



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

The Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI), established in 1970 by the Norwegian and Swedish Save the Children organizations in collaboration with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, is a leading biomedical research center in Ethiopia. Named after Dr. Gerhard Henrik Armauer Hansen, the scientist who discovered the leprosy bacillus, AHRI is dedicated to advancing diagnostic tools, vaccines, prevention strategies, and treatments for neglected tropical disease and major public health challenges through applied biomedical and translational research. AHRI operates under the Federal Ministry of Health.

Title: Improving Access to Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing in Ethiopia: Local Production and Evaluation of Antibiotic Discs

Project Summary

This project addresses a critical diagnostic gap in Ethiopia's response to antimicrobial resistance (AMR): limited access to antibiotic discs required for antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST). Despite the increasing burden of AMR and the rising demand for reliable diagnostic tools, Ethiopia remains dependent on imported AST supplies. This dependency leads to high costs, delays due to importation processes, and frequent supply chain disruptions. Establishing local production of antibiotic discs will enhance access, improve quality assurance, and support national AMR surveillance and stewardship programs.

Key Responsibilities of the PhD Fellow

The selected candidate will:

- Design and optimize protocols for local production of antibiotic discs in alignment with international quality standards.
- Evaluate the performance of the locally produced discs compared to internationally recognized reference products.
- Contribute to national regulatory and quality assurance processes for in vitro diagnostic (IVD) tools.
- Collaborate with AHRI's microbiology and innovation teams to support technology transfer and scale-up efforts.

This research directly supports Ethiopia's National AMR Strategy, aligns with the WHO GLASS, and contributes to the country's Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTP) by strengthening local diagnostic and innovation capacity.

Fellowship Duration:

Three years, starting upon candidate selection and registration

Research location:

Primarily based at AHRI, Addis Ababa, with potential visits to AMR surveillance laboratories across the country

Value of Studentship

Full research funding,
Limited travel support

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be Ethiopian nationals with a strong academic and professional background.
- Hold a Master's degree in **Microbiology, Pharmaceutical Sciences/technology, Medical Laboratory Science, Biotechnology** or a closely related biomedical field.
- Be enrolled in a PhD program at an Ethiopian academic institution and have completed the course work component
- Demonstrate strong interest in diagnostics, microbiology, and antimicrobial resistance.
- Show academic excellence, strong communication skills, and the ability to work independently and collaboratively.

****Preference will be given to candidates with experience in antimicrobial susceptibility testing, in vitro diagnostic development, laboratory quality control, or production processes.**

How to Apply

Applicants should submit the following documents by email to: research.training@ahri.gov.et and



[https://redcap.link/Evaluation Antibiotic Discs](https://redcap.link/Evaluation_Antibiotic_Discs) or)

- A cover letter (maximum one page) outlining motivation and relevant experience
- An updated CV (maximum three pages), including contact details for two referees
- Scanned copies of BSc and MSc degrees and academic transcripts

- Scanned proof of PhD coursework competition
- List of publications or other relevant academic outputs (if available)

Contact for For further Information: **Azeb Mekonnen:** azeb.mekonnen@ahri.gov.et,

Application Deadline: September 12, 2025

- Female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply
- Please include the **project title** in your application letter