Postdoctoral Fellowship: Wine-as-a system metabolic analysis of grape and wine matrices to study climate change impacts.

Starting Date: April 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter
Duration: 36 months, but renewable yearly
Location: South African Grape and Wine Research Institute (SAGWRI) and the Department of Viticulture and Oenology (DVO) at Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Proportion of work: full-time
Salary: R350K/annum (tax-free)
Desired level of education: PhD

What we do: At SAGWRI/DVO we perform a wide spectrum of grape and wine based research, including but not limited to grapevine biology and biotechnology; yeast and bacterial biology and biotechnology; digital viticulture; grapevine x environment x management interactions; microbial diversity and evolution; wine production and analytics as well as wine sensory science.

Aim of the fellowship: The candidate will be involved in the development/optimisation and implementation of chemical analytical methodology in projects aiming to assess the impact of climate change on grape and wine metabolic profiles, and will involve the chemical analysis and quantification of metabolites from vine to wine. Several cultivars will be assessed throughout the growth cycle of the vines, with analysis following the berry matrices, juice and wine matrices as well as model wine solutions.

Where we are: SAGWRI/DVO is located at Stellenbosch University in Stellenbosch in the Western Cape province of South Africa. We have access to well-equipped laboratories, experimental vineyards, as well as an experimental cellar. Analytical instruments are available in-house in our Chemical Analytical support unit (CAlab), as well as through the central analytical facilities of Stellenbosch University. (Refer to the website for more information https://sagwri.sun.ac.za/).

Requirement: PhD (must have graduated within the last five years)

Who we are looking for: A highly motivated and ambitious individual with a strong background in analytical chemistry techniques and chemometrics, with the ability to independently operate HPLC, UPLC and particularly GC-MS (using Agilent MassHunter software) instruments. Previous experience working with grapevine and/or wine matrices in analytical workflows, as well as analytical method development and validation are requirements. The successful candidate should be able to work independently on the analytical techniques as well as in a team, alongside the analysts and students in the Chemical Analytical support unit. It is expected that the candidate will drive their project while also providing inputs in/support to the analytical chemistry strategies of other researcher projects conducted in SAGWRI/DVO. The fellow will be supervised by a panel of three academic advisors to ensure maximal support and progress.

What we offer: A fully funded three-year post-doctoral fellowship of R350K/annum (tax-free) is available, but the fellowship would be renewable yearly, based on progress against the agreed-upon fellowship goals. Stellenbosch University expects postdoctoral fellows to primarily be involved in research and the generation of publication outputs from their projects, but limited co-supervision of post-graduate students and/or involvement with training activities are allowed. The fellow would also have access to the full spectrum of research support offered by Stellenbosch University

We invite all interested candidates to apply by sending a letter of application, a comprehensive CV, including publications achieved, as well as the contact information for two references to mav@sun.ac.za by 10 March 2023.

For any further information, please contact Prof Melane Vivier at mav@sun.ac.za.