

THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA DIABETES RESEARCH CENTRE

"Pioneering transdisciplinary
diabetes research in Africa"

#BeatDiabetesTheUPWay



University of Pretoria Diabetes Research Centre Faculty of Health Sciences University of Pretoria

PhD position at the University of Pretoria Diabetes Research Centre

Background:

Type 1 diabetes is growing fast. According to the Type 1 Diabetes Index, for every two people living with type 1 diabetes a third person is missing who should still be alive. South Africa is among some of the very populous nations in sub-Saharan Africa, without data for under 20 year old for type 1 diabetes. The country data are extrapolated from data from Tanzania, with the latest estimates showing that there are 4,526 South African children and adolescents <20 years with type 1 diabetes. Due to the severe lack of data, the need for incidence and prevalence data on type 1 diabetes within South Africa is urgent. Accurate data on type 1 diabetes can allow advocacy efforts to be made for improved service delivery for people living with type 1 diabetes.

The primary aim of this study is to estimate the incidence and prevalence of type 1 diabetes in Gauteng and the Free State, South Africa. The secondary aim is to provide demographic data for these patients, especially with regards to age distribution of onset of type 1 diabetes between different ethnic groups. Ultimately, the goal of this research project will be to lay the foundation for the establishment of a national type 1 diabetes registry in South Africa.

The University of Pretoria Diabetes Research Centre, hosted by the Faculty of Health Sciences, is a newly launched initiative to champion and promote optimal diabetes prevention and control at all levels of care through research, innovation and advocacy. The Centre is organised around six research clusters including Diabetes in Children and Adolescents and leveraged from the expertise of diabetes researchers from the departments of Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, and the School of Health Systems and Public Health among others.

We offer:

The successful applicant will receive 3-year PhD training starting in January - February 2023. The PhD candidate, with the guidance of his/her supervisors, will be able to choose from a variety of modules including chronic disease epidemiology, biostatistics, epidemiology, scientific writing to develop his/her skills and competencies.

We have a PhD grant of R250 000 per annum available.

Candidate profile:

- An enthusiastic person who can work independently and wishes to complete a PhD in the field of diabetes.
- Background in health sciences or public health with an MPH or MSc as minimal requirement.
- Proficiency in epidemiology or biostatistics will be an added advantage.
- At least one accepted publication as first author would be an advantage.
- Experience in statistical analyses using R or Stata. If experience is lacking, training will be provided.
- Good interpersonal skills including the ability to engage with stakeholders.

- Good project management skills.
- The candidate should be fluent in English with good writing skills.
- The candidate should be willing to travel within Gauteng and to the Free State.

In addition to the afore mentioned, the suitable candidate will need to meet the [admission criteria](#) as stipulated by the University of Pretoria to enrol for a doctoral degree. For this position the candidate can either enrol for a [PhD Epidemiology](#) or a [PhD Public Health](#).

Send a motivation letter stating why you would like to take up this opportunity as well as your CV to the contact address below. Parallel to submitting your CV and motivation letter, please [apply online](#) to obtain a student number which you can use as the reference number for your submission.

The closing date is Monday, 31 October 2022 and short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

Please contact:

Dr Patrick Ngassa Piotie

University of Pretoria Diabetes Research Centre: Senior Programme Manager.

Cell: 079 848 4101

Email: diabetes@up.ac.za