

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN ETHNOPHARMACOLOGY AND PHYTOCHEMISTRY

A post-doctoral fellowship is being offered in the Centre of Excellence for Pharmaceutical Sciences (Pharmacem[™]) at the North-West University in Potchefstroom, South Africa. Pharmacem[™] is the cutting-edge Pharmaceutical Research and Innovation Centre in South Africa. Our vision is to be an internationally recognised role player and the leader in drug research and development in Africa. Our mission is excellence in research with the accumulation of new scientific knowledge, and to apply our research findings in the development of novel pharmaceutical products and technologies. The programmes of our research entity are linked to national priorities and have international research impact. currently consists of three research programmes, namely Translational neuroscience and neurotherapeutics; Drug delivery; and Drug discovery.

The successful applicant will join a research group with a special focus on ethnopharmacology, phytochemistry and analytical chemistry, specifically for the evaluation of herbal medicines, standardisation of herbal extracts and production of API's from plants.

The research focus for the postdoctoral fellowship will be operating and assisting in maintaining our Analytical Technology Laboratory (ATL) consisting of 10 UPLC's coupled to various detectors including a triple quadrupole mass spectrometer (Agilent Ultivo) and assisting students with their analytical requirements. A special focus on drug discovery from medicinal plants as well as scientific validation of specific herbal medicine will also be an important aspect of this fellowship.

The successful candidate will be mentored to develop new research skills, build an academic profile and supervise postgraduate students in the centre with analytical data interpretation (MS and NMR data). The fellow will also be involved in service delivery within for cancellation of Last Will and Testaments for NJ and LE Claase.ATL.

Period: an initial period of 1 year, renewable for a second and third year, subject to satisfactory progress and the availability of funds.

Value of the Fellowship: R249 000 per annum (not taxable), once-off amount to a maximum of R20 000 for relocation costs.

Eligibility:

- The successful applicant must have achieved a PhD degree (or is close to completion) in Analytical chemistry/Phytochemistry or a closely related field within five years before the appointment, and have **NOT** yet held any permanent professional posts (specifically as academics).
- The candidate must have the intention to pursue a full-time academic career.
- The successful applicants must be prepared to comply with the University's approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector.

Knowledge, skills and abilities required.

- Extensive knowledge and experience in Analytical chemistry.
- Hands-on experience with the Agilent Ultivo triple quadrupole mass spectrometer and Shimadzu iNexera UPLC's
- Knowledge of the drug development pipeline.
- Experience with *in vitro* biochemical assays commonly used in drug discovery.
- Additional experience considered advantageous:
 - Good publication record
 - Experience with funding applications
 - Ability to multitask.

Application deadline: To be submitted no later than 10 October 2023

Application Process:

A letter of application (stating areas of expertise, research interests and experience), a CV (no more than two pages), a list of publications, copies of academic transcripts as well as names/contact details of two academics who have taught, supervised or worked alongside the applicant should be addressed to Professor Frank van der Kooy. Eligible and complete applications will be considered by the host, and candidates selected for the shortlist

will be interviewed prior to selecting a suitable candidate for the position. The successful applicant must ideally be available to commence with the Fellowship by **1 January 2024**, but no later than **1 March 2024**.

Email: Frank.vanderkooy@nwu.ac.za

Website: <http://health-sciences.nwu.ac.za/pharmacen/about-us>

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