



**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW

The Knowledge Translation Unit (KTU) requires applications for a postdoctoral research fellow. KTU has embarked on a 3-year, externally funded project focused on assessing the health burden due to multiple long-term conditions in South Africa. This will involve working with two large databases: a database of users of public health facilities in the Western Cape and a database of a large private medical scheme administrator.

The successful candidate will analyse the data to assess common patterns of multi-morbidity, factors associated with different multi-morbidity patterns, patterns of health seeking, the sequencing/timing of common comorbidities and outcomes (death/hospitalization) in patients with multi-morbidity. Depending on the candidate's skills and interests, they may also be involved in the extension of the MicroCOSM agent-based model of multi-morbidity in South Africa, which would be parameterized using the two databases. The ultimate goal of this modelling exercise would be to identify the most cost-effective approaches to managing multi-morbidity in South Africa, and to assess the impact and cost-effectiveness of guidelines for the management of common disease combinations.

In addition, the successful candidate will be encouraged to conduct their self-initiated research during the fellowship tenure under the supervision of Dr. Leigh Johnson and expected to register as a PDRF as soon as possible.

Requirements:

- PhD in health-related field / statistics/ mathematics/ computer science/demography, completed within the last 5 years.
- Working experience in quantitative research.
- Experience with statistical software and statistical analysis. Experience with computer programming and/or mathematical modelling would also be highly advantageous.
- A mature and responsible attitude towards work, with the ability to take ownership of projects.
- Able to take projects from concept to completion.
- Outstanding communication skills.
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills.
- Exceptional attention to detail and high standards.
- Able to self-manage.

Responsibilities

- Checking, collating, and summarizing health record data.
- Analyzing health record data to assess the most commonly co-occurring long-term conditions and the factors associated with different comorbidities.
- Longitudinal analysis of health record data to describe the most common sequence of comorbidities and rates of mortality.
- Adapting existing computer models of morbidity and mortality in South Africa to include common long-term conditions (e.g., hypertension, diabetes, heart failure).
- Contribute to paper writing on research projects.
- Present data findings to stakeholders.
- Contribute to funding applications.

Tenure and Value:

- The fellowship is valued between R250,000 to R350,000 per annum and does not include any fringe benefits.
- The fellowship is renewable for two further years, **contingent on satisfactory academic progress and the availability of funds.**
- **The University makes an application to the SARS for tax exemption on behalf of the successful candidate**

Conditions (the successful incumbent will be required to):

- The successful candidate will be required to register as a Postdoctoral fellow at the University of Cape Town.
- All registered postdoctoral research fellows are required to comply with the University's approved policies, procedures, and practices of the postdoctoral sector.
- Applicants may not previously have held full-time permanent professional or academic positions
- Part-time employment: PDRFs are permitted to undertake 12 hours per week of remunerated employment. Such employment cannot be undertaken as part of the research project, but rather as the individual's own professional development. Remuneration is taxable and must be processed via UCT'S Human Resources.
- There are no fringe benefits, thus, the successful candidate is responsible for his or her own medical aid and insurance arrangements. The successful candidate must be a South African citizen or already hold a valid student/visitor/research visa endorsed for Postdoctoral research at UCT (see <http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/immigration-services/exempt-countries>).

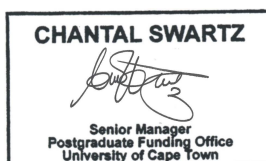
To apply, please e-mail the below documents in a single PDF file to: Sharon.Wakefield@uct.ac.za

- A letter of application
- A CV
- Copies of academic transcripts
- Either names (and contact details) OR letters of reference from at least two academics who have taught, supervised, or worked alongside the applicant.

Closing Date: 30 June 2022

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

KTU Vision fit: To improve the quality of primary healthcare for underserved communities through pragmatic research, evidence-based implementation, evaluation, and engagement of health systems, their planners, providers, and patients.



APPROVED