

Taking LSUHSC to the world and bringing the world to LSUHSC

Chindo Hicks, Ph.D.

Director of the LSUHSC Bioinformatics and Genomics Program



Figure 1. South African delegation from Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) led by Professor Zodwa Dlamini (front middle in black attire), Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation & Engagements being welcomed by Dr. Hicks during their visit to LSUHSC-School of Medicine and LSUHSC's Bioinformatics and Genomics Program on October 17th, 2017.

A South African delegation from Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT), led by Professor Zodwa Dlamini, Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation & Engagements visited LSUHSC-School of Medicine and LSUHSC's Bioinformatics and Genomics Program on October 17th 2017 to explore potential areas of collaboration between LSUHSC-SOM and MUT. The delegation was welcomed by LSUHSC-SOM Dean, Steve Nelson, M.D., and Chindo Hicks, Ph.D., Professor of Genetics and Director of LSUHSC's Bioinformatics and Genomics (BIG) Program.

The visit by the MUT delegation was designed to explore and discuss areas of mutual benefits between the two institutions and the two countries, in driving the research and innovation agenda to deliver solutions and improve human health in South African and the world. The visit followed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between LSUHSC and MUT earlier this year.

In July 10-14, 2017, Dr. Hicks represented LSUHSC at the Technology, Research, Innovation and Engagement week held in Durban, South Africa. Collaboration between the two institutions covers biomedical research, joint grant applications, technology development, and student and staff exchange. The partnership has already resulted in a joint publication of a manuscript on prostate cancer in a peer-reviewed Journal. "Biomarker Insights" led by Dr. Hicks, is a 3 year pilot grant funded by the South African Medical Research Council focused on genomics of cervical cancer in South Africa led by Professor Dlamini of MUT with Dr. Hicks providing bioinformatics support, and a bioinformatics training fellowship grant from the National Research Foundation of South Africa to train fellows from MUT at LSUHSC within the Bioinformatics and Genomic Program.

Dr. Hicks in partnership with Professor Dlamini are currently developing a training plan for two fellows from MUT for submission to LSUHSC's Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Dr. Joseph M. Moerschbaeher for approval. The goal is to have the two fellows joining LSUHSC's Bioinformatics and genomics Program in the spring of 2018.

