering the critical biological pathways that can be targeted by drugs to reduce cardiac mortality.

About the Studentship

The MSc Studentship under advertisement is part of the Genetics of Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHDGen) Health Scholars Programme that is funded by the Wellcome Trust Human Heredity and Health in Africa (H3Africa) scheme. The studentship is available on a competitive basis to students affiliated to the following institutions of the RHDGen network: Al Shaab Teaching Hospital, Khartoum, Sudan; Instituto Nacional de Saude, Maputo, Mozambique; University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria; University of Cape Town, South Africa; University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya; Mulago Hospital, Kampala, Uganda; University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia; and Windhoek Central Hospital, Namibia.

Requirements

The ideal candidates must preferably have a strong academic background in the fields of molecular biology and/or genetics. The candidates must possess excellent writing skills in English (as evidence by prior publication or thesis). Required academic qualifications include a first or upper second class (at least 65%) BSc or BSc Hons in Molecular Biology and/or Genetics. Equivalent qualifications may also be accepted. Applicants whose first language is not English should note that English language proficiency is also required. Successful candidates will register for an MSc in the Department of Medicine at the University of Cape Town and will work under the supervision of Dr Gasnat Shaboodien and Professor Bongani Mayosi for a period of two years.

Application process

All applications should include (1) a 1-2 page letter of motivation; (2) a full *curriculum vitae* with a full list of publications and (3) letters of reference from at least two academics who have taught, supervised or worked alongside the applicant during their university training.

Applications and enquiries should be forwarded to Dr. Gasnat Shaboodien at: gasnat.shaboodien@uct.ac.za; with the subject line "***MSc Studentship in Molecular Genetics***"

Eligible and complete applications will be considered by the RHDGen Health Scholars Programme Selection Committee. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview during December 2014, and unsuccessful applicants will be informed of the outcome by the end of December 2014

The RHDGen Network reserves the right to disqualify incomplete and/or inappropriate applications, and to change the conditions of award or to make no award at all.

Closing date for applications: 30 November 2014.