



**ONE HEALTH EAST AFRICA RESEARCH AND TRAINING (O-HEART) PROGRAM  
2018 PhD FELLOWSHIP  
February 2018**

**Overview:** The Ohio State University's (OSU) Global One Health initiative (GOHi) is the university's largest interdisciplinary example of institutional teamwork operating on a global scale. GOHi improves the health of communities, builds capacity among academic and public health professionals and provides learning opportunities for students, faculty and staff around the world.

GOHi's One Health East Africa Research and Training (O-HEART) Program aims to strengthen and sustain the international research-training program shared between OSU and Institutes of Higher Learning in eastern Africa. The specific mission of the program is to train the future researchers and trainers using an integrated multidisciplinary "One Health" approach. The ultimate goal is to establish sustainable research and training capacity for zoonotic infectious foodborne, vectorborne and waterborne pathogen research in eastern Africa. OHEART will build a critical mass of capable scientists that can effectively conduct research on infectious diseases, implement prevention tactics, and innovate control systems. The main targets of the program are four eastern African academic institutes, (University of Gondar and Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; University of Nairobi, Kenya and Sokoine University, Tanzania). There is the potential also for students to be affiliated with the research institutes: Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) or Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI).

OHEART is supported by a research training grant (titled: Sustainable One Health Research Training Capacity: Molecular Epidemiology of Zoonotic Foodborne, Vectorborne and Waterborne Pathogens in Eastern Africa) awarded by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH)-John E Fogarty International Center Global Infectious Diseases (GID) program (grant number 2D43TW008650-06). Ongoing activities of the program include research, pre-doctoral training of both PhD students, post-doctoral fellows, and short-term trainees that focuses on foodborne, vectorborne and waterborne pathogens, molecular epidemiology, bioinformatics and research ethics.

**The PhD Fellowship:** GoHi is recruiting candidates from partner institutes for the PhD fellowship in the following disciplines, but not limited to:

- PhD candidate in Medicine or Veterinary Medicine
- PhD candidate in Public Health or Biomedical Informatics
- PhD candidate in Applied Microbiology
- PhD candidate in Medical Microbiology
- PhD candidate in Veterinary Preventive Medicine
- PhD candidate in Tropical and Infectious Diseases
- PhD candidate in Molecular Epidemiology



➤ PhD candidate in Insect Physiology and Ecology

The PhD fellowship will begin on April 15, 2018 and end in 2022. The focus is on academic / research institutes identified as primary capacity strengthening partners: University of Gondar and Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; University of Nairobi, Kenya; and Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania and research institutes KEMRI and EPHI. Each institution is expected to announce this call to its entire academic / research units and nominate competitive candidates, which will then be screened and interviewed by the Selection and Oversight committee.

**Format:** This fellowship program will be conducted using a Sandwich format. PhD students will spend the first 6-9 months period in east Africa enrolled in home institutes, taking initial courses and making sure all prerequisites are fulfilled at the home institutes. All trainees are required to enroll in GOHI's regional One Health Summer Institute for the required courses in eastern Africa during the summer of 2018 (<https://globalonehealth.osu.edu/projects/summer-institute>). Trainees will then spend a maximum of 1.5 years for PhD at OSU as graduate fellows, conducting mentored research projects and developing a dissertation plan. After this period, trainees will continue their studies back at their home institutes (UoG, AAU, UoN, and SUA) and central laboratories (mainly at ICIPE, EPHI, KEMRI, BecA, ALIPB) for the remaining two years for completion of their PhD degree. PhDs must be completed within the 4 year grant period.

**Financial Support:** The successful fellow will receive full stipend support commensurate to the Fogarty award US PhD students for the US time period (maximum of 1.5 years for PhD). The fellow will continue to receive additional stipend support from the NIH Fogarty fellowship while relocated at the home institution at a regional pay rate during the in-country time periods when working in eastern Africa. In addition, tuition for courses at OSU will be covered through a collaborative student exchange program between OSU and partner institutes in eastern Africa. Partial thesis research costs, supplementary stipend and other benefits will be covered by the home country, as well as other extramural funding jointly developed by the candidate and co-mentors. Additional costs including a round trip airfare and other supplemental support will be covered from the NIH Fogarty fellowship award for the initial years and by the home institute thereafter.

**Terms of Fellowship:** The fellowship is for a fixed term of a maximum of Four years. The successful candidate will spend a maximum of 1.5 years for PhD at OSU and 2.5 years for PhD at a partner home university on a sandwich basis. The fellow will work very closely with the academic advisors from OSU and eastern African (home) University/institutes throughout the fellowship. Advisors will be matched based on qualifications and research interest.

**Requirements:** Interested applicants must meet the following primary conditions:

**Eligible Candidates for PhD Fellowship:**

Eligible candidates should be current academic staff members of the four academic institutes listed above or partner research organizations (KEMRI or EPHI), with an MSc or equivalent in



relevant fields of study. Candidates should also be eligible to register for or recently enrolled in a relevant PhD program at University of Gondar, Addis Ababa University, University of Nairobi, or Sokoine University of Agriculture; and committed to work on research projects on regional One Health issues as identified by the GOHi's One Health East Africa Research and Training (O-HEART) Program.

Applicants in the **advanced** stage of PhD program (**as determined by the Selection and Oversight committee**) will not be accepted into the program.

**Additional considerations:**

- relevant publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals
- excellent written and oral communication skills
- ability to work in multi-institutional and multi-cultural environments
- priority will be given to equally qualified female applicants

**Application documents:** Interested applicants must submit the following documents:

1. Proof of current registration or eligibility for PhD studies at the partner Universities (listed above).
2. A detailed Curriculum Vitae using the modified NIH biosketch format in Annex 1
3. A 2-page letter of intent describing research interests and future plans, structured as title, background, objectives, methods, and references.
4. Applicants are required to have proven commitment to work on eastern African regional priority issues and expected to be flexible for placement in partner program laboratories. At this stage, no detailed proposal for a thesis is expected from applicants.
5. Documentation is required from the relevant partner institution (AAU, UoG, SUA, UoN, KEMRI or EPHI) administrators supporting or indicating willingness to support the applicant's graduate training; and guaranteeing that the applicant will be retained as an employee of the institute upon graduation
6. Two letters of reference from current or past University lecturers, professors or advisors.
7. Official transcripts of prior course work from MSc program and any prior PhD course work
8. Optional but a competitive advantage: Official report from Educational Testing Services for GRE

Applications that do not meet the requirements by the deadline will not be reviewed. Selection of candidates will be conducted by Selection and Oversight Committee composed of faculty from OSU and the primary partner institutes from eastern Africa.

Application deadline: Apply by **March 9, 2018** by 5pm, Eastern Africa time, email only (as a single PDF document) to the Selection and Oversight Committee at the following e-mail address: [GOHi@osu.edu](mailto:GOHi@osu.edu)



Incomplete applications will be rejected and only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by March 23<sup>rd</sup> for an interview and selection will be determined by April 15, 2018. Members of the Selection and Oversight Committee will conduct interviews via Skype soon after the deadline. Applicants are encouraged to provide a reliable means of communication and be available when contacted.

*The content of this announcement is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.*



**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.  
Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.**

NAME:

POSITION TITLE:

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE <i>(if applicable)</i>	Start Date MM/YYYY	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY

**A. Positions and Honors**

**B. Publications**

**C. Additional Information: Research Experience, Support, and/or Scholastic Performance**