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Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Project Title: *The vineyard microbiome and how it responds to cover crops*

Scope of Research: We are looking for a postdoctoral fellow with experience in transcriptomics or metagenomics to join our microbial ecology group. The project in which the fellow will participate is focused on understanding vineyard microbial ecosystems, in particular the influence of cover crops on the vineyard soil and grape microbiome. The postdoctoral candidate will have the opportunity to work on individual research as well as to work within a team (doctoral, masters and Hons level students), and in addition, to gain experience in student supervision. It is expected that the postdoctoral fellow will drive the research on functional metagenomics of the soil microbiome with focus on bioprospecting for potential biocontrol agents through direct sequencing and also start to implement microfluidics approaches.

An amount of 220,000 ZAR will be awarded to the postdoctoral fellow annually for a period of two years. A research visit to European collaborators for training and research on the microfluidics aspects will be arranged.

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

Requirement: PhD (must have graduated within the last five years)

- Experience in either of the following is necessary:
 - Microbial community analysis in particular application of microbial fingerprinting methods
 - Microbiomics or functional metagenomics and associated bioinformatics and statistical tools
 - Transcriptomics and gene expression analysis
- Familiarity with multivariate data analysis.

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: January/February 2020

Closing date: 20 December 2019

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 Dr. Setati at setati@sun.ac.za.

Applicants should request their referees to forward confidential reports by the closing date direct to the same address.

Institute for Wine Biotechnology

Tel: (021) 808-9203; Fax: (021) 808-3771
E-mail: setati@sun.ac.za
www.sun.ac.za/wine_biotechnology

