Dear Mr Coetzer

I graduated in March 2011 (M.Nutrition). The title of my thesis is “Pycnogenol for the treatment of chronic disorders” and my supervisors are Prof Jimmy Volmink and Mrs Janicke Visser.

Hereby, according to the instructions on [http://library.sun.ac.za/etd/afr/beleid.htm](http://library.sun.ac.za/etd/afr/beleid.htm) (and that we have only come to know of recently) I apply for approval to restrict access to my thesis for a specified period. My motivation is as follows:

- My thesis consists of a systematic review that is registered at the Cochrane Collaboration. Before publication in Cochrane format the final draft has to be further peer-reviewed by a multidisciplinary team identified by the Cochrane Collaboration. This may be a lengthy process after which I will receive a list of issues to address before the review can finally be published.

- The intervention we investigated in the systematic review is Pycnogenol. Pycnogenol is marketed worldwide as an antioxidant supplement for preventing the onset, alleviating symptoms or limiting progression of a wide range of chronic clinical disorders. (The South African supplement
Procydin is based on Pycnogenol. The manufacturer and distributor of Pycnogenol claims that their product is based on results of scientific research. However, we found that current evidence is not sufficient to support their claims.

- The manufacturer of Pycnogenol knows about this systematic review and is eagerly awaiting the results. The researchers do not want to make the results known (via a thesis) before the rigorous review process of the Cochrane Collaboration has been completed and it has been published as a Cochrane systematic review. The final review and correction process can take some time and as such it is difficult to estimate when the review will be published. Therefore I apply for restricting access to my thesis (and thus the results) until 15 December 2011.

Yours sincerely,

Anel Schoonees
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