

Advertisement:

Job Title: **Senior research assistant Virology**

Location: University of Pretoria, Department Medical Virology, Zoonoses Research Unit.

About the Unit: **The Zoonoses Research Unit** is part of the IRT for Animal health and Zoonoses and runs an exciting programme on zoonotic viruses in humans and animals in particular vector borne neurological viruses that is funded by the Global Disease Detection Programme of the Centres of Disease Control of the USA. We are seeking an energetic individual that will be part of a dynamic team of virologist, ecologist and epidemiologist that focus on research in the exciting field of emerging zoonotic diseases.

Full/Part Time: Full time

Regular/Temporary: 1 year contract, renewable

In the pursuit of the ideals of excellence and diversity, the University of Pretoria wishes to invite applications for the following vacancy.

The University of Pretoria's commitment to quality makes us one of the top research Universities in the country and gives us a competitive advantage in international science and technology development.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The clusters of responsibility this incumbent will have are as follows:

Participate in the molecular epidemiological investigations of zoonotic arbovirus surveillance programme funded by the Global Disease detection programme of the Centres of Disease Control and Prevention. Screening of clinical specimens from humans and animals using molecular and serological diagnostic tests for detection of known and newly described arboviruses. Investigate human and animal specimens for potential zoonotic pathogens using molecular and virus discovery techniques under BSL-3 conditions. Development of SOPS and work towards SANAS and DAFF accreditation of new tests. Participate in the research programme and field investigations to describe the molecular epidemiology and ecology of known and newly detected arboviruses in human and animal disease in Africa. Maintenance and analysis of databases using the Pathogen Tracking system.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

MSc plus 2 years experience in microbiology, molecular biology, genetics, biotechnology or related discipline. A background in virology is preferred..

Experience in molecular techniques, DNA extraction (manual and automated with QIACUBE and Roche Magnapure systems; conventional and realtime PCR platforms (Roche LC480, LC2); cloning; sequencing (Sanger); Sequence analysis.

Experience in next generation sequencing and bioinformatics techniques for molecular epidemiological investigations will be beneficial

Experience with serological techniques; Virus isolation/Cell culture and laboratory animals. BSL-2 training and willingness to work in a BSL-3 laboratory with an understanding of the requirements for a BSL-3 laboratory GLP.

Registration with HPCSA and or SAVC is preferred, but can be obtained through an internship programme.

Computer literacy, Excel, Access, powerpoint, Word; bioinformatics.

In application for this post, please attach;

- Comprehensive CV, including formal qualification certificates;
- A record of all research publications;
- Names and contact details (email and telephone particulars) of 3 contactable referees

CLOSING DATE: 10 October 2013

No application will be considered after the closing date, or if it does not comply with at least the minimum requirements. Salary will be in accordance with experience and determined by the University of Pretoria.

ENQUIRIES: Prof M Venter : marietjiev@nicd.ac.za

The University of Pretoria is committed to equality, employment equity and diversity. In accordance with the Employment Equity Plan of the University and its Employment Equity goals and targets, preference may be given, but is not limited to candidates from under represented designated groups.

All candidates who comply with the requirements for appointment are invited to apply. The University of Pretoria reserves the right not to make an appointment to the posts as advertised.