

PhD's for the "DESTINE: Delivering Effective Strategies for hepatitis C IN Ethiopia" research program

This NIHR funded global research group program 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.

Program 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. **WP 3** 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, 2 in the University of Bristol and 3 at the University of Dundee.

1. PhD 1 will train in epidemiology based in University of Bristol and Institute of Health sciences, Jimma University.
2. PhD 2 will train in Disease Modelling based in University of Bristol and University of Gondar.
3. PhD 3 will train in Molecular epidemiology and evaluating new diagnostics based in University of Dundee and EPHI.
4. PhD 4 will evaluate diagnostic pathways and models on care based in University of Dundee and EPHI.
5. PhD 5 will evaluate treatment pathways and models on care based in University of Dundee and Addis Ababa University.

They will graduate with PhDs from the UK universities. Up to 2 years of their time will be in the UK institution, focusing on generic research skills training, skills specific to their individual projects and developing research plans for implementation on their return to Ethiopia.

Specific studentship

This advert applies to PhD 4 hosted between the universities of Dundee and EPHI this post will work on evaluation of diagnostic pathways and models on care, and will be responsible for data curation, specimen processing, and laboratory analysis, and will develop the following skills: data management, sample processing, laboratory analysis (ELISA technology), point-of-care diagnostics, genomic pathogen sequencing, bioinformatics, manuscript write-up, dissemination, and communication.

Person specification

To apply for this post the candidate must have:

- The motivation and application to achieve a PhD
- An undergraduate degree in a relevant subject at the equivalent of at least a upper second class degree.
- An MSc or MPH degree
- Competency in written and spoken English to at least IELTS 7.5 or equivalent
- Basic knowledge of ELISA-based laboratory analysis
- Work experience on point-of-care diagnostics
- At least two peer-reviewed publications as first or last author in similar topics
- At least 3 years of experience in similar areas of research.
- Experience using statistical packages, such as SPSS, STATA, EpiInfo, etc.
- Staff at EPHI

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