



Call for PhD Studentship



Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI) is a basic/translational biomedical and clinical epidemiology researches, and clinical trial facility under the Federal Ministry of Health of Ethiopia. In addition, AHRI is known as a hub for skill and technology transfer by providing competitive post graduate research training opportunities. Accordingly, the Bacterial & viral diseases research directorate (BVDD) of AHRI would like to recruit two PhD students for the following project title.

1. Carbapenemase/ESBL mediated resistance at the human-animal interface in the Ethiopian

Extensive use of antibiotics to treat human and animal infections and as food supplements in livestock has led to the rapid emergence and spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Antibiotics are widely used in the pastoralist communities for treatment and as a growth promoter that favors the emergence and spread of antibiotics resistance. The problem is more worsen the fact that the possible transmission of resistant pathogens between human and animal via the food chain, direct interaction with animals or environment. The spread of antibiotics in the pastoralist communities is not confined within these communities but can also be spread to others as they are movable in search of water, grazing lands, or better livelihoods. The spread of antibiotic resistance and associated factors are well documented among the non-pastoralist communities. Ethiopian pastoralist community occupies 61% of the total landmass and plays a significant role in the country's economy. However, little concern is given to control infections due to antibiotic-resistant pathogens and the extent of antimicrobial resistance among the Ethiopian pastoralist communities is not known. In this study spread of carbapenemase and ESBL mediated resistance and associated factors will be assessed in the Ethiopian pastoralist communities.

2. Understanding the molecular genetics, treatment outcome, vaccine efficacy and mother to child transmission of HBV

Project description: The Ethiopian Government had developed a strategy for prevention and control of viral hepatitis and identified the need for implementation and scale-up of testing and treatment, and development of effective preventive strategies in the year 2016. Accordingly, AHRI has been doing in generating data which helps the National program in line with the above mentioned research areas. As a continuation of our previous work, this study will generate additional evidence on molecular epidemiology, treatment outcome, HBV vaccine efficacy [immunological and clinical] and the role of mother to child HBV transmission. We anticipate that the data that will be generated will inform strategic planning for HBV prevention and control program. The research could be structured in 4 Work Packages (WP). WP1 will establish the prevalence and parameters which determine disease progression and treatment outcomes. WP2 will determine the HBV vaccine efficacy both clinical and immunological and identify risk factors for vaccine failure. WP3 will estimate the role of mother to child HBV transmission. The studentship is therefore should be part of the ongoing project and is able to be looped in aforementioned endeavor. Thus, AHRI is looking for a motivated and flexible candidate from Ethiopian Universities who have completed his/her course work and be able be based at AHRI to start from full proposal writing for ethics application and implementation plan.



[Signature]
Inseged Abdissa Lencho (PhD)
Deputy Director General
Armauer Hansen Research Institute

[Signature]
30/8/20

PhD Student Requirements: A competent candidate for the studentship should fulfill the following criteria:

1. Should top 15% in both BSc and MSc level training in biomedical sciences
2. Should have adequate research experience involving microbiology and an exposure to molecular techniques.
3. Should be a PhD student in biomedical sciences registered at public universities in Ethiopia and completed the required first year course work in their PhD program.
4. Should be ready to dedicate 100% of her/his time for the project.

Study Site: Addis Ababa

Duration: Maximum 4 years.

Value of Studentship: This position/studentship covers full research costs for the whole duration of the PhD project. It does not provide stipend for PhD students.

How to Apply: Applicants should submit the following documents to AHRI, Research Training Directorate, (research.training@ahri.gov.et)

- 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.

Note: - Please make sure you mention the project title in the application (motivation letter)
-Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Application closing date: Ten working days after the date of advertisement.

