The Division of Immunology invites applications for a PhD project. The successful candidate will have experience in proteomics or cell biology and a research interest in infectious diseases. The research will explore the role of epithelial barrier function in the male genital tract using proteomics to discover and validate protein signatures of the foreskin associated with HIV prevention. The project also involves the development of ex vivo models to validate the data.

**Academic Conditions of Award:**

The successful candidate must be in possession of an MSc in a relevant area (Immunology, Biotechnology or Biochemistry) and be familiar with bioinformatics and ex vivo cell culture or molecular cell techniques.

The study will evaluate immune cells in the Foreskin of HIV uninfected South African males. There will be a focus on measuring proteomic, differences in these cells and linking to ex vivo models. Applicants with some experience in computational methodologies will be favorably considered.

**General Conditions of Award:**

1. The successful incumbent will be required to comply with the University’s approved policies, procedures and practices for academic acceptance.
2. The doctoral research fellow (DRF) will be directly responsible to Dr. Chigorimbo-Tsikiwa and Professor Clive Gray. The fellow will also be responsible to the IDM Director and to the Dean of the Health Sciences.
3. The DRF will be physically based in Professor Gray’s academic laboratory at the IDM.
4. All necessary equipment and laboratory spaces are in place to meet the demands of the project.
5. The successful candidate, as part of their professional development, is required to participate in departmental activities including Progress Reports and Journal Club presentations.
6. **For this post we particularly seek to attract South African born nationals**.

**Value and tenure:**

An NRF student stipend is offered subject to meeting the NRF funding requirements.

**Application process:**

Applications must include a letter of interest, certified copies of academic transcripts, a CV showing details of the applicant’s research competencies/output and the names and email addresses of at least two academics that have taught/supervised the applicant.

Applications and enquiries should be submitted to Dr Nyaradzo Chigorimbo-Tsikiwa, Nyaradzo.chigorimbo-tsikiwa@uct.ac.za with the reference PhD application 2017.

Closing date for applications: **Jan 20th 2017**

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.