

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND (Wits) NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE
RESEARCH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW FOR 2012

We invite applications for a Post-Doctoral fellowship for this NIH (Fogarty) funded training program that is part of the Millennium Promise Awards: Non-communicable Chronic Diseases Research Training. The aim is to build capacity to perform integrated research spanning many disciplines, related to chronic, non-communicable diseases in southern Africa (particularly among disadvantaged groups) and to work towards incorporating the research findings into community practice aimed at prevention and treatment. The research will take place at WITS University, South Africa. The successful candidate will receive a stipend from the NIH funded grant and additional benefits.

The research theme is "Investigating the role of African genetic diversity in susceptibility to common diseases by examining high throughput data and signatures of selection at candidate loci."

The widespread availability of DNA variation data (HapMap and 1000 Genomes project) and new technologies that enable the generation of large data sets relatively cheaply are providing many new possibilities. Thus, bioinformatic tools and analyses are critical to the analysis of large biological datasets and deriving meaningful knowledge. The populations of Africa harbour the greatest human genetic diversity following an evolutionary history tracing its beginnings on the continent to a time before the emergence of Homo sapiens.

While this post-doc position is designed to develop skills of the incumbent in the analysis of population genetics data, it is more specifically focused on independent research to investigate the role of African genetic diversity in susceptibility to common diseases by examining high throughput data from the public domain and generated in-house, as well as searching for signatures of selection at candidate loci.

Project supervisors are Professor Michele Ramsay and Professor Scott Hazelhurst. Applicants should have a strong background in genetics and statistics, and a high degree of computer competence. If you wish to apply, please send a letter of motivation stating why you are a suitable candidate for the project. Please include your CV as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of two or three appropriate referees. Please send your applications to ncd-training@witshealth.co.za. We shall start considering applicants from the 5th MARCH 2012.