



## **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 LFA based Immunochromatographic rapid diagnostic kit for Rift valley fever virus**

#### **Project Summery**

The development of a Lateral Flow Assay (LFA) based immunochromatographic based diagnostic tool aims to revolutionize Rift Valley Fever (RVF) diagnostics by addressing limitations in current methods like RT-PCR and ELISA. This novel tool offers high sensitivity to rapidly detect RVFV antigens during acute infection, including in resource-limited and remote areas. It provides results in under 15 minutes, is cost-effective due to its simple immunochromatographic design, and is user-friendly, requiring minimal training to operate. By enabling timely and accurate detection of RVF in humans and livestock, this technology will improve outbreak response, enhance surveillance, and limit transmission, and support RVF control and prevention efforts. Ultimately, it will save lives, protect livelihoods, and reduce the economic burden in endemic and high-risk regions.

**Duration:** The PhD fellowship will be for three years, with research beginning upon candidate selection and registration.

**Study sites:** Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Vaccine, diagnostics and medical device R&D, Addis Ababa with frequent travel to endemic areas (Somali region, Afar, Oromia (Bale and Borena)).

**Value of Studentship:** The fellowship provides full research funding, 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. The student should have completed first course work at public universities in Ethiopia. PhD Program preferably in the following programs: Biotechnology, Biomedical sciences, Microbiology, and related. Applicant must show academic excellence, good communication skills, and the ability to work independently and as part of a team.

**\*\*Candidates with experience in Immunology techniques or Molecular biology techniques, will be advantageous.**

### **How to Apply**

Applicants should submit the following documents to AHRI Research Training Directorate ([research.training@ahri.gov.et](mailto:research.training@ahri.gov.et) and



[https://redcap.link/Rift\\_valley\\_fever](https://redcap.link/Rift_valley_fever) 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 admission letter or GAT test result
- ☐ Recommendation letter from their university PhD advisor to undertake this PhD studentship

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

**Application closing date:** September 12, 2025

**Note:** - Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply

-Please make sure you mention the project title in the application (motivation letter)