BUILDING CAPACITY FOR GLOBAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESEARCH TRAINING IN SCHISTOSOMIASIS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
Grant Number: D43TW013275

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR FOUR (4) PhD FELLOWSHIPS

Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS), in collaboration with the NIH-funded Uganda Schistosomiasis Multidisciplinary Research Center at the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), and the Ministry of Health's Division of Vector-Borne and Neglected Tropical Diseases, has received funding from the National Institutes of Health Fogarty International Center to implement a schistosomiasis research training and career development program in Uganda.
The goal of this five-year program is to strengthen Uganda's capacity for advanced research training in schistosomiasis prevention, treatment and control.

The program invites applications for three-year PhD fellowships, tenable at either Makerere University (Mak) or (MUST). The fellowships will provide support towards tuition fees, stipend, research costs, and mentorship from experts affiliated with the following institutions: Johns Hopkins University; University of Washington; Texas Tech University; Brown University; African Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics; Infectious Diseases Institute, Mak; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Georgia; Pharm-Biotechnology and Traditional Medicine Centre (PHARMBIOTRAC) and Department of Biology, MUST; Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium; Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany; University of York; Aberystwyth University; Leiden University Medical Center; University of Cape Town; University of Notre Dame; Center for Research in Infectious Diseases (CRID); Imperial College London; and University of Glasgow; as required.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Hold a Master's degree in medicine, social sciences, biological sciences, biomedical sciences or another health-related field.
2. Be able to articulate a clear research problem related to schistosomiasis, including diagnostics, therapeutics, transmission, vaccine development, prevention and control.
3. Demonstrate an interest in schistosomiasis research and a commitment to developing a productive career in this field.
4. Demonstrate a basic understanding of schistosomiasis and an appreciation of how the proposed PhD training aligns with their career aspirations.
5. Be willing to undertake and complete all training activities mandated by the program.
6. Demonstrate a commitment to publishing research conducted under the fellowship in open-access, peer-reviewed journals.
7. Demonstrate a commitment to participating in public engagement activities aimed at promoting schistosomiasis control.
8. Prior research experience and/or authorship in schistosomiasis research will be an added advantage.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated interest in doctoral research training and conducting research focused on schistosomiasis.

2. Potential to successfully undertake the rigorous academic requirements of a doctoral program.
3. A clear plan for career development.
4. Demonstrated potential to develop research leadership and attain international recognition in schistosomiasis research.

Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted by email as **a single PDF document** to **schistomakug@gmail.com** and should include the following:

1. Cover letter (maximum one page).
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV) (maximum three pages).
3. Personal statement (maximum one page).
4. PhD research concept (maximum two pages).
5. Two letters of recommendation to be submitted separately by the referees directly to schistomakug@gmail.com.

The personal statement should highlight the applicant's contributions to the academic and research arena, career aspirations for the next 5–7 years, research interests, and any other relevant information. Applicants should also clearly indicate their preferred university for pursuing their PhD (Mak or MUST).

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Successful candidates will be required to complete training in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR), Protection of Human Research Participants (PHRP), and Good Clinical Practice/Good Laboratory Practice (GCP/GLP) before conducting research. They should also be prepared to work as part of a highly motivated, results-oriented multidisciplinary schistosomiasis research team.

Application deadline: 10 January 2027 at 11:00 p.m. East Africa Time (EAT).

For further inquiries, please contact **schistomakug@gmail.com**.