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Universities of Stellenbosch and Cape Town PhD Scholarship Advertisement



Hosted by the **Universities of Stellenbosch (SU) and Cape Town (UCT)**, the **NRF-funded International Research Training Group (IRTG) “HIV/AIDS and Associated Infectious Diseases in South Africa”** is offering **twelve PhD scholarships**.

The scientific topics of this IRTG focus on translating clinical into basic research on infectious diseases (IDs). In close collaboration with research groups from Würzburg University (Wü), PhD students at Stellenbosch University (SU) and University of Cape Town (UCT) will work on IDs caused by HIV (S. Engelbrecht, SU / A. Rethwilm, Wü; P. Carey, SU / E. Koutsilieri, Wü; W. Preiser and G. van Zyl, SU / J. Bodem, Wü), *Staphylococcus aureus* (E. Wasserman, SU / B. Sinha, Wü), pathogenic fungi (G. Brown, UCT / J. Morschhäuser, Wü), *Plasmodium* and HIV (K. Chibale, UCT / G. Pradel, A. Rethwilm, Wü), and *Leishmania* (M. Revaz-Breton, UCT / H. Moll, Wü). In addition, projects on the immunology of infectious diseases (F. Brombacher, UCT / T. Hünig, Wü; G. Walzl, SU / M. Lutz, Wü), on general mechanisms of virus-induced immunosuppression (N. Mulder, UCT / S. Schneider-Schaulies, Wü) and on clinical HIV medicine and different aspects of antiretroviral therapy (M. Cotton, J. Taljaard and B. Rosenkranz, SU / H. Klinker, Wü) will be conducted.

Speakers (representatives) of this IRTG are Wolfgang Preiser for the South African partners at SU and UCT and Axel Rethwilm for the Würzburg partners. Additional details about the PhD projects offered can be found on <http://www.gk-1522.uni-wuerzburg.de> and on the research leaders' websites.

The following PhD projects are still vacant as of April 2009:

- Gordon Brown, IIDMM, UCT: <http://www.iidmm.uct.ac.za/gbrown/index.htm>
Joachim Morschhäuser: http://www.infektionsforschung.uni-wuerzburg.de/research/mycology_unit
- Kelly Chibale, IIDMM, UCT: <http://www.iidmm.uct.ac.za/kchibale/index.htm> and <http://www.kellychibale-research-uct.co.za> Gabriele Pradel: http://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/ueber/forschung/forschungszentren/zentrum_fuer_infektionsforschung/young_investigator_groups/ag_pradel/
- Mark Cotton and Bernd Rosenkranz, SU: <http://www.kidcru.org.za> and http://sun025.sun.ac.za/portal/page/portal/Health_Sciences/English/Departments/Medicine/Pharmacology
Hartwig Klinker: <http://www.medpoli.uni-wuerzburg.de/hepinf>
- Nicola Mulder, IIDMM, UCT: <http://www.iidmm.uct.ac.za/nmulder/index.htm>
Sibylle Schneider-Schaulies: http://viminfo.virologie.uni-wuerzburg.de/ag_schschasib/index.html
- Jantjie Taljaard and Bernd Rosenkranz, SU: http://sun025.sun.ac.za/portal/page/portal/Health_Sciences/English/Departments/Medicine/Infectious_Diseases, www.sun.ac.za/cid and http://sun025.sun.ac.za/portal/page/portal/Health_Sciences/English/Departments/Medicine/Pharmacology
Hartwig Klinker: <http://www.medpoli.uni-wuerzburg.de/hepinf>
- Elizabeth Wasserman, SU: http://sun025.sun.ac.za/portal/page/portal/Health_Sciences/English/Departments/Pathology/Medical_Microbiology
Bhanu Sinha: http://www.hygiene.uni-wuerzburg.de/forschung/ag_sinha

PhD candidates have already been identified for the following projects:

- Frank Brombacher, IIDMM, UCT: <http://www.iidmm.uct.ac.za/fbrombacher/index.htm>
Thomas Hünig: http://viminfo.virologie.uni-wuerzburg.de/ag_huenig/Homepage_huenig.html
- Paul Carey, SU: http://sun025.sun.ac.za/portal/page/portal/Health_Sciences/English/Departments/Psychiatry/Staff
Eleni Koutsilieri: http://viminfo.virologie.uni-wuerzburg.de/Site_Alt/koutsilieri/home.html
- Susan Engelbrecht, SU: www.sun.ac.za/virology
Axel Rethwilm: http://viminfo.virologie.uni-wuerzburg.de/ag_rethwilm/index.html
- Wolfgang Preiser and Gert van Zyl, SU: www.sun.ac.za/virology
Jochen Bodem: <http://www.virologie.uni-wuerzburg.de>
- Mélanie Revaz-Breton, UCT: <http://www.iidmm.uct.ac.za>
Heidrun Moll: <http://www.infektionsforschung.uni-wuerzburg.de/research/agmoll>
- Gerhard Walzl, SU: <http://www.tuberculosis.org.za/team.htm> and http://sun025.sun.ac.za/portal/page/portal/Health_Sciences/English/Departments/Biomedical_Sciences/MOLECULAR_BIOLOGY_AND_GENETICS/Staff
Manfred Lutz: http://viminfo.virologie.uni-wuerzburg.de/ag_lutz/index_lutz.html

Applications are invited from South African nationals, particularly those from previously disadvantaged groups, with a Master's degree in a relevant area. Applicants should not have failed any major subject/courses taken during final year of Master's study and the previous degree should normally (certain exceptions are applicable) have been completed in the minimum period.

Beneficiaries must register for full-time doctoral study. The scholarships are very attractive but may not be held concurrently with bursaries, grants or emoluments which bind the recipient to enter into the service of the contract holder on completion of his/her studies, nor with any other NRF- or government-funded bursary. Beneficiaries will be required to work in South Africa for at least three years after completion of the course of study.

An exchange programme with the Würzburg partner laboratories, where corresponding fellowships were created by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG = German Research Foundation), and an elaborated post-graduate education programme are central to the IRTG. Participants are expected to actively participate in these activities including regular "jours fixes", seminars etc. They will be given the opportunity to attend retreats and summer schools on relevant topics. They will spend approximately six months during their period of study at the partner laboratories in Würzburg. The exchange component is also funded by the NRF.

Please enquire with the relevant project leader whether the project you are interested in is still available. If yes, please send your application **for one (or more) specific project(s)** via e-mail with the subject line "**Application for IRTG Scholarship**", including letter of motivation, statement of interest, meaningful curriculum vitae and transcripts of academic qualifications, to the relevant project leader, cc. the IRTG Speaker, Prof. W. Preiser, at preiser@sun.ac.za .