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**20 February 2023**

## **Invite: UCT to host cutting edge human genetics research forum**

**21 February | 8:00 – 17:30 | Sarah Bartman Hall, UCT Upper Campus**

The African Society of Human Genetics (AfSHG) in partnership with the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Division of Human Genetic, Department of Pathology and the Wellcome Connecting Sciences Global Training Programme, is hosting a Young Investigators Research Forum (YIF) in human genetics where researchers in these fields from around the world will present their cutting-edge research as oral presentations and poster presentations.

The YIF will bring together over 100 graduate students and early career researchers from Africa, Europe and the United States of America. Through their oral and poster presentations, participants will exchange knowledge and insights on cutting edge research being conducted in genomics, bioinformatics, ethics and social implications of genomics and genetic medicine globally. Research presented is conducted on several genetic diseases such as cancers, cardiovascular disorders, hearing loss and many other interesting topics will be discussed.

Other stakeholders include, the Human Heredity and Health in Africa Consortium (H3Africa) Coordinating Center, The European Society of Human Genetics-Young, the Southern African Society of Human Genetics and mGenAfrica.

Genomics is fast becoming a vital component of medicine and offers new opportunities of clinical benefit. The YIF presents a forum where young researchers can network, cross-learn and also have the opportunity to win best poster and oral presentation awards. These prizes have been made possible through sponsorship from a local company [Inqaba Biotech](#).

AfSHG has held YIFs during their annual conferences which are normally structured as many other traditional scientific conferences. However, mainly due to the participation of numerous partners, this YIF is unique as outlined below:

- The YIF has invited high school learners from the Metro South– Western Cape Education Department (MSED-WCED) who have previously participated and excelled in previous mGenAfrica events. [mGenAfrica](#) (a collaboration between UCT and MSED-WCED) is an online and mobile application that promotes interaction between high school learners and research staff working in genomics and other health research fields across Africa. The YIF will give an opportunity to such learners to be exposed to different career paths and knowledge. An invitation has also been extended to undergraduate students studying towards healthcare professions for similar reasons.

- It is open to all young investigators from across the globe who are attending the ICHG2023 congress.
- Talks on specific graduate training programs and skills development opportunities will be presented such as training towards a medical genetics' specialisation, genetic counselling, data science and the importance of engaging with high school learners.
- To keep the event fun and entertaining, there will be short quizzes on presented material and spot prizes to be won.

The European Society of Human Genetics - Young Committee will be part of the organising committee of this scientific event and together build a strong and ongoing collaboration between junior human geneticists from Africa and Europe.

The YIF forum will end with a cultural evening at Moyo Restaurant in Kirstenbosch. This event is a satellite meeting for the International Congress of Human Genetics 2023 (ICHG2023) held annually. This is the first time the ICHG will take place in Africa.

For RSVP and enquiries please contact [Michelle Bodzo](#) / [Paballo Chauke](#).

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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