

DIPLOMICS program manager

October 2017

The Centre for Proteomic and Genomic Research (CPGR) is seeking to fill a program management position to manage a Strategic Research Infrastructure project related to “Omics” capacity in South Africa (DIPLOMICS). The candidate will organise, coordinate and manage activities to achieve the program’s vision, mission and objectives.

This position will be in effect until March 2020, with the possibility of extending it thereafter. The position is situated in Cape Town, South Africa. The position reports to the CPGR’s project portfolio manager.

Remuneration will be market-related.

Key activities include but are not limited to:

- Formulating annual strategic plans for DIPLOMICS, in accordance with the program’s original vision, mission, objectives
- Assessing and revising the DIPLOMICS governance, management and operational model, in response to strategic needs and opportunities
- Managing program risks and opportunities in a pro-active and effective manner
- Ensuring alignment with key national initiatives, institutions and government departments, in order to optimize DIPLOMICS resource utilization and to amplify the impact it can make
- Coordinating activities, resources, and information, as required
- Liaising with stakeholders to identify and define program requirements, scope and objectives
- Developing an effective stakeholder engagement strategy and plan
- Helping prepare project proposals, timeframes, schedules, and budgets
- Monitoring and tracking program progress and handling any issues that arise
- Acting as the point of contact and communicating program status adequately to all project participants and stakeholders
- Using management tools to monitor working hours, budget, plans and money spend, as required by the project
- Preparing program reports to internal and external stakeholders and escalating to management as needed
- Establishing and maintaining beneficial relationships with all DIPLOMICS stakeholders and clients
- Maintaining an excellent level of knowhow, including relevant technologies and scientific trends
- Engaging with omics facilities to exchange, generate and translate knowledge to foster learning and innovation
- Attending conferences, seminars with relevance to DIPLOMICS core technologies and core scientific trends

Requirements

- 5+ years of experience in project management dealing with omics technologies, or the application thereof, in a scientific, strategic, and/or investment manner
- Previous experience in dealing with stakeholders in multi-disciplinary projects and programs, including government, academia and industry
- Excellent stakeholder-facing and internal communication skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Solid organizational skills including attention to detail and multitasking skills
- Strong working knowledge of Microsoft Office and of project management tools
- BS/BA in a related field, preferably an MSc or PhD in a science or engineering field combined with an MBA
- Ability to travel (up to 30% of time)
- PMP / PRINCE II certification is a plus

About DIPLOMICS

DIPLOMICS is an initiative of the Department of Sciences and Technology (DST) with the vision of helping to make South Africa a leading player in 'omics' based translational research and bio-economic development. It is part of the Department's long-term SARIR (South African Research Infrastructure Roadmap) program.

Through DIPLOMICS, the DST aims to convert the wealth contained in (South) Africa's biological systems (human, plant, animal, other) into local value through stimulating and enabling high performance omics-based innovation. DIPLOMICS aims to achieve this by building a high-quality, output-driven, customer-centric, cost-effective research infrastructure that maximizes returns gained from investments into omics capacity in South Africa.

In this context, infrastructure is more than the amalgamation of physical assets: it is the sum of all the corresponding resources (including, in particular, human), capabilities and productivities realized with investments made in 'omics' infrastructure.

DIPLOMICS goals are to:

- Coordinate system activities through alignment and cooperation of dedicated omics facilities and initiatives
- Enhance system productivity through standardization of omics activities and the implementation of coherent output performance measures
- Increase access to and utilization of omics-based infrastructure through training and educational efforts, with a particular emphasis on young black female individuals
- Leverage DST investment (in financial terms) through attraction of additional funding, partnering with other stakeholders (public, private, Africa and international) and support of national priority projects (eg Precision Medicine)
- Develop a unique but world-class South African omics brand that encourages and drives local value creation with a global outlook

DIPLOMICS is envisaged to become a significant contributor to realizing the DST's bio-economy strategy and other relevant government policy frameworks

About the CPGR

The Centre for Proteomic and Genomic Research (CPGR) is one of Africa's first fully integrated 'omics' service providers, built to leapfrog South Africa's ability to conduct information-rich biomedical research onto a globally competitive level. Amongst others, the organization offers the following 'omics' capacity: Next-Generation Sequencing: NextSeq500 (1x), MiSeq (1x), MiniSeq (1x), IonTorrent PGM (2x), IonProton (1x), for sequencing projects; Microarrays: Affymetrix GS 3000 and Affymetrix GeneTitan for genotyping and gene-expression analysis; Mass spectrometry: Thermo Q Exactive, Waters Xevo TQS triple quadrupole, SCIEX API4000 triple quadrupole and ABI 4800 MALDI-ToF/ToF for MS-Proteomics; High-throughput PCR: QuantStudio 12K Flex Real-Time PCR System, QuantStudio 3D Digital PCR System and ABI 7900 for qRT-PCR and genotyping applications; Automated DNA/RNA QC, library handling and sample processing; dedicated IT infrastructure and bioinformatic applications for data analysis and interpretation.

The CPGR is a non-profit company located in Cape Town, South Africa, based on an initiative by the [Department of Science and Technology](#) (DST), and financially supported by the [Technology Innovation Agency](#) (TIA). The CPGR combines state-of-the-art information rich genomic and proteomic ('omics') technologies with bio-computational pipelines to render services and support projects in the life science and biomedical arena in (South) Africa, all run in an ISO 9001:2015 certified and ISO 17025 compliant [quality management system](#). Among others, the CPGR has recently launched an [accelerator program](#) to stimulate the creation of South African start-ups based on 'omics' technologies and set up [Artisan Biomed](#) to develop and implement Precision Medicine solutions in (South) Africa. The organization uses the open-source [Baobab LIMS](#) for sample and data tracking; and, it has recently implemented a [DRAGEN](#) platform to enhance the development and execution of high-speed/high-volume NGS data-sets.

Information about the CPGR can be obtained at www.cpgr.org.za and www.cpgr.org.za/blog.