

Applications are invited from suitably qualified, highly motivated South African MSc graduates for a PhD position in the area of (metal-based) anti-leishmanial drug development, starting in the 2023 academic year. This strongly interdisciplinary project will be carried out under the joint supervision of Dr. Ramona Hurdayal (Department of Molecular and Cell Biology) and Assoc. Prof. Gregory Smith (Department of Chemistry), University of Cape Town. Within these stimulating, collaborative research labs, all the expertise and state-of-the-art infrastructure are available to develop next-generation antileishmanial therapeutics. The aim is to develop new drug leads for cutaneous leishmaniasis and contribute to a knowledge base concerning the use of metals against infectious diseases.

Requirements

- MSc degree in one of the following life sciences disciplines (Immunology, Parasitology, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Genetics) together with Chemistry as an undergraduate major.
- Skills in immunology, molecular and cell biology, cell-culturing and BSL2-level practices will be advantageous in addition to computer literacy and competency.
- Some experience in synthetic chemistry, especially the synthesis and characterisation of organic / inorganic compounds is recommended.
- Candidate must be willing to perform research in mouse models, following suitable training and authorization with the South African Veterinary Council (funded by the supervisor).

Fellowship

- Faculty of Science bursary support is available for the duration of the project (3 years), contingent on satisfactory progress, with the possibility of additional funding sourced by the candidate from other sources within UCT limits.

Project focus

- Development of novel (metallo)drugs for the treatment of cutaneous leishmaniasis in a mouse model.

Interested candidates should send their application as a single PDF file which includes their CV, a letter of motivation, academic transcripts (including degree certificates) and contact details of at least two referees to Dr. Ramona Hurdayal: Ramona.hurdayal@uct.ac.za no later than **November 25th 2022**. The Faculty of Science at UCT seeks to increase the proportion of women in research and strongly encourages qualified women scientists to apply.

Further information

- See (<http://www.mcb.uct.ac.za/mcb/people/staff/academic/ramona-hurdayal>) for the laboratory of Dr. Ramona Hurdayal and (<http://www.gregsmith-research.uct.ac.za/>) for the laboratory of Assoc./Prof. Gregory Smith.