



RESEARCH OFFICER: MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY & CHEMICAL BIOLOGY (5-year contract)

Drug Discovery & Development Centre (H3D)

Faculty of Science

The Drug Discovery and Development Centre (H3D) is an interdisciplinary, soft-funded research unit at the University of Cape Town. H3D staff and laboratories are situated across three sites on UCT Campus. H3D is seeking to appoint a Research Officer on a 5-year contract as soon as possible. This position will be predominantly laboratory-based with the main purpose of taking a leading role in the design, synthesis and biochemical evaluation of novel compounds to optimize drug-like properties and conduct mechanism of action studies to identify biological targets.

Requirements

- A PhD in organic chemistry or medicinal chemistry
- 4 years or more of relevant postdoctoral experience
- Proficiency in the use of the equipment in modern medicinal chemistry and biology laboratories including reaction, purification and characterization techniques (medicinal chemistry) and setting up and optimising biochemical assays with attendant screening, as well as mechanism of action/resistance studies through target identification (chemical biology)
- A track record of publications in organic chemistry, preferably in medicinal chemistry and/or chemical biology journals

Advantages

- Experience in a drug discovery team either in a university setting or at a pharmaceutical/biotech company

Responsibilities

- Independently design, synthesize and biologically evaluate medicinally active compounds, within a team setting with the goal to identify pre-clinical drug candidates.
- Use structure-activity relationships and other medicinal chemistry practices to aid optimization of "hit to lead" and lead to preclinical drug candidates
- Conduct mechanism of action/resistance studies with the goal to identify biological targets of medicinally active compounds
- Some teaching of organic chemistry at undergraduate and/or honours levels
- Supervise the work of Research Associates and / or PhD or postdoctoral level students
- Provide discipline specific research support to the H3D team
- Provide technical or IT support as required
- Comply with standard operating procedures for laboratory safety, use of instruments and data management

The annual remuneration package for 2019, including benefits is between R510 726 and R683 358.

To apply, please e-mail the below documents in a **single pdf file** to Ms Tracy Moore at recruitment04@uct.ac.za:

- UCT Application Form (download at <http://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc>.)
- A letter of motivation;
- Curriculum Vitae (CV);
- A statement of your research interests.

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.

Telephone: 021 650 5405 **Website:** www.h3d.uct.ac.za

Reference number: E19503 **Closing date:** 20 January 2020

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.