

Dear all,

My name is Tehillah Mbada, and I am a Master's student in the Division of Dermatology, conducting research at the Hair and Skin Research Lab (HSR) as part of my academic degree requirements.

For this purpose, I am recruiting volunteers to participate in a study that will help improve clinical and forensic tools for identifying chronic alcohol misuse.

The research is as follows:

We are conducting a study to compare your self-reported drinking habits against the levels of the reliable alcohol marker (Ethyl Glucuronide, EtG) found in your hair. This comparison is essential for ensuring that our hair testing methods are accurate and effective for clinical and forensic use across South Africa.

Your participation counts as part of identifying important research contributions.

### **Who can participate?**

- Any adult aged 18–65 years.
- Willingness to make a single, short visit to our UCT Hair and Skin Research lab at the Groote Schuur Hospital.
- **CRITICAL CRITERIA:** Your hair must be natural, untreated (no chemical treatments such as perms, relaxers, bleaching, or dyeing in the last six months) and at least 3 cm long.

### **What is involved?**

- A single, brief visit to the UCT Hair and Skin Research lab at the Groote Schuur Hospital.
- A small, non-invasive hair sample (cut, not shaved) will be collected from a discreet area of the scalp.
- Completion of a confidential questionnaire regarding alcohol consumption habits (Your name will not be linked to your questionnaire answers).

**To participate, please contact me directly to check your eligibility or to arrange your visit:**

- You may click on the link below or scan the QR Code.

[Hair Biomarker Study Volunteer Interest | HREC: 816/2025 – Fill in form](#)



**Or for email enquiries**

- Email: [hairetgstudy@gmail.com](mailto:hairetgstudy@gmail.com)

**Important notes:**

- This research has been approved by the UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences Human Research Ethics Committee(HREC/REF: 816.2025).
- Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary.
- You can choose to withdraw from the research study at any time.
- Your name will not be linked to your questionnaire answers; all data is secured using a unique code, **ensuring anonymity** of your responses.

*Tehillah Mbada Researcher (MSc Student)  
Hair and Skin Research (HSR) lab  
UCT Department of Medicine, Division of Dermatology,  
Hairetgstudy@gmail.com*