



P.O.BOX 2236
Moshi, Tanzania
Telephone: 255-27-2754201
Fax: 255 27 2753368

Academic Centre for Evidence Based Health Interventions
an institution of the Good Samaritan Foundation

Email : kriadmin@kcri.ac.tz
Website: <http://www.kcmc.ac.tz>
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PhD opportunity and scholarship

Project title: Foodborne Disease Epidemiology, Surveillance and Control in African Low- and Middle-Income Countries (FOCAL)

The Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (KCRI) is a partner in the Foodborne Disease Epidemiology, Surveillance and Control in African Low- and Middle- Income Countries (LMIC) (FOCAL) project, co-funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and UK's Department for International Development (DFID), led by the Technical University of Denmark (DTU). This multidisciplinary, international research programme will be exploring causes and sources of diarrheal illness in several African countries, including Tanzania. The project aims at taking a One Health approach that links public-health surveillance data with pathogen occurrence data from food, animals and the environment, to provide the best evidence of the health impact of, and the relative contribution of different sources for, foodborne infections in African low- and middle-income countries.

With this, KCRI is pleased to announce the following PhD studentship opportunity along with a four-year scholarship for the successful applicant.

Project Team include researchers from:

DTU, Food institute Denmark

KCRI, Tanzania

Mountain Top University (MTU), Nigeria

Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), Mozambique

Haramaya University, Ethiopia

University of Pretoria, South Africa

University of Waterloo, Canada

The project has three aims

1. Establish best practice approaches in LMIC for estimating the public health burden of foodborne diseases (FBDs)
2. Determine disease burden, risk factors, sources (incl. food and animals) and transmission routes for foodborne pathogens causing diarrhea in children <5 yr. in African LMIC
3. Make recommendations for future FBD surveillance in African LMIC based on metagenomics analyses of untreated sewage, animal feces and food production wastewater, and promote cross-sectorial collaboration through data sharing

Qualification

Masters (MSc or Mmed level) degree in:

- Biomedical Sciences or related
- Veterinary Sciences or related
- Microbiology or Molecular Biology or related

Necessary experience/skills

- Very good spoken and written English and Kiswahili
- Documented experience in research, e.g. publications in peer-review journals (added advantage)
- Knowledge of basic laboratory techniques and practices including quality control and quality assurance
- Computer skills including word processing, spreadsheets, basic data entry, and email
- Skills for data analysis
- Collaborative research as part of a team
- Good communication skills

Desired experience/skills

- Training in Good Clinical Practice/Good Clinical Laboratory Practice (GCLP/GCP) and/or Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)
- Field work – sample collection in either a community or hospital environment
- Experience in a microbiology and/or molecular laboratory
- Knowledge of, and experience with, foodborne pathogens, such as *Salmonella* or *Campylobacter*
- Experience with Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)
- Familiarity with molecular bioinformatics software and/or analysis
- Experience in analysis of data or clinical/epidemiological data and, if necessary, develop new algorithms to facilitate analysis.

Scholarship Stipend and Terms

- The successful applicant will be registered with Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College (KCMUCo) for three to four years

- You will be awarded stipend of 750 USD/month for up to four years
- You will be supervised by Prof. Blandina Mmbaga among other supervisors
- A post-doctoral researcher will act as a research officer to enable your research

Mode of Application and Documents

Applications must include each of the following to be considered:

- Your research concept note (not more than 15 pages)
- Abstract of the proposal on one page (please include name and title of proposal)
- Motivation letter for your application
- Signed letter of application
- Current resume or curriculum vitae
- Three letters of reference along with names and telephone numbers of the three referees who may be contacted by us in confidence. One of these should be able to attest to your academic performance during your MSc/Mmed (or equivalent)
- Photocopies of certificates, diplomas, and academic transcripts
- Applicant mailing address, contact telephone number(s), and e-mail address
- At least temporary admission letter from KCMUCo (provisional admission)
- Confirmation of study leave from your employer/work station

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must have Tanzanian citizenship.

Your interest in this position and/or application should reach the undersigned as soon as possible and no later than 18th January 2018.

Please send a soft copy of all documents requested to all emails below. e.kussaga@kcri.ac.tz
/ k.thomas@otago.ac.nz / h.kumburu@kcri.ac.tz

Hard copy can be sent to:
The Director, KCRI
Attn: Elizabeth Kussaga,
Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute
PO Box 2236, MOSHI