



## Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Faculty of Health Sciences

Applications from suitably qualified individuals are invited for a postdoctoral research fellowship in the **Human African Molecular Placental Research Platform (HAMLET)** in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town. This is an opportunity to be part of an exciting reproductive biology research team with focus on pregnancy outcomes associated with pregnancy mediated disorders including embryo-decidual crosstalk, recurrent pregnancy loss (RPL), preterm birth and preeclampsia. Further, the platform is investigating the molecular effects of antiretroviral treatment (ART) on T cells, trophoblasts and placental function.

Through a better understanding of placental biology and utilising cutting-edge techniques and placental biomarkers, HAMLET aims to alleviate the burden associated with placental mediated disease, improve IVF outcomes and long-term maternal and child health.

The successful applicant will work on projects aimed at the molecular understanding of embryo-decidual crosstalk, angiogenic factors associated with RPL, and the effects of ART on T cell and trophoblast behaviour. HAMLET's ultimate vision is to contribute to a better understanding of placental science with the aim of improving maternal and perinatal health.

### Conditions of award:

- Applicants must have obtained their PhD degree within 5 years and have not held any permanent academic positions.
- The successful applicant will be required to comply with the University's approved policies, procedures, and practices for the postdoctoral sector.

### Requirements:

- PhD degree in Immunology or related discipline.
- Ability to set-up and troubleshoot immunology and/or molecular assays.
- Ability to work independently, as well as in a team.
- Ability to meet deadlines.
- Ability to critically analyse and summarize data.

### The following will be advantageous:

- Experience in immunology techniques such as flow cytometry, Luminex, ELISA, immunofluorescence.
- Experience in writing peer-reviewed publications.
- Experience with human or animal tissue processing.

### Responsibilities include:

- Design, optimise and set-up flow cytometry panels.
- Support students with projects involving placental tissue analysis.
- Establish a biobank of blood and placental tissue specimens.
- Contribute to manuscript preparation, routine report writing and grant writing.
- Contribute to staff and student training and student supervision.
- Contribute towards general lab resource management and protocol development.
- Actively participate in group meetings including presentation of project progress and journal clubs

### Value and Tenure:

The value of the fellowship is R350,000 to R400,000 per annum depending on level of experience. Starting date: as soon as possible for 2 years.



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### **Application Requirements:**

Applicants should submit a short letter of application stating areas of expertise, research interests, and experience and a CV including email addresses of at least two references. Please submit all documents as a **single pdf** via email to Mrs Heidi Paulse; Email: **heidi.paulse@uct.ac.za**.