MSc Studentship in Cardiovascular Genetics

CARDIOVASCULAR GENETICS LABORATORY
HATTER INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH IN AFRICA
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

About the Studentship
Applications from suitably qualified candidates are invited for a 2-year fully-funded MSc Studentship in the Cardiovascular Genetics Laboratory in the Department of Medicine, at the University of Cape Town. The MSc Studentship will fall under the umbrella of a study (PROTEA) that will be conducted on Congenital Heart Disease (CHD).

The project
There is an urgent need for research into CHD to be conducted in Africa as little is known about this disease. Congenital heart disease (CHD) is the commonest birth malformation. CHD affects 8/1000 live births with an incidence thought to be fairly uniform across the globe (although data from low and middle income countries, including African countries, is very sparse). CHD is a highly treatable condition where 90% of children born with the commonest cyanotic CHD condition, Tetralogy of Fallot, would die before their 10th birthday without treatment. With surgery, over 90% will survive to adulthood. Moreover, globally, an increasing number of adult survivors of childhood CHD suffer considerable ongoing morbidity from cardiac arrhythmias, heart failure, the need for repeated procedures and long-term medical follow-up.

Requirements
The ideal candidates must preferably have a strong academic background in the fields of molecular biology and/or genetics. The candidates must possess good writing skills in English (as evidence by prior publication or thesis). Required academic qualifications include a first or upper second class (at least 65%) BSc or BSc Hons in Molecular Biology and/or Genetics. Equivalent qualifications may also be accepted. Applicants whose first language is not English should note that English language proficiency is also required. Successful candidates will register for an MSc in the Department of Medicine, HICRA Institute at the University of Cape Town and will work under the supervision of Dr Gasnat Shaboodien and A/Professor Liesl Zuhlke for a period of two years.

Application process
All applications should include (1) a 1-2 page letter of motivation; (2) a full curriculum vitae with a full list of publications and (3) letters of reference from at least two academics who have taught, supervised or worked alongside the applicant during their university training.

Applications and enquiries should be forwarded to Dr. Gasnat Shaboodien (gasnat.shaboodien@uct.ac.za) with the subject line “MSc Studentship in CHD”

Eligible and complete applications will be considered by the PROTEA Selection Committee. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview by the 20th February 2018. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed via email by the 22nd February 2018.

Closing date for applications: 15th February 2018.