



## **MSc Studentship in Cardiovascular Genetics**

**CARDIOVASCULAR GENETICS LABORATORY AT THE CAPE HEART INSTITUTE (CHI)**

**DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE**

### **About the Studentship**

Suitably qualified candidates are invited to apply for a fully funded MSc in the Cardiovascular Genetics Laboratory in the Department of Medicine, at the University of Cape Town. The MSc studentship will form part of a larger study (IMHOTEP) where the aim is to identify the causative genes in cases affected with the various forms of heart disease, including those that target the structure and rhythm of the heart, ultimately leading to sudden cardiac death or requiring heart transplants.

### **The project**

Cardiomyopathy contributes to 20-30% of heart failure in adults in the African population and in Sub-Saharan Africa, it is ranked as the third largest contributor to the burden of cardiovascular disease, after stroke and ischaemic heart disease. This study provides an opportunity to study a range of different types of familial and sporadic cardiomyopathies. Genetic cardiomyopathies warrant close study because they are often present in younger individuals and are a major cause of mortality and morbidity in this age group.

### **Requirements**

- The ideal candidates must preferably have a strong academic background in the fields of molecular biology and/or genetics.
- Required academic qualifications include an Honours in Molecular Biology/Genetics/related field. Equivalent qualifications may also be accepted.
- The candidates must possess good writing skills in English (as evidence by prior publication or thesis). Applicants whose first language is not English should note that English language proficiency is also required.

### **Application process**

All applications should include (1) a motivation letter (2 pages maximum); (2) a full curriculum vitae and (3) letters of reference from at least two academics who have taught, supervised or worked alongside the applicant during their university training.

Applications and enquiries should be forwarded to [gasnat.shaboodien@uct.ac.za](mailto:gasnat.shaboodien@uct.ac.za) with the subject line “**MSc Studentship**”. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview soon after the closing date.

**Closing date for applications: 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (MSc start date 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024).**