



Research to policy in Africa: evidence synthesis for building a translation pipeline to eliminate infectious diseases

Call for a PhD Candidate

Overview

Decision making in public health including health care and control of diseases is increasingly dependent on synthesised and summarised evidence from primary studies. Policymakers require a mix of evidence synthesised and packaged in an understandable format to allow them to make informed policy decisions. Research to Policy in Africa Project will conduct evidence synthesis for HIV, tuberculosis and malaria using different research and knowledge sources to inform programmatic decisions and revisions to existing guidelines and develop new methods for integrating evidence syntheses from different fields. This project funded, by the UK Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Department for International Development (DFID) seeks to fill the following position:

Position: PhD student (1 position)

Location: Centre for Global Health Research, KEMRI, Kisumu

Reporting to: Study Principal Investigator

Consortium Partners

Africa:

- Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, South Africa
- Kenya Medical Research Institute/Centre for Global Health Research (KEMRI/CGHR), Kisumu, Kenya

Europe:

- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), Liverpool, United Kingdom

Expectations of the PhD Candidate

- This will be a four-year research PhD registered with Stellenbosch University, South Africa with no extension
- The PhD student will be based and hosted at KEMRI/CGHR, Kisumu with travel to Stellenbosch University at specified times for related training and administration purposes.
- The PhD student will develop a research proposal as per the project objectives, lead the conduct of systematic reviews/meta-analyses and methodology work of the project under the guidance of the supervisory team.
- For the duration of the project, the PhD candidate will be expected to produce a minimum of four first-authored peer-reviewed articles (published, accepted or submission-ready).

- Experience in conducting systematic reviews, meta-analyses or other forms of evidence synthesis will be particularly valued.

Support for the PhD Candidate

- PhD student stipend support for the duration of the award in accordance with rules and regulations of the hosting institution including health insurance cover in Kenya
- Cost of a training attachment at Stellenbosch University: PhD registration fees, Short courses fees, airfare, visa fees, accommodation and subsistence
- Costs of attending one international conference during the PhD period: visa fees, airfare, accommodation and subsistence
- Centralised training on research methods and principles of evidence synthesis and research translation
- A personal development programme and mentoring from an international collaboration of evidence synthesis centres at Stellenbosch in South Africa and LSTM in the UK

Eligibility

1. Must be citizens or permanent residents of Kenya
2. Masters degree or the equivalent, relevant to the area of study (**medicine, public health, epidemiology, biostatistics or related field**) and fulfilment of PhD entry requirements of Stellenbosch University. This is limited to applicants who obtained their masters no more than 3-5 years ago.
3. Willingness to commit 100% (full) time and effort to the PhD
4. Previous publications related to the research themes of the project will be an added advantage
5. Knowledge and skills relevant to the PhD topic (e.g. experience in evidence synthesis, or HIV, or TB or malaria research experience or related fields)
6. Personal motivation of the candidates as demonstrated by their motivation letter and responses during the interview
7. A candidate already registered for a PhD or holding another fellowship will only be considered if they are willing to drop their current commitments.

Application Procedure

The following documents should be included in the application

- Current curriculum vitae (use the NIH template for pre-doctoral fellows available on <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)
- A cover letter
- A motivation letter (max 1000 words). This should cover your academic and professional background, any experience in conducting or using systematic reviews, why you want to undertake a PhD, your plans after the PhD.
- Name and contacts of two referees, one should be your current supervisor

Deadline:

Applications should be sent electronically to the Human Resources Manager at KEMRI-CGHR cghr@kemri.org and copied to echoodo@sun.ac.za no later than 15th January 2019. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Shortlisted candidates will be screened by the project's PhD Review Panel in accordance with the Stellenbosch University admission criteria.