

PhD advert - join our dynamic team of dementia researchers

The Alzheimer's and Related Disease Core in the Centre for Behavioural Medicine (formerly HIV-Mental Health Research Unit) is recruiting a PhD student. The fellowship is funded by the Donald Gordon Foundation and Race Against Dementia.

The UCT Neuroscience Institute brings together neuroscientists, including clinicians and basic researchers, to create a multidisciplinary environment, geared towards improving our understanding of brain functioning and tackling brain disease.

Background and project:



Africa has the fastest growing rate of older people in the world. By 2050 it is estimated that two thirds of people with dementia will be in low- and middle-income countries. Our previous work has investigated the impact of social determinants of health on cognitive test performance in people living with HIV and its impact on classification of cognitive impairment. We are now collecting data on older people (≥ 70 years) with and without HIV (the Inggondo study).

The PhD project will utilise existing data from a previous study (CONNECT), and ongoing data collection from the Inggondo study, to explore the accurate measurement of cognition in low-income areas and the impact of social determinants of health on screening for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The aim of the PhD project is to improve the accuracy and delivery of dementia screening in diverse South African populations.



This project would suit a neuropsychologist or cognitive neuroscientist, but we are open to dynamic candidates from any relevant background.

PhD supervisors: A/Prof Sam Nightingale (Neurologist), Prof John Joska (Neuropsychiatrist), and Dr Anna Dreyer (Neuropsychologist).

Conditions of appointment:

1. Open to South African citizens or individuals from other African countries with status or valid visa that allows them to study
2. The student will register at UCT
3. This is a 3 year full time PhD position (progression to funding beyond year 1 requires proof of adequate progress)
4. R260-300,000 p.a. tax-free stipend (depending on qualifications and experience)

To apply:

For more information or to express an interest, please contact sam.nightingale@uct.ac.za by **20th December 2024**. Please include a CV and short description of why you think you might be suitable for the position. You will then be invited to submit a formal application, if appropriate.

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

We look forward to hearing from you!



Neuroscience
Institute



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD