



Advert for a PhD study in the Division of Immunology, Institute of Infectious Disease & Molecular Medicine, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Purpose

The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) has awarded a research grant to the StatinTB consortium to evaluate the safety and efficacy of atorvastatin in reducing inflammation post-tuberculosis treatment. This project involves a comprehensive investigation into the immunological and blood biomarkers, utilizing techniques such as flow cytometry, ELISA, luminex, RNA sequencing, mass spectrometry, and macrophage assays. We seek to recruit one talented candidate to pursue a doctoral study in the research group of Prof. Reto Guler starting as soon as possible.

Conditions

1. Applicants must not have previously held full-time professional or academic positions.
2. No services are required in return for the fellowship.
3. The successful candidate must adhere to the University's established policies and practices for the doctoral sector.

Value and tenure

1. **The fellowship is valued at R 200,000 per annum.**
2. Renewal for the second year will be considered based on evidence of satisfactory academic progress and the candidate's ability to attract external funding.
3. The fellowship is tax-exempt in accordance with SARS Guidelines.

Academic Conditions

1. **We seek outstanding candidates with strong work ethics, self-motivation, and drive.**
2. The PhD candidate will report directly to Prof. Guler.
3. Prof. Guler will provide operational research costs and all necessary equipment and laboratory spaces.
4. The candidate will be responsible for specimen storage and sample analysis.
5. Applicants should be actively involved in research related to "Immunology of Infectious Diseases," possessing experience and/or interest in clinical immunology. Proficiency in PBMC isolation, generation of monocyte-derived human macrophages, molecular biology, and standard immunological techniques is desired. Participation in weekly departmental activities, including Progress Reports and Journal Club presentations, is expected.
6. Prior experience with BSL-3 environments, clinical work, and GCP training is recommended but not required.

Application procedure

All applications should include:

1. A letter of motivation stating the applicant's areas of expertise, research interests, and experience.
2. A CV including a list of publications and **details of acquired laboratory techniques.**
3. Contact details (email and cell phone numbers) of 2 referees who have supervised or worked alongside the applicant.

Applications should be directly emailed to the Principal Investigator, Prof. Reto Guler (reto.guler@uct.ac.za), **before 1 May 2025**

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications. The University of Cape Town reserves the right to change the conditions of award or to make no awards at all.

"Our *mission* is to be an outstanding teaching and research university, educating for life and addressing the challenges facing our society"