



UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI
YAKWAZULU-NATALI



Postdoctoral Fellowships - 2019 Flagship Research Project at UKZN, SA.

“Flagship projects, which are trans-disciplinary in scope, are an institution’s highest impact and most prestigious research project. They are essentially big ideas, big science for big impact!” UKZN’s Vice Chancellor.

Postdoc fellowships : Legal innovation in the context of new gene editing technology

Scientific research does not take place in a socio-normative vacuum. Scientists are confronted with numerous legal and ethical issues, such as the freedom to operate (in patent law), dealing with human research participants, benefit sharing, research on children where parental consent is unrealistic to obtain, sharing of biological material with collaborators in foreign jurisdictions, and the ethical and legally compliant dissemination of scientific discoveries.

Project 1: Provide health researchers with clarity on how to navigate the SA gene editing legal and ethical space. Given the importance that patents play in contemporary scientific research, our legal research will give specific attention to patents – integrated with broader ethical imperatives and socio-economic considerations. We will map the SA gene editing landscape, analyse freedom to operate for health research in SA, and analyse the global patent regime from a SA human rights perspective.

Project 2: Decolonise, Africanise, and democratise the law relating to gene editing. The law relating to gene editing is found in various sources, ranging from primary and secondary legislation to case law. However, these are often outdated, ambiguous, and not necessarily aligned with SA’s Constitutional values. Moreover, the extant South African law on health research often simply mimics or adapts European ethical and legal thought. Human gene editing provides us with an excellent opportunity to start to *decolonise* and *Africanise* our ethical and legal thinking. We will do this both (a) from a philosophical perspective, looking at various contemporary streams of African thought, and (b) from a local public opinion perspective.

Requirements: Doctoral degree in law, or, in the case of Project 1, in genetics or related field. Interested applicants should send their CVs, including the email addresses and phone numbers of two referees, and a letter of motivation (max 500 words) **by 28 February 2019** to ThaldarD@ukzn.ac.za.

THE PREMIER UNIVERSITY OF AFRICAN SCHOLARSHIP