

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Project Title: *Genomic and functional characterization of yeasts with biocontrol activity against grapevine pathogens*

Scope of Research: Over the past five years our research group has been able to identify and characterize yeasts and bacteria with biocontrol activity against grapevine pathogens. Inter and intra-specific variability in the antifungal activity spectrum was observed. To better understand the molecular signatures explaining this variability, we would like to implement genomic characterization of the candidate yeasts. We are therefore looking for a self-motivated and enthusiastic postdoctoral fellow to drive this aspect of our research.

Host: This project is hosted within the South African Grape and Wine Research Institute, Department of Viticulture and Oenology, at Stellenbosch University.

Requirements: PhD (Microbiology or related fields)

- Experience and proficiency in the following:
 - Microbial interaction studies
 - Omics data analysis
 - Scripting with languages such as Python, Java and Perl

Recommended:

- Familiarity with the following:
 - Multivariate data analysis
 - Plant-microbiome interactions

Responsibilities

- ✓ Research (65%): Design and conduct experiments, data analysis, and manuscript preparation.
- ✓ Training (20%): Training of BScHons students and co-supervision of MSc students
- ✓ Laboratory management (10%): Assist with the day-to-day operations in the lab
- ✓ Outreach (5%): Science communication to industry or civil society

The postdoctoral fellowship will be for 2 years with a rate of R250 000 – R300 000 per year. Please note that postdoctoral fellows are not appointed as employees and their fellowships are awarded tax free. They are therefore not eligible for employee benefits.

Commencement of duties: 01 February 2024 or soon after.

Enquiries: Send a letter of application, accompanied by a comprehensive curriculum vitae, including list of publications and the names and contact details of at least two referees, to Prof. Setati at setati@sun.ac.za. Applicants should request their referees to forward confidential reports by the closing date direct to the same address. **Closing date for applications is 31 December 2023.**