

# The Carnegie-WITS Alumni Diaspora Programme

*Building the bridge between our past successes and our future achievements*

## About the Programme

The Carnegie-WITS Alumni Diaspora Programme, is an initiative of the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). The Programme is funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which seeks to stimulate research collaboration and networking amongst our leading research alumni who now live and work in academic institutions around the globe. Research Alumni who take part in this Programme will hold the title, **Carnegie-Wits Diaspora Fellow**.

The Health Sciences Research Office (HSRO) seeks to link with **research-active alumni** who would be willing to “come home” for short periods of time in order to **explore** research collaborations, **promote** exchanges of postgraduate students, and **contribute** to the building of other joint initiatives. Participating alumni spend one to two weeks (dependent on their commitments) in the Faculty, hosted by a Department and/or School.

### What is expected of alumni who participate?

- ◆ To assist/stimulate/conduct research, motivate/set up collaborations or to become co-supervisors in the area of research in which they are a specialist.
- ◆ To interact with staff and students in general, regarding research, in both formal and informal contexts. This may require two to three seminars, as well as meetings with individual researchers and postgraduate students.
- ◆ To explore/exchange: new research methodologies; ideas regarding the treatment of a specific research question; areas of potential research collaboration.
- ◆ To impart their insight and enthusiasm to young researchers in particular, the Carnegie Clinician PHD fellows.
- ◆ To give a general, 40-minute seminar on an aspect of their research to the Faculty and to give 2 -3 talks in the department in which they will be hosted.
- ◆ Prior to their visit, each alumnus/a is expected to interact by Skype on at least two occasions with a key contact or member of the department that they will visit to establish contact, and to ensure that expectations on both sides are met.
- ◆ To provide feedback of their experience, outcomes and future collaborative projects, after the completion of their visit.

### Programme Goals

- ◆ Build partnerships to **foster relationships** with key alumni at international institutions;
- ◆ **Stimulate** research collaboration and networking;
- ◆ **Promote** exchanges of postgraduate students;
- ◆ **Build** joint initiatives;
- ◆ **Strengthen programmes** that have been initiated to date;
- ◆ Foster further supervision and mentoring links with alumni and together **build the next generation of outstanding researchers**.



Faculty Research Office  
3rd Floor, Phillip V Tobias  
Health Sciences Building  
cnr York Rd and Princess of  
Wales Terrace  
Parktown

Email: [diasporafhs@wits.ac.za](mailto:diasporafhs@wits.ac.za)

## Hosting a Carnegie-Wits Diaspora fellow

The Programme makes provision for six alumni visits a year. Successful visits result in the initiation of ongoing research collaboration. In addition, the Programme also allows for three Wits staff members to visit alumni institutions.



If you'd like to host a Fellow, you need to consider the following:

- ◆ Can you Identify an international researcher who you would like to invite?
- ◆ Is the researcher a Wits Faculty of Health Sciences graduate?
- ◆ What are the fields of research in which you would like to collaborate?
- ◆ What would you expect to gain from the interaction with the researcher alumnus/a? (e.g. exchange of lab/analysis techniques, a joint publication)
- ◆ How do you feel your research entity, or the Faculty, may benefit?
- ◆ Can you Identify **specific research outcomes** as a result of the visit, e.g. agreements to supervise post-graduates, potential research collaborations?
- ◆ Would you be willing to participate in the Programme over several years?
- ◆ Could you explore the possibility of sending postgraduate students to a collaborating institution?
- ◆ Are you able to assist with creating an academic programme for the visitor whilst he or she is at Wits?



### What does the Programme fund?

- ◆ Return economy class ticket
- ◆ Accommodation
- ◆ Car hire and transport
- ◆ All meals
- ◆ 'Preparation' funds for the Faculty host

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UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WITWATERSRAND,  
JOHANNESBURG



Email: [diasporafhs@wits.ac.za](mailto:diasporafhs@wits.ac.za)