

## POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FORUM DISCUSSED POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAMME

At the recent meeting of the Postdoctoral Research Forum, Prof. Laetus Lategan presented a proposal for a postdoctoral programme to be followed by the postdocs. The purpose of the programme is to add to the skills, competences and competencies of the postdocs in preparing for an academic career. An additional purpose is to grow the professionalization of the postdoctoral fellows.

Elements of such a programme includes:

- An own approved and externally funded research project.
- Dissemination of research results
- Research outputs such as :
  - Publications, including articles, books, chapters in books and published conference proceedings.
  - Conference presentations
  - Student supervision
  - Research capacity-building activities such as science communication, project management and mentorship.

This can be achieved through participating in activities organised by the Research Office. Activities include:

- How to write for publication programme.
- How to supervise postgraduate students programme.
- How to apply for funding programme.

The programme will be refined and launched in November 2021 during the Annual Postdoctoral Fellows Webinar.

## Postdoctoral Portfolio

### Reporting period: July 2020 – June 2021

- Total value of the award: R 2 580 000
- Total number of postdoctoral fellows: 13
  - Track 1: 11 (Full-time)
  - Track 2: 2 (Part-time)
- Number of universities our postdocs graduated from: 9
  - 8 x National Universities
  - 1 x International University
- Gender breakdown:
  - 8 x Female
  - 5 x Male

### Postdocs affiliated with Research Centre's:

- 2 x Centre for Applied Food Safety and –Biotechnology (CAFSaB)
- 1 x Centre for Diversity in Higher Education Research
- 2 x Centre for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Studies
- 2 x Centre for Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing (CRPM)
- 4 x Centre for Sustainable Smart Cities

# SUCCESSES OF OUR POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS



## Congratulations to our postdocs on their great achievements

Dr Gaofetoge G Lenetha, a postdoctoral fellow in the Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences received a research award from the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL). She also successfully published one research articles:

- S.S. Ntondini, G.G. Lenetha & T.C. Dzogbewu. Inhibitory effect of essentials oil against oral pathogens. International Journal of Dentistry and Oral Science (IJDOS) ISSN: 2377-8075. (January 2021) <https://scidoc.org/articlepdfs/IJDOS/IJDOS-2377-8075-08-102.pdf>

Dr Lenetha successfully co-supervised with Dr Malebo, Miss Malerato Moloji, who has completed her Masters' qualification in 2021. The title of her study was: The Prevalence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in street vended foods.

In March 2021, Dr Phillip Stott presented a paper, "The impact of variability of soil properties on characteristic values for geotechnical design" at the 4th International Conference on Geotechnical Engineering in Tunisia.

A considerable part of 2020 was spent on the analysis of a large body of data in the form of thousands of test results collected over the past two years. The results were analysed from several different statistical perspectives seeking to determine the minimum number of tests which are required to ensure meaningful estimates of the 5th and 95th percentiles, which are required for the characteristic values to be used in the new limit states design code. The requirement for characteristic values is that there must be no more than 5% probability of failure due to the soil property under consideration. A paper on this is in preparation.

In the latter part of 2020 a programme was begun to determine shrinkage curves for geotechnical materials whose expansive potential is usually ignored or neglected due to difficulty of measurement or the assumption that it is negligible. It was found that significant and variable volume change can be experienced even by some hard rocks. This programme is continuing in 2021 and a paper incorporating some of the results has been submitted for a conference in Australia in 2022.

## POSTDOCTORAL EVENTS

### TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

#### Graduate School Webinar Series On Postgraduate Supervision

The Graduate School is organising a series of four (4) developmental opportunities for thirty (30) newcomer research supervisors to address the bigger picture of supervision, supervision practices, assessment, and other important tasks of supervisors. The facilitator is Prof Eli Bitzer from the Centre for Higher and Adult Education at Stellenbosch University. Prof Bitzer is a renowned scholar in the field of postgraduate supervision. He also participated in the finalisation of the CUT's self-evaluation report on doctoral standards to the Council of Higher Education and is therefore familiar with our context for postgraduate studies.

The webinars will be presented via the Zoom platform. The presentations are structured in such a manner that there will be sufficient time to participate in discussions on the webinar topic. When you enroll for this series, then attendance of all four webinars is compulsory as the different webinars form an integrated overview of postgraduate supervision. A confirmation letter for full attendance will be issued at the end of the webinars.

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| • Webinar 1: The 'bigger picture' of supervision    |  | Date: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 (14:00 – 16:00)   |
| • Webinar 2: Supervision practices                  |  | Date: Wednesday, 1 September 2021 (14:00 – 16:00) |
| • Webinar 3: Assessing senior degree work           |  | Date: Wednesday, 6 October 2021 (14:00 – 16:00)   |
| • Webinar 4: 'Other' important tasks of supervisors |  | Date: Wednesday, 13 October 2021 (14:00 – 16:00)  |

Please contact Ms Eleanor Nel ([enel@cut.ac.za](mailto:enel@cut.ac.za)) for more information.

## MEETING

### Quarterly meeting for 2021.

The information with regards to the previously held engagement session:

Date: 25 August 2021

Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Via: MS Teams Plaform

Agenda items were to be submitted to Ms Cecilé Olivier ([olivierc@cut.ac.za](mailto:olivierc@cut.ac.za)) by 20 August 2021.

## ANNUAL WEBINAR

### Planned Annual Webinar for 2021.

Date: 25 November 2021, 14:00 – 16:00

## REMINDER!

### Submission of mid-term reports.

Please take note of the date for the submission of mid-term reports as indicated in the award letter.

## CONTACT US

For any additional information regarding the postdoctoral fellowship, as well as the current fellows employed at CUT please contact:

Ms. Cecilé Olivier  
[olivierc@cut.ac.za](mailto:olivierc@cut.ac.za)  
[www.cut.ac.za/postdocs](http://www.cut.ac.za/postdocs)  
(051) 507 4323