



Professor J. M. Farrant
Chair of Molecular Physiology
Department of Molecular and Cell Biology

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PLANT STRESS GROUP – POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Purpose:

The Plant Stress Group, under the leadership of Prof Jill Farrant, has been in operation for 21 years and aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of the mechanism of desiccation tolerance in resurrection plants in order to ultimately apply this towards the production of drought tolerant crops. One aspect of such research is understanding of the contribution of plant metabolites in this process.

Applications are invited for the fellowship from suitable qualified individuals.

The successful applicant will be working with Prof Farrant in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology and will be required to conduct research on the chemical profiling of metabolites associated with dehydration and early rehydration in a range of resurrection plant species and contextualizing their role in tolerance of this stress. In addition, phytochemicals that have potential medicinal and cosmetic uses will be isolated, characterized and roles in healing and skin remediation assessed. Understanding of plant physiology will be a strong recommendation.

Conditions:

- Applicants must have completed their doctoral degrees in biochemistry and or chemistry within the last 5 years and may not previously have held a permanent professional or academic post.
- No benefits or allowances are included in the Fellowship.
- As part of his/her professional development, the successful candidate may be required to participate in a limited capacity in departmental activities, such as teaching, student supervision, etc.
- The successful applicant will be required to comply with the university's approved policies, procedures, and practises for the postdoctoral sector.

Value and tenure:

The value of the fellowship is R 200,000 tenable for 1 year. This is renewable for up to 3 years based on performance.

Academic criteria:

Applicants should have qualified with the doctoral degree in plant biochemistry/omics and preference will be given to candidates who have a working knowledge of general natural products chemistry and metabolomics techniques and have experience with machine learning. The applicant should be versed in GC and LC-MS data processing and the statistical computer language R.

The successful applicant will be required to register as a Postdoctoral fellow at the University of Cape Town immediately.

Application requirements:

Applicants should submit a short description of their research interests, a CV including a publication list, copies of their academic transcripts, and email addresses of at least two references with whom the applicant has worked alongside, was taught by, or was supervised by. Please combine all these documents into one pdf file.

Selection process:

Only eligible and complete applications will be considered by Prof. Jill Farrant.

Closing date:

Applications must be submitted by no later than 1st November, 2021.

Contact details for submission of applications and for enquiries please contact Keren Cooper at keren.cooper@uct.ac.za

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



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