

Curriculum Vitae



Personal Information

First name: Christopher	Partner No.: 2 Wits
Surname: Mathew	Role in the consortium: Research task leader
Title/s: Professor	
Gender: Male	
Nationality: South African	
Official name of the institution: University of the Witwatersrand	Phone: +27 (0) 11 717 6617
Official name of your department: Sydney Brenner Institute for Molecular Bioscience	Fax: N/A
City: Johannesburg Country: South Africa	Email: christopher.mathew@kcl.ac.uk
	Legal status: Academic Public

Major Scientific Expertise

I am a molecular geneticist with over 40 years of experience in the discovery of genes associated with susceptibility to cancer. My role at the SBIMB/Wits is to develop an internationally competitive research program on role of genetics and genomics in major cancers in the South African Black population (SAB), and to train a new generation of African scientists in cancer genomics. Current research projects include genome-wide association studies in three common cancers (breast, cervical and oesophageal squamous cell cancer) in the SAB population to identify genetic variants which increase susceptibility to these cancers. I lead the South African team on the NCI/NIH global breast cancer genetics CONFLUENCE project, and we are collaborating with Prof. D Eason in Cambridge UK on sequencing a panel of breast cancer genes in 1000 breast cancer cases and controls to define the role of rare variants in young African patients. We also collaborate with the Sanger Institute, UK, on using whole genome and RNA sequencing to define the major driver genes and mutations in African oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma. I have published >280 papers and have an h-index of 91 with >44,000 citations.

Employment history

- since 2020 Emeritus Professor of Molecular Genetics, King's College London
- since 2015 Distinguished Professor in Human Genetics, University of Witwatersrand
- 1999-2020 Professor of Molecular Genetics, King's College London
- 1989-1998 Director, DNA Diagnostics Laboratory, Regional Genetics Centre
- 1986-1989 Team Leader, Institute of Cancer Research

Qualifications

- 2001 Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences UK
- 1997 Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists (FRCPath), London, UK
- 1980 PhD, University of London (Molecular Biology)
- 1977 BSc Honours, University of Port Elizabeth, South Africa (Biochemistry)

Scientific Activities, Achievements and Awards

- 2017 Awarded A rated Professor by the National Research Foundation RSA
- 2014-2016 Thomson Reuters global list of most highly cited researchers in field
- 2000-2015 Scientific Advisory Board, Fanconi Anemia Research Fund USA
- 2010-2016 Chairman, Cancer Research UK Cancer Genome Consort Review Panel
- 2008-2011 Vice-Chairman, Cancer Research UK Science Res. Funding Committee
- 2011 Distinguished Service Award, Fanconi Anemia Research Fund, USA
- 2001 Elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences UK

Selected Research Grants

- Evolving risk factors for cancers in African populations: Co-PI with D. Bradshaw; Newton Fund for Non-communicable diseases in Africa. South African & UK Medical Research Councils 2017-2022.
- Genomic Analysis of African Oesophageal Cancer; Newton Fund for Non-communicable diseases in Africa. SA PI M. Iqbal Parker; UK PIs C. Mathew & P. Jones. South African & UK Medical Research Councils 2017-2022.
- Genetic risk factors for breast cancer in South Africa: A discovery, testing and counselling pathway. Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA). Principal Investigators C. Mathew & M. Urban, 04/2022 – 03/2025.
- Multi-modality early detection of head and neck cancer recurrence: Cancer Research UK Early Detection programme grant (2021-2026). PI Tony Ng (King's College London), Co-Is: J. Burchell, A. Coolen, M. Curtis, C. Mathew. E. Sawyer (KCL).

Publications

1. Sengayi-Muchengeti M, ..., Mathew CG, Sitas F (2022). Thirteen cancers associated with HIV infection in a Black South African cancer patient population (1995 – 2016). *Int J Cancer*, in press.
2. Hayat M, ..., **Mathew CG** (2021). Genetic susceptibility to breast cancer in sub-Saharan African populations. *JCO Journal of Global Oncology*: 2021 Sep;7:1462-1471. doi: 10.1200/GO.21.00089.
3. Ferndale L, ..., **Mathew CG** (2021). Processing and analysis of blood and tissue samples from oesophageal cancer patients in an African setting. *Biopreserv Biobanking*. Aug 12. doi: 10.1089/bio.2021.0030. PMID: 34388042.
4. Chen, Wenlong C, ..., **Mathew CG** (2019). Association of genetic variants in CHEK2 with oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma in the South African Black population, *Carcinogenesis* 40(4):513-520. doi: 10.1093/carcin/bgz026.
5. Onoufriadis A, ..., **Mathew CG***, Prescott NJ* (*Joint senior author) (2018). Exome sequencing and genotyping identify a rare variant in NLRP7 gene associated with ulcerative colitis. *J Crohns Colitis* 12: 321–326.