

Sydney Brenner Institute for Molecular Bioscience (SBIMB)

Research Professor AC05 – Fixed Term 5-Year position.

Department Description

Position – Research Professor at the Sydney Brenner Institute for Molecular Bioscience (SBIMB), Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Brief Posting Description

Roche Research Chair for Precision Medicine and Genomics in Africa

Fixed-term, 5-year position.

The SBIMB is a vibrant Research Institute, celebrating its 10th anniversary in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). It provides a world-class research environment, enabling leading scientific and clinical researchers to undertake innovative biomedical research, aimed at tackling some of the most pressing health issues in Africa, while training the next generation of African scientists. The SBIMB's research includes human genomics, population genetics, complex disease genetic epidemiology, bioinformatics, biomedical informatics, computational and structural biology, and pharmacogenomics.

This new Roche Research Chair for Precision Medicine and Genomics in Africa is an opportunity for an energetic mid-career investigator to advance their career as an international leader in the fields of precision medicine and genomics research, with a focus on Africa. The SBIMB is a central hub for human genomics and bioinformatics on the continent, facilitating the training of early career researchers, including post-doctoral fellows and postgraduate students.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The applicant needs to demonstrate a high level of internationally recognized original scientific contributions, leadership qualities, and experience in grant funding and capacity development. They will join a dynamic team of senior scientists at the SBIMB covering a multitude of subspecialist interests.

The primary duties will include:

- Engage in research activities and oversee postgraduate students at both the Master's and Doctoral levels.
- Lead research initiatives in precision medicine and genomics in Africa independently.
- Create and sustain a robust portfolio of research published in peer-reviewed journals.
- Establish and nurture collaborative research efforts at both national and international levels.
- Build networks with industry and research institutions.
- Participate in community engagement, translational research, and support the advance of precision medicine and genomics research in Africa.

Desired Experience & Qualification

- Academic credentials: A PhD in human genetics, genomics, biostatistics, genetic epidemiology, bioinformatics or related discipline, or an equivalent qualification.
- Expertise in Precision Medicine, Genomics, or a related area.
- Demonstrated and consistent research contributions published in peer-reviewed journals.
- A solid record of obtaining external research funding.
- Ability to independently lead research projects.
- A history of successfully supervising Doctoral candidates to completion.
- Established experience in national and international collaborative efforts.
- Demonstrate strong interpersonal and communication abilities.

Human Resources Department

Phillip V Tobias Health Sciences Building | 29 Princess of Wales Terrace (Cnr York Road), Parktown 2193, Johannesburg
Private Bag 3, WITS, 2050, South Africa | T +27 11 717 2000 | www.wits.ac.za

Competencies and Behavioural Attributes

- An individual who excels in collaborative environments, demonstrating a strong commitment to student development and research initiatives.
- Possesses effective problem-solving skills and the capacity to operate autonomously.
- Exhibits resilience and a high level of enthusiasm.

For promotion criteria click here [Promotion Criteria.pdf](#)

Further information

For further information, please contact **Professor Michele Ramsay** (Director of the SBIMB)
michele.ramsay@wits.ac.za

Deadline for Application: 30 November 2025

How To Apply

The application must be submitted in English via i-Recruitment <https://irec.wits.ac.za> and include the following documents:

- A letter outlining the applicant's motivation for pursuing this position, highlighting relevant experience as a leader, scholar, researcher, teacher/communicator and manager (maximum of 3 pages).
- A comprehensive curriculum vitae that includes education, work experience, publications (categorized by original research and followed by other types), postgraduate supervision and mentorship, collaborations, and grant funding success (as PI, co-PI or collaborator).
- A vision for a 5-year research plan (maximum of 5 pages).
- Academic certificates.
- A PDF with a maximum of 10 key publications over the past 8 years for assessment purposes.

We reserve the right not to make an appointment and to extend the deadline.