



Division of Physiological Sciences
Department of Human Biology

Health, Physical Activity, Lifestyle,
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Post- doctoral Fellowship in the “Identification of DNA sequence motifs underpinning Musculoskeletal Soft Tissue Injuries”.

PURPOSE:

The research project is concerned with the sequence characterization of defined loci with the aim of identifying DNA sequence motifs with functional significance to underpin musculoskeletal soft tissue injury risk.

CALL FOR APPLICATION AND ACADEMIC CRITERIA:

We invite suitably qualified candidates to apply. The successful incumbent has to have obtained the PhD degree within the last two years in either Molecular Genetics, Bioinformatics, Physiology, Cell Biology and may not have held any permanent professional posts (specifically as academics). The incumbent should be experienced in molecular genetics, bioinformatics, cell biology, biostatistics (particularly genetic association studies) and show a track record of publications in peer reviewed journals in the field of Musculoskeletal soft tissue injuries and evidence of postgraduate supervision and teaching is highly recommended. The fellowship will be tenable within the Health Through Physical Activity, Lifestyle and Sports (HPALS) Research Centre, Department of Human Biology in the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town. This fellowship will focus on the application of next generation sequencing technologies and bioinformatics tools together with cell biological methods to identify and characterize DNA functional motifs to underpin Musculoskeletal soft tissue injury risk.

CONDITION OF THE AWARD

Applications are invited for one postdoctoral research fellowship which is available for one year commencing in 2025. The successful incumbent will be expected to contribute substantially to the interdisciplinary project involving using next generation sequencing data, molecular genetics, bioinformatics, cell biology and statistical analyses. Priority will be given to candidates who illustrate experience in all these research foci together with a track record of published research outputs related to musculoskeletal soft tissue injury risk profiling. Research visits of the incumbent to one or more collaborating institutions are anticipated as part of the training.

Research tasks will also include the reporting of research outcomes at regular project meetings and seminars and in progress reports, as well as the preparation of scientific papers for publication. Limited co-supervision of postgraduate students participating in this research will be part of the developmental training. Experience in postgraduate training and or teaching will be beneficial. The successful incumbent will be required to comply with the University of Cape Town’s approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector.

VALUE AND TENURE:

The value of the fellowship is R300,000 per annum and is linked to an SA-MRC grant of the PI. Individual application to the SARS for tax-exemption will be made by the University of Cape Town on behalf of the successful candidate. No benefits or travel allowance are included in the fellowship. The tenure of fellowship is one year, renewable for another year based annual progress and availability of funds. The commencement of the fellowship is preferably as soon as possible.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Further information can be obtained from, and applications submitted to, Prof Alison V. September (email:Alison.september@uct.ac.za; Tel +27 21 650 4559). Applications need to include a full CV, list of publications, conference presentations, postgraduate supervision, funding record and contact details of two contactable referees one of which must be the PhD supervisor by the closing date 7 Feb 2025.

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to cancel incomplete applications, to effect changes to the conditions of the Fellowship and/or to make no awards at all. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.