Call for Applications

TDR Clinical Research and Development Fellowships

Deadline for applications: 7 March 2019, 16:00 (GMT)

The Clinical Research and Development Fellowship (CRDF) scheme is jointly implemented by EDCTP (the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership) and TDR, the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases. The 2018 Call for Applications launched by EDCTP can be found here: http://www.edctp.org/call/edctp-clinical-research-and-product-development-fellowships/.

We invite applicants interested in a CRDF fellowship to carefully read the eligibility criteria below for both EDCTP and TDR Calls for Applications on their respective websites.

EDCTP will fund fellows employed by a sub-Saharan African legal entity (the fellow's home organization) to be placed in European-based host organizations (pharmaceutical companies, Contract Research Organizations [CROs] and Product Development Partnerships [PDPs]) to be trained and develop specific clinical research skills of relevance to Poverty Related Diseases (PRDs).

TDR will fund fellows employed by academic and research institutions in any low- and middle-income country (including in sub-Saharan Africa) to be placed in pharmaceutical companies, PDPs and academic affiliated research organizations, either in or outside of Europe, to be trained and develop new research skills on infectious diseases.

Summary

TDR\(^1\) provides fellowships for early- to mid-career researchers and clinical trial staff (e.g. clinicians, pharmacists, medical statisticians, data managers, other health researchers) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to learn how to conduct clinical trials. Successful applicants are placed for 12 months in host training organizations (pharmaceutical companies, product development partnerships [PDPs] or research organizations) and then receive a reintegration plan for 12 months at their home institution.

Background

Researchers and clinical trial staff from LMICs involved in clinical research projects have limited opportunities to gain experience and develop skills for conducting clinical trials outside of an academic or public sector setting. As a result, only a few manage to assume leadership roles in clinical research on poverty related and Neglected Infectious Diseases (NIDs)\(^2\).

---

\(^1\) http://www.who.int/tdr/about/en/

\(^2\) For the purpose of this call, Neglected Infectious Diseases (NIDs) include: dengue/severe dengue; rabies; Chagas disease; Human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness); leishmaniasis; cysticercosis/taeniasis; dracunculiasis (guinea-worm disease); echinococcosis; foodborne trematodiases; lymphatic filariasis; onchocerciasis (river blindness); schistosomiasis; soil-transmitted helminthiases; Buruli ulcer; leprosy (Hansen disease); trachoma; yaws.
The TDR CRDF programme is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA). It offers targeted training in research and development in host training organizations to develop highly skilled local personnel from disease endemic LMICs, to enhance competencies in clinical trials for drugs, vaccines and diagnostics on a broad range of poverty related infectious diseases and Neglected Infectious Diseases (NIDs).

**Scope**

The purpose of the TDR CRDF programme is to provide funding support to researchers and clinical trial staff from LMICs to acquire essential skills in clinical research and development through placements in host training organizations. The programme targets early- to mid-career researchers or clinical trial staff who are employed by a legal entity in LMICs where they are currently conducting clinical research activities in the scope of TDR’s mandate.

TDR will fund fellows employed by academic and/or research institutions in any LMIC to be placed in host training organizations, either in or outside Europe, to train and develop new research skills on poverty related infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, Ebola and NIDs.

Fellows can only be funded once under this grant programme. Grants awarded are not transferrable from one individual to another. Placements at host training organizations are for a period of 12 months followed by a reintegration period of 12 months in their home institution. Fellows must be committed to return to their home institution for a minimum of two years after completion of the two-year fellowship. Fellows should be able to demonstrate how the experience gained during the training programme will be applied in their home organization.

**Expected impact**

The aim of the CRDF programme is to develop additional human resources that will increase high quality research and development of required interventions against poverty related infectious diseases in LMICs. Fellowships are expected to add significantly to the development of the best and most promising researchers from these countries, maximising their contribution to improving the function of research institutions in LMICs, including training of their peers. The programme will strengthen collaboration between research institutions, clinical researchers and staff in LMICs, pharmaceutical companies and PDPs. The programme will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”.

**Placements**

Host training organizations may offer placements in the following areas: design and conduct of clinical trials, including operational planning, management and evaluation; clinical development of vaccines, including associated epidemiological studies; assessment of drug development programmes; diagnostics; biostatistics/epidemiology; data management and pharmacovigilance.
Host training organizations that have agreed to participate in this programme are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host training organizations</th>
<th>City, country</th>
<th>No. of places</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Vaccine Institute (EVI)</td>
<td>Heidelberg, Germany</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND)</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundaçao Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ)</td>
<td>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSK Biologicals</td>
<td>Wavre, Belgium</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infectious Disease Research Institute (IDRI)</td>
<td>Seattle, USA</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infectious Diseases Data Observatory (IDDO)</td>
<td>Oxford, United Kingdom</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institut Pasteur de Madagascar</td>
<td>Antananarivo, Madagascar</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Vaccine Institute (IVI)</td>
<td>Seoul, South Korea</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISGlobal Barcelona institute for Global Health</td>
<td>Barcelona, Spain</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janssen Pharmaceutica NV</td>
<td>Beerse, Belgium</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg Institute of Health</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg Institute of Health Competence Center for Methodology and Statistics</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research</td>
<td>Basel, Switzerland</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novartis Pharma AG, Global Drug Development (GDD)</td>
<td>Basel, Switzerland</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH)</td>
<td>Basel, Switzerland</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takeda Pharmaceuticals International AG</td>
<td>Zurich, Switzerland</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triclinium Clinical Development (TCD)</td>
<td>Tygerberg, South Africa</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details about the placements are provided at the following link:

**Eligibility**

On the date of the deadline set for submission of applications, the fellow should:

- Be a postgraduate (MSc or PhD) or medical/pharmacy graduate conducting clinical research activities in the scope of TDR’s mandate.
- Have obtained their first degree within the 15 years prior to submission of this application.
- Have been a researcher or clinical staff member employed for the past 12 months in an institution with a registered legal entity in an LMIC conducting clinical research activities in the scope of TDR’s mandate.
- Must be a national or citizen of, and resident in, an LMIC.

**Application procedure**

Please send the completed [application form](mailto:cdftdr@who.int) in electronic format (Word or PDF only) to cdftdr@who.int.

The application form must be accompanied by the following documents:

1. **An endorsement from the Director of the applicant’s home institution** testifying the ability of the applicant to successfully undertake the training proposed and certifying that the applicant, if selected, will be supported as a leave of absence. The Director has also to indicate how the proposed training will strengthen the institution’s capability, to conduct clinical research upon return of the fellow.

2. **A letter of recommendation from two senior scientists/professors** that includes their full name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address. Please scan and include these with the application.

**Deadline for submission of proposals**

All applications must be received by email to cdftdr@who.int by **7 March 2019, 16:00 (GMT)**.

**Selection process**

The process includes the following steps:

- Applications submitted before the deadline undergo an initial screening by TDR secretariat, based on the eligibility criteria.
- Eligible applications will be forwarded to participating host training organizations.
- Host training organizations select up to five shortlisted candidates for interview.
- Interviews are held between the home institution, the candidate and the host training organization in the presence of TDR.
- Host training organizations rank candidates based on the interview.
- The final matching process of candidates and host training organizations is conducted by TDR.
- When the matching process is complete, home institutions, fellows and host training organizations are informed of the final match, following which contractual arrangements begin.
Financial provisions

The grant covers one economy class return air ticket (home – host training organization – home); a monthly stipend of approximately US$ 4000; a one-time allowance of US$ 1500 for educational support materials; health insurance and support to attend relevant meetings during the course of the fellowship, up to a maximum amount of US$ 3000, and access to an alumni website and to the Professional Membership Scheme for clinical trialists website.

A break at 6 months of fellowship may be offered to the fellow to return to their home institution to present to their peers the acquired training and scientific progress made.

The grant also includes provisional funds for reintegration, conditional upon the approval of a progress report and reintegration plan.

Gender

TDR is encouraging women to apply to this CRD fellowship. Stories from previous women trained are available at the following links:

http://www.who.int/tdr/capacity/strengthening/career_development/phumla-sinxadi/en/
http://www.who.int/tdr/capacity/strengthening/career_development/brenda_okech/en/

In addition, to help women understand the professional and personal challenges linked to this particular fellowship and how to overcome them, TDR has developed mentoring activities. For further information, please feel free to contact the following mentor: Dr Clara Agutu at claraagutu@gmail.com

For further information

If you have any questions related to this funding programme, please contact Dr Pascal Launois (launoisp@who.int)

TDR will acknowledge receipt of applications within 2 weeks of the submission deadline by e-mail. Applicants who do not receive an acknowledgement within the specified time should contact Dr Launois. An acknowledgement of receipt does not imply that the application is eligible for review.