



UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL
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The causes and consequences of HIV transmission and drug resistance - PhD and MSc studentships available at UKZN for the MRC Flagship research project

“MRC Flagship projects, which are inter-disciplinary in scope, are an institution’s highest impact and most prestigious research project. They are essentially big ideas, big science for big impact!” MRC President, November 2013.

PhD or MSc in Human Genetics – Supervisor: Dr. Paula Sommer, Genetics Department, UKZN & Prof. Tulio de Oliveira, Africa Centre, UKZN

“The aim of this MSc and/or PhD fellowship is to sequence and analyze host genetic markers associated with HIV in the South African population, such as HLA B57, CCR5, TRIM5 α , APOBEC3G or MLB2. The objective is to identify host factors that are associated with HIV high-transition and drug resistance development. The hypothesis is that the genome of the host plays a crucial role in their susceptibility to disease as well as in the rate of disease progression. This is particularly true with HIV where a number of preventative host genetic factors have been discovered, some of which have been developed into tools to prevent infection and to manage treatment. The student will also receive hands-on laboratory experience in next generation sequencing techniques and will receive training in Bioinformatics. The study will be performed in compliance with strong ethical procedures as presented in the STREGA (STrengthening the REporting of Genetic Association studies) guidelines.”

PhD and MSc fellows will be awarded a scholarship that will cover their tuition costs in addition to a competitive stipend salary. Interested students should send an application, which should contain a CV and a motivation letter (max. 500 words) **by 30 January 2014** to Mrs. Xolile Kineri @ email: xkineri@africacentre.ac.za, Tel: 035 550 7500, Fax: 035 550 7565.

In total, we are advertising 7 PhDs and up to 4 MScs fellowships that can be taken in different departments at UKZN. This includes the following disciplines *Clinical Infectious Diseases, Computer Science, Epidemiology, HIV Pathogenesis, Human Genetics, Genomics & Bioinformatics and Social & Economical Sciences*. **More info: www.bioafrica.net**

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