

MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR EQUITABLE SERVICES TO ALL UGANDANS (MESAU) A MEDICAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (MEPI)

CALL FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS' RESEARCH PROPOSALS

MESAU-MEPI a Consortium composed of Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Gulu University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Kampala International University, Busitema University and Johns Hopkins University will support 60 competitive research proposals to undergraduate students within the MESAU-MEPI Consortium from 15th March 2012. The awards will be based on the following criteria:

1. Proposals should be within your institutional research agenda
2. Multidisciplinary proposals are highly recommended
3. Preference will be given to applications that demonstrate a mix of junior and senior undergraduate students for mentorship
4. The proposed study must be significant, innovative, feasible, outline the approach, have a strong community component and be among the community priority research areas
5. Be among the best proposals developed after the course on proposal development
6. The study should fit within the proposed budget and should be of sound ethical and scientific standards.
7. The Principal Investigator (PI) must be *bonafide* undergraduate student of a MESAU-MEPI consortium institution.
8. The proposal should have two faculty members who will act as support investigators and mentors. One of the faculty identified should be indicated as the primary responsible faculty.
9. Applications must be recommended by a Dean of the Principle Investigator's institution.

Applicants must provide 1-2 page CV of each student and faculty investigator and with no more than five (recent) publications. The lead applicant must also provide a **Letter of Good Standing** from the Dean or Head of Department. The funds will be managed by the student PI and the primary responsible faculty.

Proposal structure

The proposal should not exceed **12 pages** excluding references and the budget. The proposal should include:

1. Title and affiliation page – 1 page. This page will have the project title (not exceeding 20 words); Names of the applicant(s), course pursued, year of study and their affiliation(s); e-mail address and telephone (mobile) numbers. It should also indicate primary responsible faculty member and the second responsible faculty member.
2. Abstract of the research proposal not more than 300 words (on a separate page) – structured as Aim, problem, methods, and likely impact
3. The main body of the proposal outlined as: introduction/background; problem statement; rationale; significance; objectives; methods; analysis plan; ethical considerations; timeline; budget with budget justification; and recent relevant references. Please note that the funds are for a period of 12 months from the time of award. This time period must be taken into consideration while designing your study.

It is important to note that, **publication(s)** will be the main deliverable of this grant. By the time of submitting a report of your project not later than 3 months after completion of the project (i.e. by month 15 after the award), there must be evidence that you have developed and/or submitted a manuscript or manuscripts to peer reviewed journal.

The maximum funds to be awarded to any proposal is \$3000.

Proposals to be submitted to the PI MESAU-MEPI by e-mail either as MS word or pdf document by 29th February 2012 at 5pm to mesaumepi@chs.mak.ac.ug/mesaumepi@gmail.com. Additional information can be obtained from Ms Harriet Nambooze hnambooze@gmail.com and Ms. Regina Namirembe reginanamirembe@yahoo.com

