

# Massachusetts – South Africa Technology Fellowship Program

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The 2013-2014 Massachusetts-South Africa (M-SAT) Fellowship Program brought together twenty-four mid-level professionals from Massachusetts and South Africa for a two-way workplace exchange designed to create beneficial peer relationships, promote cultural competency and strengthen professional skills. Individuals selected to participate in the Fellowship Program were drawn from technology sectors that are of major importance to both Massachusetts and South Africa, including Life Sciences, Information Technology and Technology Transfer. The M-SAT was part of the U.S. Department of State Professional Fellows Program and was led by Bentley University and South Africa Partners.



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*M-SAT Fellow Nondumo Zulu at OPK Biotech  
Cambridge, MA, April 2013*

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Fourteen South African Fellows between 25 and 40 years of age were selected through a competitive application process that was widely advertised within South Africa and included a personal interview for finalists in South Africa. Selected Fellows spent one week at Bentley University, three weeks placed in a Boston area company or institution, and one week in Washington, DC at the Professional Fellows Congress. All travel, accommodation and daily expenses were covered by the Fellowship. South African Fellows were mentored by a senior manager and paired with a peer working on similar issues in the field. The American peer then traveled to South Africa for two weeks as a U.S. Fellow in a reciprocal worksite placement. The first cohort of six South African Fellows traveled to the United States in April, 2013, the second cohort of eight in October, 2013. In exchange, their American peers visited South Africa in July, 2013 and January, 2014.



Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges, Professional Fellows Program Division in cooperation with Bentley University and South Africa Partners



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*South African Fellows in Boston, October, 2013*

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In each direction, the Fellowship included an orientation to the history, culture, government and economy of the country; an introduction to the technology and innovation sector, a worksite placement and additional site visits and opportunities to build both personal and professional relationships.

Evaluation of the program by both participants and hosts were uniformly positive, stressing the value of observing and comparing first-hand the technology sector and innovation ecosystem in each respective country. Professional and personal connections flourished and will endure: participants continue to work together on several joint projects and to develop formal business relationships between Massachusetts and South African companies and institutions.



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*U.S. Fellows in Johannesburg, February, 2014*

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## HOST ORGANIZATIONS

### *In South Africa:*

- *SITA (State Information and Technology Agency), Pretoria*
- *Savant Analytic, Cape Town*
- *TIA (Technology Innovation Agency), Pretoria*
- *Diacoustic Medical Devices, Stellenbosch*
- *Sun International, Johannesburg*
- *iLab, Johannesburg*
- *University of the Western Cape, Office of Tech Transfer*
- *Quorus Biotech, Cape Town*
- *CSIR (Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research), Pretoria*
- *BWired Broadband, Johannesburg*
- *University of Pretoria, Office of Tech Transfer*

### *In Boston/Cambridge:*

- *Mass Medic*
- *M2D2, U. Mass Lowell*
- *Mass Broadband*
- *Mass. Life Sciences*
- *Cambridge Innovation Center*
- *MIT Technology Licensing Office*
- *State Street Financial*
- *Biogen Idec*
- *North Shore Innoventures*
- *Tufts University Tech Transfer*
- *Cubist Pharmaceuticals*
- *LogMeIn*
- *Boston University Technology Development Office*
- *OPK Biotech*

*South Africa was not among the countries designated by the Department of State for the Professional Fellows Program for 2015-2016.*