

## **MSc Students**

**Class of 2023**

### **Kheya MOKOENA**



**Email:** 23149108@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Human Life Science) and BSc Honours (Biochemistry)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** Is mitochondrial dysfunction a putative marker of cardiometabolic disease in people living with HIV?

**Supervisor(s):** Prof. Hans Strijdom and co-supervisor Dr Ingrid Webster

### **Sesethu KETSE**



**Email:** sketse@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Microbiology and Physiology) and BSc Honours (Molecular Biology)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA) and Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform (BRIP)

**Project title:** DNA methylation profiling for breast cancer diagnosis in South African women

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Tarryn Willmer (SAMRC) and co-supervisors Dr Lawrence Mabasa (SAMRC) and Prof. Hans Strijdom

**Chloë MC DONALD**



**Email:** 22272011@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Human Life Sciences) and BSc Honours (Neuroscience)

**Research group:** Neuroscience Research Group

**Project title:** Does Maternal Exposure to Sexual Defeat and Prenatal Stress Result in a Predisposition to PTSD in Rat Offspring?

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Lihle Qulu and co-supervisor Dr Thando Shabangu

**Hannah MIDZUK**



**Email:** 26748215@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BHSc (Biomedical Sciences) and BHSc Honours (Human Physiology - Cum Laude)

**Research group:** Neuroscience Research Group

**Project title:** The role of galanin on maternal behaviours in a female rat sexual defeat model

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Lihle Qulu and co-supervisor Dr Thando Shabangu

**Gemma KRAUSEY**



**Email:** 19038313@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BHSc (Biomedical Sciences) and BHSc Honours (Human Physiology - Cum Laude)

**Research group:** Stellenbosch University Reproductive Research Group (SURRG)

**Project title:** An investigation into the effects of SSRI antidepressants on sperm parameters - an in vitro study

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Bongekile Skosana, Dr Marguerite Blignaut and co-supervisor: Ms Lisa Marie Ferguson

**Jasmine ANDREWS**



**Email:** 26746328@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Medical Bioscience) and BSc Honours (Medical Physiology)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** Investigating the links between Chronic stress and autophagy in female Wistar rats

**Supervisor(s):** Prof, Faadiel Essop and co-supervisor Miss Megan Cairns

**Amy PRETORIUS**



**Email:** 22201831@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Medical Bioscience) and Honours (Medical Physiology)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** Comparing the Effectiveness of Imatinib and Melatonin Against Endothelin-1-Induced Proliferation of Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Gerald Maarman

**Stephen SOUTHWAY**



**Email:** 21214328@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Human Life Sciences) and Honours (Medical Physiology)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** Evaluating the biphasic effect of metformin in a 3-D cardiomyoblast model of insulin resistance

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Marguerite Blignaut

**Anique Wolmarans**



**Email:** 21785716@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Biochemistry and Physiology) and BSc Honours (Medical Physiology)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA) and the Neuroscience Research Group

**Project title:** Physiological effect of Cannabis and Psilocybin on the brain

**Supervisor(s):** Prof. Barbara Huisamen and co-supervisor Dr. Lihle Qulu

**Christoffel JUMAAR**



**Email:** 27421309@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Medical Laboratory Science-Distinction)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** Investigating the usefulness of a novel plasma 5-marker host biosignature to identify pulmonary hypertension in a post-tuberculosis context in a South African cohort

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Gerald Maarman

**Garth WENTLEY**



**Email:** 21670951@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Human Life Sciences) and Honours (Medical Physiology)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** Delineating the novel effects of melatonin in differentiated C2C12 myotubes in the presence and absence of pathology

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Gerald Maarman

**Joshua MATTHEE**



**Email:** [19382650@sun.ac.za](mailto:19382650@sun.ac.za)

**Qualifications:** BSc (Human Life Science) and BSc Honours (Medical Physiology)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA).

**Project title:** Aspalathus linearis as possible SGLT2 inhibitor - its effects on myocardial mitochondria

**Supervisor(s):** Prof. Barbara Huisamen

**Kriston BASSON**



**Email:** [20010834@sun.ac.za](mailto:20010834@sun.ac.za)

**Qualifications:** BSc (Human Life Sciences) and BSc Honours (Medical Physiology) (SU).

**Research group:** Stellenbosch University Reproductive Research Group (SURRG)

**Project title:** The effect of diet induced obesity on fertility: A comparative study between male and female Wistar rats

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Bongekile Skosana and co-supervisor Dr Shantal Windvogel

**Michael RABELA**



**Email:** [20872267@sun.ac.za](mailto:20872267@sun.ac.za)

**Qualifications:** BSc (Chemistry and Biochemistry) and BSc Honours (Biochemistry)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** The role of ATM in aged, obese adult rat aortic endothelial cells and cardiomyoblast

**Supervisor(s):** Prof. Barbara Huisamen and co-supervisors Dr Marguerite Blignaut

**Anri KOTZE**



**Email:** 19222114@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Human Life Science) and BSc Honours (Medical Physiology)

**Research group:** Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform (BRIP)

**Project title:** Maternal methyl donor nutrients and fetal epigenetic programming of breast cancer risk in female Wistar rat offspring

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Lawrence Mabasa (MRC)



**Barend GROENEWALD**



**Email:** 20697163@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Human Life Sciences) and BSc Honours (Medical Physiology-Cum Laude)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** Establishment of a novel, insulin resistant, high throughput H9c2 cardiomyoblast spheroid model

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Marguerite Blignaut, Dr Nireshni Chellan and Prof. Barbara Huisman

**Sara SHABOODIEN**



**Email:** 21304637@sun.ac.za

**Qualification:** BSc (Human Life Science) and BSc Honours (Medical Physiology - Cum Laude)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** The novel effect of Aspalathus Linearis (Rooibos) on platelet derived growth factor-induced proliferation of rat pulmonary artery smooth muscle cells (RPASMC)

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Gerald Maarman and Dr Erna Marais

**Hannah FOKKENS**



**Email:** 21992649@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BMedSci Physiology and BSc Honours (Medical Physiology)

**Research group:** Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform (BRIP)

**Project title:** Understanding the genetic basis of hypertension in an African population

**Supervisors:** Prof. Rabia Johnson, Dr Jyoti Sharma

**Dr Steve JACOBS**



**Email:** steve04jacobs@gmail.com

**Qualifications:** MBChB and BSc Honours (Medical Physiology)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** Investigating the involvement of pro-inflammatory and endothelial dysfunction markers in the progression of tuberculosis to pulmonary arterial hypertension.

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Gerald Maarman

**Yashthi RAMSUNDER**



**Email:** 21911886@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Human Life Sciences) and BSc Honours (Medical Physiology)

**Research group:** Stellenbosch University Reproductive Research Group (SURRG)

**Project title:** The effect of stress on male fertility

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Bongekile Skosana

**Corné GROBLER**



**Email:** 21555168@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Human Life Sciences with Psychology) and BSc Honours (Medical Physiology)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** The activation of ATM in response to exercise: evaluation of cardiac ATM expression in a male Wistar rat model of exercise compared to no exercise fed a normal or high fat diet.

**Supervisor(s):** Prof. Barbara Huisamen and co-supervisor Dr Marguerite Blignaut

**Candice FEBRUARIE**



**Email:** Februariec@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc Honours (Molecular Biology)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA) and VuyoLab

**Project title:** Molecular mechanisms of first line TB-drug induced cardiotoxicity in a differentiated H9c2 rat ventricular cardiomyoblast model.

**Supervisor(s):** Dr V Mavumengwana (SAMRC) and co-supervisors: Dr Lucinda Baatjies, Dr Marguerite Bignaut and Mr Kudzanai Tapfuma

**Caitlin ODENDAAL**



**Email:** 21606005@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc Human Life Sciences (Biology) and BSc Hons. Physiology

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** Getting to the heart of chronic stress: an assessment of the effects on mitochondrial function and dynamics

**Supervisor(s):** Prof. Faadiel Essop and co-supervisors Dr Gerald Maarman and Dr Danzil Joseph

**Ayesha Rasheed SHAIK**



**Email:** 20150113@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc Human Life Sciences and BSc Hons Physiology

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA) and Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform (BRIP)

**Project title:** Investigating DNA methylation of metabolic and inflammatory genes with therapeutic potential for obesity: A cohort study in South African women

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Tarryn Willmer and co-supervisors Dr Carmen Pheiffer and Prof. Faadiel Essop

**Cassidy O'BRIEN**



**Email:** 20880081@sun.ac.za or cassidyobrien4@gmail.com

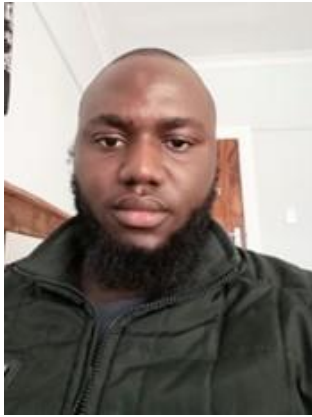
**Qualifications:** Certificate in entrepreneurship, BSc (Human life sciences with psychology) and BSc Honours (Physiological sciences)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** Explaining the role of nonoxidative glucose pathways in terms of stress-related rat endothelial dysfunction

**Supervisor(s):** Prof. Faadiel Essop

**Rudzani RAMASHIA**



**Email:** 25505963@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Biochemistry and Microbiology) and BSc Honours (Molecular Biochemistry)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** Investigating the efficacy of novel curcumin derivatives on skeletal muscle insulin resistance

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Babalwa Jack (SAMRC), Prof. Carmen Pheiffer (SAMRC), Dr Shantel Windvolgel (SU) and Prof. Salam Titinchi (UWC)

**Logan SMITH**



**Email:** 21166978@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Human Life Sciences with Psychology) and BSc Honours (Physiological Sciences)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** Establishing a specific, accurate, high-throughput and reproducible method for the ID of novel biomarkers which links chronic psychosocial stress and disease onset.

**Supervisor(s):** Prof. Faadiel Essop and co-supervisor Dr Danzil Joseph

**Thato KGATLA**



**Email:** 20442807@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Molecular and Life Sciences) and Honours (Physiology-Cum Laude)

**Research group:** Centre for Cardio-metabolic Research in Africa (CARMA)

**Project title:** Investigating the novel role of metallothioneins in Rooibos-induced cardioprotection using a cardiomyoblast model of Angiotensin-II induced hypertrophy and apoptosis

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Gerald Maarman and co-supervisor Prof. Rabia Johnson (SAMRC)

**Sharnay NAIDOO**



**Email:** 19358784@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc Honours (Biochemistry)

**Research group:** Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform (BRIP).

**Project title:** Ubiquinone (CoQ) ameliorates mitochondrial bioenergetics & apoptosis in an in vitro model of doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Gerald Maarman and co-supervisor Prof. Rabia Johnson (SAMRC)

**Mpho MOKOAPE**

**Email:** 25973924@sun.ac.za

**Qualifications:** BSc (Microbiology and Biochemistry) and BSc Honours (Molecular Biochemistry)

**Research Group:** Biomedical Research and Innovation Platform (BRIP)

**Project title:** The effect of diet composition on the intestinal barrier in models of metabolic disease development

**Supervisor(s):** Dr Sylvia Riedel (SAMRC) and Dr Hanél Sadie-van Gijsen