

## RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!

**We are recruiting participants for a study on Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and brain structure / function.**

OCD is a psychiatric disorder characterised by unwanted, distressing ideas, images or impulses, which repeatedly enter an individual's mind (obsessions) and/or repetitive behaviours, rituals or mental acts (i.e. thought rituals) (compulsions). There is evidence suggesting that certain parts of the brain (e.g. the basal ganglia) and specific brain chemicals (e.g. serotonin and dopamine) are important in mediating this condition.

**This study investigates how the brains of people with OCD work in comparison to the brains of healthy individuals.**

**We are inviting people with OCD, siblings of people with OCD, as well as healthy individuals, to take part in our research study.**

People with OCD can take part if OCD is their primary complaint, and if they are not taking medication or in therapy for the treatment of OCD (in the last 6 weeks).

Unaffected (i.e. no mental illness) siblings of people with OCD can also take part.

To be included as a healthy participant, you must have no history of mental illness (such as depression).

**If you are interested, your participation will include a comprehensive diagnostic interview, completion of questionnaires and a neuropsychological assessment. Some participants will also be asked to complete brain imaging (MRI).** Participation is voluntary and confidential, and you can withdraw at any time. The interviews will take place at the MRC Unit on Risk and Resilience in Mental Disorders, Department of Psychiatry at the Tygerberg campus of Stellenbosch University.



Please contact the principal investigator, Prof Christine Lochner ([cl2@sun.ac.za](mailto:cl2@sun.ac.za) ; 021 938 9179) or her research assistants Ms Mandi Broodryk ([OCDRSA@sun.ac.za](mailto:OCDRSA@sun.ac.za) ; 021 938 9121) or Mr Lian Taljaard ([liant@sun.ac.za](mailto:liant@sun.ac.za) ; 021 938 9654).