

VACANCY	
Job title:	Researcher (4-year contract)
Division:	EVITOH
Type:	Permanent ☐ Fixed Term ☒ Temporary ☐
Main purpose of the job:	To develop and validate molecular and serological assays, recombinant protein expression, virus isolation and culture, virus neutralisation assays, and characterisation of humoral and cellular immune responses for pre-clinical vaccine candidates focused on emerging and re-emerging respiratory, vector-borne, and zoonotic viruses within a One Health framework .
Location:	Parktown, Johannesburg
Closing date:	06 August 2026
Submit detailed CV to:	vacancies33@witshealth.co.za
Advert reference number:	Researcher-EVITOH
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

- Candidate will contribute to a broad portfolio of research activities spanning virology, molecular biology, immunology, diagnostics, and pandemic preparedness within a One Health framework.
- Establish and perform molecular, serological, and virological assays, including RT-PCR, ELISA, multiplex immunoassays, neutralisation assays, virus isolation and culture, recombinant protein expression, and immunological techniques supporting vaccine and pathogenesis studies for emerging and re-emerging vector-borne, respiratory and zoonotic viruses.
- Contribute to preclinical and early-phase vaccine research, including studies of humoral and cellular immune responses, and collaborate on multidisciplinary projects.
- Support collaborative One Health surveillance and research programmes across South Africa and Africa, analyse and interpret laboratory and epidemiological data, and contribute to the translation of research findings into public health practice.
- Supervision and mentorship of postgraduate students, grant writing, progress reporting, scientific publication, and presentation of research findings at national and international conferences.
- Work in BSL-2 and BSL-3 laboratory environments and will involve participation in preclinical animal studies under the guidance of the Wits Research Animal Facility.
- Contribute to the preparation of human and animal ethics applications and relevant regulatory documentation.

Required minimum education and training

PhD in Virology, Immunology, Genetics, Molecular Biology, or a related biomedical discipline, with a strong background in virology.

Professional body registration

HPCSA/SAVC desirable

Required minimum work experience

Minimum of 2 years of post-PhD experience.

Desirable additional education, work experience and personal abilities

- Experience in Virology, molecular and immunological assays for clinical diagnostic research, pre-clinical and phase 1-3 vaccine trials, publication record and grant writing experience as well as student supervision.
- Candidates should have experience in molecular, serological, and virological laboratory techniques, including assay development and validation, virus culture, neutralisation assays, molecular diagnostics, recombinant protein expression, and immunological assays.
- Experience with T-cell immunology, preclinical vaccine development, and work in BSL-2 and BSL-3 laboratories will be advantageous.
- Experience with respiratory viruses, arboviruses, zoonotic diseases, or other emerging infectious diseases, One Health, BSL 3 laboratory work, and pre-clinical vaccine development will be advantageous.
- Experience working within multidisciplinary and international collaborative research programmes is also desirable.
- Candidates should be self-driven, able to work independently and collaboratively, and capable of troubleshooting and creative problem solving.
- Strong communication skills, statistical analysis capability, attention to detail, documentation discipline and understanding of laboratory workflows and data management are required.

Should you be interested in applying for this vacancy, please send an email to vacancies33@witshealth.co.za.

The subject heading of the email must read **Researcher-EVITOH** and the job title of position applying for.

Please include the following documentation:

- A cover letter (maximum one page) that clearly states which vacancy you are applying for
- A detailed CV