7 June 2023

**POSTGRADUATE OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GRAPE AND WINE RESEACH INSTITUTE (SAGWRI) FOR 2024**

The following project can accommodate a PhD student from 2024, with a background in Oenology, Food Science, Chemistry or a related field. Preference will be given to students with experience in/knowledge of chemical analysis.

**Project Title: Using network analysis as a tool to perform multidimensional characterisation of distinctive SA Chenin blanc styles**

**Project description:**

The aim of this study will be to develop and implement an aroma network analysis to link volatile composition with corresponding aroma descriptors, quality ratings and typicality scores to identify distinctive SA Chenin blanc wine aroma properties.

The project will involve testing and adaptation of a rapid sensory profiling method (polarised projective mapping) as screeining tool to select a subset of wines spanning the same sensory space as a larger sample set constructed over multiple tasting sessions. The precise sensory profiles of the selected wines will be determined using a trained panel. New panel training strategies and sensory methods will be explored to obtain extensive sensory profiles focussing on both aroma and taste/mouthfeel. In-depth chemical analysis of a the selected set of Chenin blanc wines by means of gas chromatography techniques, GC-MS and/or GC-O will be conducted.

Network analysis will be conducted to relate the sensory profiles to the chemical analyses results.

This project will form part of a large scale project where oenological, microbiological and viticultural aspects will be studied to understand Chenin blanc quality parameters and dimensions to assist the wine industry with premiumisation.

**Contact person for the project: Dr Jeanne Brand** jeanne@sun.ac.za

**Please send a CV, as well as a cover letter to Dr Jeanne Brand or Prof Melané Vivier to indicate your interest in this opportunity.**

**General contacts for SAGWRI:**

Prof MA Vivier: Interim Director of SAGWRI

[mav@sun.ac.za](mailto:mav@sun.ac.za)

Ms Lorette de Villiers: Postgraduate Admin officer

lorette@sun.ac.za