

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WITWATERSRAND,  
JOHANNESBURG



**Wits Advanced Drug Delivery Platform (WADDP) Research Unit,  
Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, School of Therapeutic  
Sciences, Faculty of Health Science, University of the Witwatersrand.**

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:  
Post-Doctoral Research Fellowships 2023  
DEADLINE: 11 December 2022**

The Wits Advanced Drug Delivery Platform (WADDP) Research Unit under the leadership of Professor Yahya Choonara is pleased to announce the following postdoctoral opportunities commencing January 2023:

FELLOWSHIP/SCHOLARSHIP	NO. AVAILABLE POSITIONS	VALUE	DURATION OF FULL-TIME STUDY
POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP	4	250 000 ZAR	January 2023-December 2023 (renewable for a second year based on progress)

The WADDP Research Unit is innovating 21<sup>st</sup> century patient-centric Drug Delivery Systems for the design of world leading pharmaceutical therapies, either as standalone prototypes or interfaced with Nanomedicine, Tissue Engineering, Regenerative Medicine and supporting Functional Biomaterials.

Successful applicants will work at the interface of pharmaceuticals, chemistry and biology to create and apply novel approaches and chemical tools that provide solutions to unmet therapeutic needs. Research activities will involve the design, development, formulation, characterisation and application of novel systems derived from natural biopolymers, lipids, peptides or inorganic biomaterials and understanding how these system behave in physiological media through studying *in vitro* and *in vivo* drug release kinetics, biocompatibility and biosafety characteristics. Characterisation will involve the comprehensive assessment of physio-chemical and physio-mechanical properties of the biomaterials, with *in silico* modelling carried out where applicable.

### Eligibility Criteria and Application Process

#### *Postdoctoral Fellowship*

<b><i>Eligibility Criteria</i></b>	<b><i>Application Documents</i></b>
<p><b><i>The applicant must meet the following minimum criteria:</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. South African citizen (not permanent resident).</li> <li>2. Completed a PhD in the past 5 years.</li> <li>3. Demonstrated research experience in <i>either of the following areas:</i> chemistry, protein/peptide synthesis, material sciences, synthesis and characterisation of new functional biomaterials, pharmaceutical product formulation and evaluation (advanced drug delivery systems) and/or nanotechnology (nanomedicine).</li> <li>4. Have a track record of publications in reputable international ISI journals as first author confirming research expertise.</li> </ol> <p><b><i>Advantages:</i></b>  <i>The following will be considered as an advantage:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The applicant has experience related in <i>silico</i> modelling.</li> <li>2. The applicant has experience in peptide synthesis as well as formulation of protein-based therapeutics.</li> </ol>	<p><b><i>The application must include:</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A letter of motivation with a bulleted description of how the applicant meets the minimum requirements and advantages.</li> <li>2. Curriculum vitae.</li> <li>3. Full academic record and Publication Profile.</li> <li>4. The contact details of 2 academic referees – one which <i>must</i> be from the PhD supervisors.</li> </ol>

- ☑ *Fellowships and scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis, taking into account academic performance, research potential and research outputs.*
- ☑ *Postdoctoral Fellows are expected to also be involved in the co-supervision of PhD and Masters students and work within the research team with good laboratory practice.*
- ☑ *Postdoctoral Fellows may undertake limited, **remunerated**, undergraduate teaching, supervision and practical demonstration duties as dictated by the relevant Human Resources Policies.*
- ☑ *Renewal is required annually and is subject to performance.*
- ☑ **11 December 2022.** *Applications must be emailed to (yahya.choonara@wits.ac.za) with the subject line: **Post-Doctoral Application 2023.***