



University of Cape Town Lung Institute

DIRECTOR – AFRICAN BIOINFORMATICS INSTITUTE (ABI)

The **African Bioinformatics Institute (ABI)** has been established to support the growth of life science research across the African continent. It is a virtual institute linking Group Leaders at institutions across the continent, led from a central hub housing the Director and secretariat. The ABI aims to promote and facilitate world class bioinformatics research and provide bioinformatics training and support. The ABI invites applications for the position of **Director**, who will provide strategic, scientific, and operational leadership to establish and grow the institute as a leading continental hub for bioinformatics and computational biology.

The Director will be responsible for driving research excellence, strengthening collaborative networks across Africa and internationally, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the institute through effective governance, partnerships, and resource mobilization.

Minimum Requirements:

- PhD degree, MD degree or equivalent
- At least 10 years of experience in scientific research
- A distinguished record of research achievements and peer-reviewed publications in bioinformatics, genomics, “omics”, data science, or related fields
- Demonstrated leadership experience at an international or consortium level within academia, research institutions, or industry
- Strong understanding of bioinformatics and computational biology, with knowledge of emerging trends and technologies in the field, and experience in supporting projects in bioinformatics or data needs
- Demonstrated experience in building partnerships at regional or continental level
- Proven ability to manage multi-institutional research initiatives and budgets across countries or institutions
- Successful track record in securing research funding through grants and partnerships
- Excellent communication, networking, and partnership-building skills
- Citizenship of an African country or a strong record of involvement in African science

Attributes & Behaviours

- High degree of integrity and confidentiality
- High attention to detail and accuracy
- Ability to follow processes and procedures
- Ability to work well under pressure
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills – both verbal and written
- Proactive self-starter with the ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Strategic visionary leadership

Responsibilities include (but not limited to):

- Provide strategic leadership and develop a clear vision for the African Bioinformatics Institute in line with its mission and bylaws
- Establish and oversee the operational and governance structures of the institute
- Promote research excellence and interdisciplinary collaboration in bioinformatics and computational biology
- Build and strengthen partnerships with academic institutions, research organizations, industry stakeholders, government bodies, and funding agencies
- Lead bioinformatics capacity-building initiatives, including training programs, workshops, and courses across Africa
- Oversee the provision of bioinformatics services, including analytical support and core African databases and resources
- Drive resource mobilization efforts through successful grant applications, partnerships, and service-based funding initiatives
- Position ABI as a continental and global leader in genomics and bioinformatics
- Represent the institute at regional and international scientific forums and policy platforms

Additional Information:

- **Additional Information:**
- **Position Type:** Full-time
- **Contract Type:** Fixed-Term Contract for a period of thirty-six (36) months
- **Location:** The primary work location will be communicated to shortlisted candidates and confirmed during the interview process. The successful candidate will have a choice of 3 possible locations.
- **Working Hours:** Working hours will be in accordance with organisational requirements and will be discussed and agreed upon during the interview process

To apply, interested applicants are requested to apply to [click here](#) complete the online application process with a cover letter, contact information of three professional references and an updated CV highlighting qualifications, research achievements, and leadership experience.

Closing Date: this call for applications will close on the 30 June 2026

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Should you not receive a response within 30 days of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY STATEMENT

The University of Cape Town Lung Institute is committed to equity in our employment practices and reserves the right not to appoint.

The selection process will be guided by the Employment Equity Plan and Targets of the University of Cape Town Lung Institute (Pty) Ltd.

POPIA STATEMENT

Please note that when applying for any position, reference checks will be completed, and personal information defined in the protection of personal information Act 4 of 2013 will be processed. In applying for this position, applicants will be deemed to have consented to such processing as defined in the policy statement.

***Please Note: This Position is not on UCT Conditions of Service.**
