Postdoctoral fellowship in the epidemiology of HIV-associated Tuberculosis

The Fogarty HIV-associated Tuberculosis Training Program (HATTP) has been established at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in partnership with Johns Hopkins University and Vanderbilt University in the US and aims to develop the next generation of research leaders in this field at UCT. The Program is funded by a 5-year grant from the Fogarty International Center (FIC) of the US National Institutes of Health. The Program competitively awards a limited number of post-graduate and post-doctoral fellowships and runs training courses. It aims to strengthen UCT’s capacity to address knowledge gaps in this field and tackle new scientific questions as the epidemiology and treatment of HIV and TB evolve. The five focus areas prioritized for training are: Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Advanced Epidemiology and Modelling; Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacogenomics; Immunopathogenesis; and HIV-TB Drug Hypersensitivity Reactions. The Program is administered by the Wellcome Centre for Infectious Diseases Research in Africa (CIDRI-Africa) in the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM).

We are seeking applicants for a postdoctoral fellowship in the epidemiology of HIV-associated TB. This is an opportunity to be part of an exciting, active multidisciplinary research team involved in understanding epidemiological aspects of HIV-associated TB through funding from a NIH Fogarty Training grant. The successful fellow will be involved in research in a mentored environment focused on the interface between clinical and spatial epidemiology with implementation science to advance understanding, translate knowledge, and ultimately achieve population-level impact on HIV-associated TB in Western Cape, South Africa. The fellowship projects will leverage the existing rich electronic health information resources of the Western Cape Provincial Health Data Centre (PHDC) and other research databases. The fellowship is funded by the NIH Fogarty Training program in HIV associated TB. More information on the program is available at http://www.hattp.uct.ac.za

The fellow will be expected to apply advanced casual inference methods and geospatial analysis techniques to lead and assist the research. The successful candidate will be mentored and supported to develop collaborations/skills for their career development, with the goal of writing and submitting manuscripts and NIH/Fogarty grants. The fellow will be supervised and mentored by Dr. Jabulani Ncayiyana at UCT’s Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine and Prof Jonathan Golub at Johns Hopkins University’s Center for Tuberculosis Research. The fellow will be based mainly at the UCT Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in Cape Town, including a short placement at the Center for Tuberculosis Research, Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Conditions of award:
- Candidates must have obtained their PhD degree within 5 years and have not held any permanent academic or professional posts.
- This is an academic training position and your role will be to undertake postdoctoral research at UCT.
- The Fellowship will be granted without fringe benefits.
- No services will be required of the candidate in return for the Fellowship.
- Publish results in international peer-reviewed scientific journals and through conference presentation.
- The successful candidate will be expected to participate in all required training requirements of the Fogarty Program in terms of human subjects protection and responsible conduct of research, and attend symposia and meetings of the Fogarty Program at UCT.

The successful candidate must have:
- A PhD in epidemiology, biostatistics, or a related discipline with substantial quantitative training (or an MBChB with Masters-level training in epidemiology or biostatistics).

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• Evidence of strong quantitative skills
• Expertise with data management and analysis packages, such as Stata or R

Desirable
• Substantive knowledge of TB, HIV or infectious diseases is desirable
• Excellent written and oral communication skills.
• Ability to work independently, as well as part of a large multidisciplinary team of collaborators
• Experience in geographic information systems will be advantageous

This opportunity is a 1-year, full-time fellowship and renewal is possible, subject to funding availability and performance.

The value of the fellowship is R 399,000 per annum.

- Relocation costs are not funded.
- The fellowship is compliant with SARS policies/rules and is therefore exempt from taxation.
- The successful incumbent must comply with the University’s approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector.

Deadline for applications: 15 December 2019.

Please forward to: Mrs Kathryn Wood. email: kathryn.wood@uct.ac.za.
- Application form
- Your CV including details of any conference presentations and/or publications;
- The names, email/telephone details of three academic referees
- A copy of your academic transcripts.

Selection Process:

Applications will be considered on academic merit and strength of the application. UCT’s policies on transformation and equity will be strongly adhered to, with preference given to black South African candidates. Short-listing and selection will be completed by members of the HATTP coordinating committee. Short-listed applicants may be required to be available for interview.

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to:
- disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications,
- change the conditions of award or to make no awards at all.