

19 December 2025

**Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Departments of Paediatrics and Child Health,
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University**

We invite applications from motivated Postdoctoral Fellows to join the Departments of Paediatric and Child Health, Stellenbosch University. The successful candidate will work with a team of dynamic, multidisciplinary researchers in the **Neonatal and Paediatric Infections Research group**. The team has diverse expertise in Paediatric Infectious Diseases, Neonatology, Microbiology, Data Science, Pharmacology, Pharmacy and Nursing. The Neonatal and Paediatric Infection Postdoctoral Fellow will contribute expertise in applied epidemiology and biostatistics to the design, implementation, analysis, and dissemination of public health and clinical research in neonatal and paediatric infections.

Key Responsibilities and role

The postdoctoral fellow will provide research methodology input, and contribute to research co-ordination, data management and analysis, academic writing and science communication, providing support across multi-stakeholder research projects. The fellow will participate in the design and conduct of observational, interventional and surveillance studies, using epidemiological and biostatistical methods to analyse health data, including regression modelling, time-to-event analysis, and descriptive and inferential statistics. Oversight of data preparation, validation and analysis will be required. The fellow will support the team with the preparation and submission of research protocols, amendments and reports. Co-supervision of junior researchers and research staff will be required. The fellow will contribute actively to the group's scholarly output and knowledge translation efforts through leading and co-authoring peer-reviewed publications, conference abstracts, research reports, policy briefs, and stakeholder presentations. Where possible, the fellow will be included in grant-writing activities and supporting capacity strengthening in epidemiological methods and research practice within the team.

Postdoctoral Research theme

The postdoctoral fellow will focus on establishing a collaborative research platform with NeoNET AFRICA partnership member sites. The fellow will co-lead several studies involving at least 10 African country neonatal units with a high burden of neonatal sepsis and antimicrobial resistance. Proposed studies include: (1) a Delphi study to develop consensus on harmonised neonatal sepsis clinical datasets for the federated analysis (ethics approval obtained); (2) a federated retrospective analysis of multi-site neonatal bloodstream infection profiles with enhanced antibiogram development; and (3) planning and grant-writing for a prospective neonatal sepsis pilot cohort study with the newly developed sepsis template using a federated approach.

Required Qualifications: A PhD in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Public Health, or a closely related quantitative health discipline.

Essential Skills and Experience: Training and experience in applied epidemiology and biostatistics; experience analysing health or clinical data using standard statistical software (e.g. R, Stata, SAS); demonstrated involvement in peer-reviewed publications; Experience with research ethics and governance processes; ability to work across multidisciplinary teams and manage multiple concurrent projects.

Desirable Attributes: Experience working in low- and middle-income country contexts; Familiarity with routine health data or surveillance systems; Experience contributing to grant-funded research; Interest in maternal neonatal and child health, health systems, implementation science, or public health research.

The fellowship is tenable for one year with the extension to a second year, depending on satisfactory progress. The fellowship is tax-free, provided certain conditions are met.

Application deadline: to be received on or before 19 January 2026. Start date: 1 March 2026.

How to apply: Please send a cover letter, with full CV, indicating your relevant skill sets, previous research contributions and experience, academic outputs and the names and current contact details of three referees to: Prof. Angela Dramowski (dramowski@sun.ac.za) with subject heading: Postdoc2026. Please direct any queries to Prof Dramowski via email with subject heading: Postdoc2026.