



MEDICAL (RESEARCH) OFFICER (1 Year contract)

Department of Pediatrics and Child Health

Faculty of Health Sciences

The main purpose of this position is to coordinate the recruitment team, conduct structured clinical interviews, administer formal cognitive and behavioural assessments, present information about the study to relevant parties and contribute to academic outputs for a pediatric genomic research study. This post will be held in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health in the Faculty of Health Science at the University of Cape Town. Clinical study sites where the successful incumbent will be seeing patients include: Red Cross Children's Hospital, Tygerberg Children's Hospital and several special education schools in and around Cape Town.

Please note: The successful incumbent needs to be available to attend an international training session in Kenya from the 24th March until the 29th March 2018. All travel expenses will be covered. Please ensure all personal travel documents (i.e. passport) are in order.

About the study: *Genetic Characterization of Neuro-Developmental Disorders in South African Populations (NeuroDev South Africa).*

NeuroDev South Africa is one branch of a larger, pioneering-undertaking in global neuropsychiatric genetics, led jointly by the Stanley Center and Harvard School of Public Health. The overarching aim of the NeuroDev South Africa project is to expand knowledge of the genetic architecture of neurodevelopmental disorders in South African populations through large-scale sample collection, analysis and follow-up. In addition to building genetic research capacity in South Africa. NeuroDev South Africa is a case-control study that includes a subset of family controls. The study will recruit children (2 – 17 years old) with neurodevelopmental disorders, namely any of the following: a) intellectual disability; b) global developmental delay; c) communication disorders; d) autism spectrum disorders (ASD); e) attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD); and f) specific learning disorders (e.g. dyslexia). Controls will be ancestry-matched individuals from the same geographic location. In addition, the study will collect genetic data from the parents (affected or unaffected) and affected siblings of cases, when available.

Requirements:

- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)
- Current registration with the Health Professional Council of South Africa (HPCSA) as an Independent Practitioner
- Excellent verbal and written fluency in English
- At least 2 years clinical research experience
- Experience with administering formal cognitive and behavioral assessments to children and their parents (e.g. Raven's Progressive Matrices) **you will be trained on the job in the tools which will be used in this study*
- Experience in working with young children and their families
- Ability to travel internationally for research-related meetings
- Computer skills

Advantageous:

- Fluent in one of the following languages: Xhosa or Afrikaans
- Experience in working with children with developmental disorders (e.g. ADHD, ASD, intellectual disability etc.)
- Drivers license (own car)

Responsibilities:

- Coordinate recruitment team (Provide medical expertise to improve and enhance research nurse-related patient care)
- Conduct structured clinical interviews with children and their parents
- Administer formal cognitive and behavioral assessments to children and their parents (e.g. Raven's Progressive Matrices) **you will be trained on the job in the tools which will be used in this study*
- Collect blood and saliva samples from children and their parents
- Ensure patient care meets Good Clinical Practice requirements and standards
- Make necessary referrals
- Regular communication with the Principal Investigator (PI) and Project Manager (PM) on day-to-day matters (i.e. obstacles faced with patient assessments, reporting of adverse events etc.)
- Scientific paper writing for publication (with support from PI)
- Do presentations for hospital management, school management and relevant community members at recruitment sites regarding information about the study

The annual cost of employment is in line with UCTs Standard Academic Salary Packages for this position.

To apply, please e-mail the below documents in a **single pdf file** to **Emma** at emma.eastman@uct.ac.za :

- UCT Application Form (download at <http://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc>)
- Cover letter, and
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Please ensure the title and reference number are indicated in the subject line.

An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and may be required to undergo a competency test.

Telephone: N/A

Website: <http://www.paediatrics.uct.ac.za/>

Reference number: E80103

Closing date: 29 January 2018

UCT is committed to the pursuit of excellence, diversity and redress in achieving its equity targets. Our Employment Equity Policy is available at <http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/about/policies/eepolicy.pdf>.

UCT reserves the right not to appoint.