



UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences – ENRICH Program
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Training opportunities for 3 Post-doctoral Fellowships (Cohort 2)

Enhancing Non-Communicable Disease Research and Innovation Capacity in Harare (ENRICH) is a program funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) at the University of Zimbabwe Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (UZFMHS) to address the burden of NCDs in Zimbabwe, as an emerging major cause of morbidity and mortality in sub-Saharan Africa. In Zimbabwe, there is a critical lack of competent and independent researchers to monitor the epidemiological changes in NCD risk factor pattern and morbidity. Monitoring these changes is critical for health service planners and requires well trained researchers to provide robust and credible data and statistics on trends for health care planning and policy making. The ENRICH program intends to address this challenge by implementing a research training programme whose major objectives are:

- 1) To mitigate the critical shortage of researchers in NCDs to address this emerging national priority health area in Zimbabwe.
- 2) As part of the training and capacity building, to conduct NCD mentored research projects.

The ENRICH program will be implemented by UZFMHS faculty in collaboration with faculty from local, regional and international partners such as African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology (AiBST), University of the Witwatersrand, University of KwaZulu-Natal and University of Colorado Denver. The programme is inviting interested applicants to submit applications towards Masters, PhD and Post-doctoral fellowships. The fellowships which are FULL TIME, 2 years Post-Doctoral starting in December 2022. The programme will recruit 3 Post-doctoral fellows. Potential candidates must focus on the following specific NCD areas:

NCD Scientific Area	Possible Research Questions for Master’s, PhD and Post-doctoral	Possible Mentors
Cardiovascular Diseases	Determinants of premature atherosclerosis among Zimbabweans The spectrum of genotypes associated with the various forms of dilated cardiomyopathy	Jonathan Matenga
Pulmonary Disease	The determinants of pulmonary hypertension in our environment The role of biomass exposure in the genesis of NCDs	Jonathan Matenga
Hematology	The role of disease modifiers in SCD outcomes in our environment	Tendai Maboreke Patience Kuona
Stroke	The factors underlying in young onset stroke The impact of established and paroxysmal atrial fibrillation in strokes in Zimbabwe	Gift Ngwende
Other Neurological Diseases	The environmental and genetic risk factors of dementia amongst Zimbabweans Prevalence and treatment of epilepsy in the community	Gift Ngwende
Dental & Craniofacial	Periodontal disease: a risk factor for diabetes and cardiovascular disease	Midion Chidzonga
Ageing	Assessment and management of frailty among elderly Zimbabwean population	Margaret Borok
Childhood NCDs	The impact of childhood overweight/obesity in the genesis of adults NCDs	Hilda Mujuru

Eligibility Criteria

Post-doctoral Applicants must:

- Have a Master's degree in a relevant discipline in health and social sciences, and a PhD.
- Have research or programmatic experience in NCDs or other related conditions.
- Have high academic merit and intellectual capacity to study successfully at the doctoral level.
- Show strong personal motivation to complete the programme within the stipulated fellowship timeframe.
- Have identified a research project from the priority NCD focus areas highlighted above with clear aims and achievable objectives.

Post-doctoral Applicants for Genomics training must:

- Have the following competencies:
 1. Laboratory expertise in PCR, RT-PCR and Sanger sequencing
 2. Working knowledge of bioinformatics with respect to sequence data formats, genetic/genomic databases, sequence data analysis pipelines
 3. Knowledge and awareness of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)
- Have the following qualifications:
 1. PhD in genetic/genomic research that involved laboratory work with PCR, RT-PCR and Sanger sequencing.
 2. At least five years of relevant research experience since receipt of their most recent doctoral degree(s).
 3. Show evidence of strong scholarly performance and commitment to publishing, with an established publication record (\geq three manuscripts), in refereed or peer-reviewed journals.
- The following skills and attributes will have a significant advantage
 1. Laboratory experience with next generation sequencing
 2. Knowledge and application of Linux, R, Python, and other bioinformatic programming and data analysis tools
 3. Experience in the design and conduct of genomic studies aimed at discovering or validating biomarkers for disease risk or drug response.
 4. BSc and MSc degrees that were in the biomedical field with strong focus on molecular biology, thus have a strong grounding in the subject.
- Show evidence of commitment to continue practising, teaching, and researching in Zimbabwe during training
- Have communicated with the given mentor for the area of training.

Fellowship package

The ENRICH fellowship will cover the following:

- Tuition fees
- Support for research project and supervision
- Monthly stipend for protected research time
- Travel costs for agreed conferences and training workshops
- Other expenses essential for the proposed research project (e.g., materials, equipment, publication) will be considered

Additional information

- Candidates are required to work with indicated mentor to develop their concepts.
- Candidates are expected to register for their studies with the University of Zimbabwe for Masters and PhD.
- Candidates must complete the fellowship within the stipulated time frame.
- As a condition of the award, ENRICH stipulates that the candidate attend relevant specific workshops and/or short courses such as research methods provided by the program.
- *Involvement in an existing research program /project will be essential but not a requirement.* Please note that ENRICH may require additional information, over and above information supplied in the application, to reach a decision about the suitability of any candidate for the award of the fellowship.
- Female candidates are especially encouraged to apply.

Application requirements

1. A fully completed application form
2. A comprehensive maximum 5 page CV including relevant research and work experience
3. Certified transcripts and copies of post high school qualifications submitted as ONE pdf file.
4. Certified Copy of National ID or Passport
5. Two references (from the mentor and another academic) emailed directly to: Mr Antony Matsika on antony.matsika@gmail.com not later than one week following the application deadline below.

Requests for application forms and/or more information as well as contractual issues should be addressed to antony.matsika@gmail.com

Submit completed application to: Mr Antony Matsika on antony.matsika@gmail.com

Deadline for submission: 31 October 2022