



MEDICAL SPECIALIST
(Paediatrician) T1-fixed term
contract (Full-time)
**Neurodevelopmental Research
Group**
Department of Paediatrics and Child Health
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

If you meet the requirements below; we invite you to apply for this **full-time** (40 hours per week), **2-year** (Appointment for further years; dependent on available funding) T1 fixed-term contract position as a **Medical Specialist (Paediatrician)** in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at University of Cape Town. The main purpose of this position is to collaborate with the neurodevelopmental research group's PI, senior project manager, senior data manager, and academic lead to co-ordinate long term strategic planning for research group activities; day to day clinical aspects of data collection; management of clinical staff; and training of data collection team. This includes providing clinical insight into and clinical support of research activities by performing physical examinations; administering formal cognitive and behavioural assessments and collecting biological samples when required by operational needs. It also includes engaging with key stake holders; presenting information about the study to relevant parties; representing the study on clinical platforms and meetings; and contributing to academic outputs and grant applications. The role additionally includes supporting the group PI in clinical activities such as management of general paediatric inpatients and neurodevelopmental clinic outpatients at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, as well as teaching and training of undergraduate and post-graduate students as required. This appointment will be held in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health in the Faculty of Health Science at the University of Cape Town, under the leadership of the principal investigator (PI) of the research studies Prof. Kirsty Donald, and will report to the Neuro-developmental Research Group Data Manager.

Start Date: Immediate.

Requirements for the job:

- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)
- Fellowship of the College of Paediatrics (FCPaed)
- Master of Medicine in Paediatrics (MMED)
- Current registration with the Health Professional Council of South Africa (HPCSA) as an Independent Practice Specialist in Paediatrics
- Formal training in clinical research regulations, GCP (Good clinical practice or equivalent) and ethical guidelines
- Valid Advanced Paediatric Life Support Certificate or equivalent
- Excellent verbal and written fluency in English
- Written and verbal fluency in one of the following languages: isiXhosa or Afrikaans
- Demonstrated understanding of being mindful of cultural differences and adapting communication and administration methods to respect diverse participants.
- Demonstrated commitment to ethical conduct, patient safety and maintaining confidentiality.
- At least 5 years of experience in working with young children and their families
- At least 1 year of experience in assessment of children with developmental disorders
- At least 1 year of experience in management, administration and leadership
- At least 1 first-author publication in peer-reviewed journal
- Proven record of successful academic outputs and presentations
- Any experience or formal training in administration of formal developmental, cognitive and behavioral assessments to children and their parents

The following will be advantageous:

- At least 1-year clinical research experience
- Experience in protocol development and in design/selection and implementation of research tools
- Experience in scientific writing for grant applications, scientific papers and other research outputs
- Experience in teaching and training

Responsibilities will include support and collaboration with the PI as listed below:

Management, Leadership and Administration

- Support and collaborate with PI, senior project manager, senior data manager and academic lead in overall leadership and management of research group activities
- Participation in problem solving, operational planning and strategic forward planning for research group
- Development and review of group wide and study specific SOPs and policies
- Development and implementation planning of medical assessment schedule
- Training of research team in relevant clinical assessments, developmental screening and other study tools

- Participation in oversight and planning of group's sample collection policies and pipelines
- Direct management of clinical staff including medical officers and research nurses
- Oversight of leave requests, daily allocation and other administrative tasks related to clinical staff in collaboration with senior group project managers
- Management and co-ordination of other clinical initiatives and projects (e.g. Molteno project, collaboration with UCT KIDS hub, CP database) embarked on by research group
- Relationship building and collaboration with key stakeholders and research partners
- Represent research group in clinical meetings and on clinical platforms as requested by PI (e.g. NDV)
- Support project manager with staff recruitment, selection and onboarding when clinical expertise are required

Supervision of junior and other clinical staff

- Supervision and oversight of junior and other clinical staff
- Weekly ward rounds to review patient management and clinical decision making

Clinical Service Provision

- Daily review of new or critically ill patients
- Oversight and support of patient care and management
- Review and clinical assessment of patients attending outpatient clinics
- Collaboration with bed manager and other wards to facilitate and manage appropriate allocation of ward
- Attendance and participation in monthly morbidity and mortality meeting

Clinical teaching and training

- Weekly teaching rounds when covering ward
- Formal teaching and tutorials with rotating undergraduate and post graduate students (paediatric registrars)
- Informal bedside teaching with undergraduate students, post graduate students (paediatric registrars) and junior medical team
- Supervision and support of post-graduate student research projects when required

Research related clinical service provision

- Oversight and supervision of research group clinical staff (medical officers, research nurses etc.)
- Review of complex cases and referrals when requested by medical officers
- Liaison with PI about significant incidental findings, complex cases, adverse and other significant events
- When needed by operational requirements:
 - Provide information to research participants on nature of tests/questionnaires
 - Conduct structured clinical interviews with children and their parents
 - Conduct research and other indicated medical examinations on children
 - Administer formal cognitive and behavioral assessments to children and their parents (e.g. K- SADS, Raven's Progressive Matrices)
 - Facilitate research participants completion of self-report questionnaires
 - Make necessary referrals
 - Biological sample collection including venous blood, saliva, urine and stool

Scientific and academic writing

- Literature reviews in support of academic publications
- Scientific writing for papers, publications, presentations, grant proposals etc. with support of PI
- Review and editing of abstracts, papers etc. written by other team members as requested
- Development of medical research tools and questionnaires
- Development and review of tool manuals and guides
- Development and review of recruitment materials and participant resources

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

- Conduct data quality checking, quality assurance and data cleaning by:
 - Reviewing medical data and identifying faulty trends in raw data and reporting to data management team
 - Reviewing and identifying where in the data collection process correction is needed and reporting to project management team
 - Conducting regular refresher training with data collection teams in collaboration with data management and project management teams

Social responsiveness and community engagement

- Identify opportunities for community engagement and social responsiveness initiatives
- Collaboration with Project management team, academic lead and other key stakeholders to plan and implement community engagement and social responsiveness initiatives
- Represent research group on relevant advocacy; community engagement and social responsiveness platforms as requested by PI (e.g. HEARD)

The annual cost of employment is R1,271,901.00

To apply, please e-mail the below documents in a **single pdf file** to recruitpaed@vula.uct.ac.za

UCT Application Form (download at <http://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc>).

- Cover letter,
- 1 referee report, and
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Please ensure your full name is indicated in the email subject line.

An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete. Shortlisted candidates may be required to undergo an assessment.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. If you have not heard back by 31st January 2025, kindly consider your application unsuccessful

Website: neuroscience.uct.ac.za

Reference number: E241216

Closing date: 03 January 2025

"UCT is a designated employer and is committed to the pursuit of excellence, diversity and redress in achieving its equity targets in accordance with the Employment Equity Plan of the University and its Employment Equity goals and targets. Preference will be given to candidates from the under-represented designated groups. Our Employment Equity Policy is available at <https://hr.uct.ac.za/policies/employment-equity>"

UCT reserves the right not to appoint.

