

VACANCY	
Job title:	Senior Medical Scientist (12 Months contract)
Division	Wastewater Genomics
Type:	Permanent ☐ Fixed Term ☒ Temporary ☐
Main purpose of the job:	To develop, optimize and validate sequencing assays for pathogen sequencing from wastewater samples. The project focuses on sequencing, and characterizing pathogens such as measles, rubella, hepatitis A, hepatitis E, influenza A, influenza B, MTB, and Mpox from wastewater samples.
Location:	NICD, Sandringham
Closing date:	02 September 2026
Submit detailed CV to:	Vacancies44@witshealth.co.za
Advert reference number:	Senior Medical Scientist:01
In accordance with our Employment Equity goals and plan, preference will be given to suitable applicants from designated groups as defined in the Employment Equity Act 55 of 1998 and subsequent amendments thereto.	

Key performance areas

- Develop, optimize, validate, implement, and maintain genomic sequencing assays and sequencing schemes for the wastewater-based surveillance of SARS-CoV-2, measles, MTB, and other vaccine-preventable disease pathogens.
- Develop, implement, and maintain SOPs and quality management systems for genomics sequencing, including quality control and quality assurance methods, performance metrics, and acceptance criteria.
- Lead and/or contribute to manuscript drafting for peer-reviewed publications, research reports, conferences, and grant applications.

Required minimum education and training

PhD in molecular virology, molecular biology, genomics or related field (awarded within the last five years).

Required minimum work experience

- Experience in designing primers, sequencing schemes for viruses and other pathogens.
- Experience in developing, optimizing, and validating, and troubleshooting sequencing protocols.
- Experience with genomics data analysis, genome assembly, variant calling, phylogenetics, and genomic surveillance applications.

Desirable additional education, work experience and personal abilities

- Strong written and verbal communication.
- Attention to detail and ability to work under pressure.
- Able to work independently and manage own time.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality of data, and administration.
- Flexibility and willingness to learn.
- Taking ownership and accountability for tasks & activities and able to demonstrate effective self-management, ensuring that quality and productivity standards of own work are maintained.
- Must be able to maintain a positive attitude and respond openly to feedback.
- Strong interpersonal, conflict resolution, and emotional intelligence skills.

Should you be interested in applying for this vacancy, please send an email to vacancies44@Witshealth.co.za The subject heading of the email must include **Senior Medical Scientist: 01**
Please include the following documentation:

- A cover letter (maximum one page) that clearly states which vacancy you are applying for.
- A Detailed CV with two contactable references