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mGenAfrica partners with education department to host matric provincial competition promoting science and technology

14 September 2019 | 08:00-16:00 | Wynberg Girls High School

mGenAfrica, a University of Cape Town (UCT) platform which promotes engagement between high school learners and research staff working in genomics and other health research fields across Africa, will host a provincial competition for Grade 12 learners to promote science and technology this weekend.

The mGenAfrica platform is an online and mobile application which aims to increase awareness and interest in careers in genomic and the science, technology, engineering and mathematical (STEM) fields, especially in big data analytics and genomic sciences.

A quiz competition was launched last year as a collaboration between mGenAfrica and the Western Cape Education Department (WCED)'s Metro South Education District. This year, the quiz is a collaboration between mGenAfrica and some of the WCED schools at provincial level and has attracted almost 40 schools from five districts.

mGenAfrica includes quizzes, live chat sessions with UCT researchers, a career corner and online competitions. It also offers learning material, videos and online comics, and has a section where users can translate biomedical terms into different languages.

"We expect over 480 learners to participate in this quiz competition as groups or individuals. The mGenAfrica and the WCED collaboration aims to make learning life sciences fun and inspire careers in this field!" said Dr Vicky Nembaware, bioinformatician and the project coordinator for mGenAfrica and Mr Jean Goliath, senior curriculum planner: life sciences, WCED.

It has been widely accepted that skills in the STEM fields are the way of the future with the fourth industrial revolution upon us. However, South Africa still lags behind in this field, reporting some of the lowest levels of mathematics and science education in the world.

Initiatives such as mGenAfrica are preparing South Africa for the future and moulding future generations to be at the forefront of technology and science.

Media are invited to attend this event. For more information, please contact Dr Vicky Nembaware, vnembaware@gmail.com.

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Note to editors

mGenAfrica was launched on 18 August 2018 at UCT. The launch included mGenAfrica hosting the finals of a Grade 12 learner quiz competition that was initially organised in partnership with the Metro South Education District (Western Cape Education Department) and is currently being organised at provincial level with this department.

The platform is an initiative started by the Pan African Bioinformatics Network for H3Africa and is supported by various stakeholders and collaborators including the Human Heredity and Health in Africa Consortium working groups (Community Engagement and Education & Coordinated Training); the African Academy of Sciences, and several entities of the University of Cape Town i.e. Division of Human Genetics, the Sickle Africa Data Coordinating Center, the Wellcome Centre for Infectious Diseases Research in Africa.

[Learn more about mGenAfrica](#)

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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