



PhD Studentship Opportunity at the Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI).

The Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI), founded in 1970 through the initiative of the Norwegian and Swedish Save the Children organizations and the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, is a leading biomedical research institute. Named after Gerhard Henrik Armauer Hansen, who first described the leprosy bacillus, AHRI specializes in developing tools for research, vaccines, prevention, control, and treatment of neglected tropical and other major public health diseases through applied biomedical research, studies, and training. AHRI, operating under Ethiopia's Federal Ministry of Health, invites applications for a PhD studentship.

Title: Development of an in-house real-time PCR assay for diagnosing pediatric tuberculosis

Project Summery

The current diagnostic abilities for the detection of pediatric tuberculosis are suboptimal and is fraught with numerous challenges mainly due to the paucibacillary nature of the disease and the difficulty in accessing a suitable sample for diagnosis. Bacteriological confirmation should be sought whenever possible, but the complexity of specimen collection and the low bacillary load of the samples are frequent obstacles to this approach.

Expectorated sputum is hardly collectable in young children, and obtaining “classic” pediatric respiratory specimens (gastric aspirate, GA; induced sputum, IS) requires somewhat invasive procedures, trained personnel, and equipment which are rarely available at the primary healthcare level. Therefore, in this study, we aim to develop PCR based test from less invasive samples like stool, blood and nasopharyngeal swab samples.

Duration:- Studentship will typically be for two to three years. The research project starts immediately upon acceptance.

Study sites: Selected health facilities in Addis Ababa

Value of Studentship

This position/studentship covers full research costs and limited travel support.

Requirement

Applicants must be Ethiopian nationals and should hold a first or upper-second class honours BSc degree or equivalent in Biomedical Sciences. Students are required to have completed a Master's degree in Microbiology, Immunology or related fields before undertaking a PhD. Unless otherwise stated, students must be registered at public universities in Ethiopia and completed the required first year course work in their PhD program.

How to Apply

Applicants should submit the following documents to AHRI Research Training Directorate (research.training@ahri.gov.et



https://redcap.link/Pediatric_Tuberculosis or)

- ☐ A cover letter and their CV, including full contact details of two referees
- ☐ Copies of their BSc and MSc degrees and transcripts , number of publications with link (if any)
- ☐ Copy of transcript reflecting first year PhD courses
- ☐ Recommendation letter from their university PhD advisor to undertake this PhD studentship

For further information please contact [Azeb Mekonnen, azeb.mekonnen@ahri.gov.et].

Application closing date: September 12 , 2025

Note: - Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply