

PhDs for the “DESTINE: Delivering Effective Strategies for hepatitis C IN Ethiopia” research programme

This NIHR funded global research group programme is a collaboration between the Universities of Dundee, Bristol, Addis Ababa, Gondar, Mekelle, Jimma and the Hadassah - Hebrew University, as well as the Ethiopian Public Health Institute and the Armauer Hansen Research Institute.

Programme overview

Clinicians and the Ethiopian Government seek the development of a Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) strategy for Ethiopia. They have identified the need for implementation and scale-up of testing and treatment, and development of effective preventive strategies. This collaboration will generate epidemiological, modelling and pathways of care data for an Ethiopian context that will inform strategic planning for HCV and enhance associated research skill sets within four major Medical schools. These aims will be achieved in 3 Work Packages (WP). **WP1** will establish the prevalence and impact of HCV infection and parameters which determine disease progression. **WP2** will model the ongoing HCV epidemic in Ethiopia and the health consequences for those infected; it will estimate the impact and cost effectiveness of different testing and treatment strategies. **WP3** will co-develop with stakeholders, pathways of care to improve the diagnosis and access to treatment for HCV, testing their feasibility through piloting these pathways.

Project description

The core of the project with responsibility for delivering the work packages will be the 5 PhD studentships, each jointly supervised by a UK academic and an Ethiopian academic. Each of the 4 medical schools and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute will have an associated student, who will spend part of their training in Ethiopia and part in the UK.

- PhD 3 will train in Molecular epidemiology and evaluating new diagnostics based in University of Dundee and EPHI.

He/She will graduate with PhD from the University of Dundee. Up to 2 years of his/her time will be in the University of Dundee, focusing on generic research skills training, skills specific to Molecular epidemiology and developing research plans for implementation on his/her return to Ethiopia.

Specific studentship

This advert applies to PhD 3 hosted between the university of Dundee and EPHI. This post will work on Molecular epidemiology and evaluating new diagnostics, will be responsible for diagnosis and genetic characterization of HCV. He/she will develop the skills in planning and carrying out research involving HCV diagnosis in labs and point of care, as well as studies on molecular epidemiology of HCV.

Person specification

To apply for this post the candidate should have:

Required

- The motivation and application to achieve a PhD
- An undergraduate degree related to health science of 2:1 or higher or a Masters degree related to health science
- Competency in written and spoken English to at least IELTS 7.5 or equivalent

Desirable

- Have worked on HCV research
- Familiarity with ELISA based diagnostics or PCR
- Staff at The Ethiopian Public Health Institute
- Renewed passport

Applications

Should consist of a covering letter to explain reasons for application and suitability for the post as well as a full CV. The application should be sent to Bacterial Parasitic and Zoonotic Diseases Research Directorate at getas73@yahoo.com and The Destin Project Co-PI at dawwol@gmail.com , EPHI.

Closing date

November 20, 2021