POSTDOC OPPORTUNITIES AT CARTA’S RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND NORTHERN PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

KEMRI/WELLCOME TRUST RESEARCH PROGRAM (KWTRP)

Contact person: Dr. Sam Kinyanjui (skmuchina@gmail.com)

Post-doc opportunity at KWTRP: Tracking policy engagement and impact

Supervisors: Dr. Benjamin Tsofa
Prof. Sassy Molyneux
Dr. Edwine Barasa

Location: Nairobi and Kilifi

Area of work:
The Kenyan Medical Research Institute-Wellcome Trust Research Programme (KEMRI-WTRP) is a large multi-disciplinary research programme with two main physical bases: one in Kilifi on the Kenyan Coast, and in Nairobi. The KWTRP leads research across Kenya and in many other countries in Africa, as well as further afield. Researchers based in both KWTRP sites conduct a range of activities to support the findings of their research being taken up in policy and practice locally, nationally and internationally. In a few exceptions – such as for example the learning site work funded by DFID - this work is shared and discussed. However for the most part it goes largely undocumented and unreported.

As a research programme we are keen to begin to track our policy and practice engagement work, and to look for opportunities and needs to strengthen our research impact. There is also a growing interest from funders for researchers to demonstrate the non-academic impacts of research (Penfield et al 2013). Donors are in part keen to demonstrate ‘value for money’ because they themselves are under pressure to demonstrate tangible results to their funders and the general public. We recognize that there are significant challenges in evaluating the impact of research on including those related to: the complexity of policy processes making it difficult to identify when, how, and to what extent evidence feeds in; the iterative relationship between research and policy impact; and the challenge of measuring influence and proving impact.

We are looking for a post-doctoral level researcher to conduct some initial work in this area, to support communication about our non-research impact within and beyond our institution, and to lay the foundation for future possible more in-depth policy analysis work.
Specially, the post-doctoral researcher would:
- Review literature on the opportunities and challenges in evaluating the impact of research on health policy and practice
- Map out the policy engagement activities of key research groups at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Programme
- Support in the conduct of three policy impact case studies: one from a non-health policy and systems researcher; and two from health policy and systems research (with the support of LSHTM communications team)
- Make recommendations and suggestions about how to better track and increase the (visibility of) programme members’ policy engagement activities.

Post-doc opportunity at KWTRP: Identifying potential interventions to reduce post hospital discharge mortality among children

Supervisors: Dr. Kui Muraya
Prof Sassy Molyneux, Prof Caroline Jones, Dr Martha Mwangome

Location: Nairobi or Kilifi

Area of work:
Undernutrition underlies almost half of childhood deaths worldwide. Undernourished children are at markedly increased risk of death in the community, during admission to hospital and post discharge, despite the provision of nutritional rehabilitation and medical treatment according to current guidelines. CHAIN is a multi-site network, bringing together experts from a range of disciplines and sites, with the overall goal of identifying risk factors and mechanisms leading to an increased risk of mortality. The overall goal is to prioritize interventions to be taken forward into future trials to reduce mortality.

CHAIN includes several sub-studies, including a qualitative sub study being conducted across four sites; 2 in Kenya and 2 in Bangladesh. There is also related pilot intervention work being conducted in Kilifi county hospital, aimed at supporting women with children aged under six months to resume and maintain breast-feeding post a child’s hospitalisation with illness. Across both of these pieces of work, we are keen to learn from past socio-behavioural/health systems/communications interventions from similar settings aimed at strengthening post hospital discharge outcomes. Specifically we are interested in the implementation and impact of hospital or community based interventions with the potential to reduce child mortality and promote individual and broader household well-being and resilience.
We are looking for a post-doctoral level researcher to support our empirical work in this area through:

- Familiarising him/herself with the elements of the CHAIN and breast feeding studies being conducted in Kenya
- Conducing a systematic literature review on socio-behavioural/health systems (packages) of interventions aimed at improving post hospital discharge outcomes in LMICs for children with chronic health problems, including those aimed at strengthening post hospital discharge follow-up and support processes
- Working with the above named researchers to identify gaps in empirical evidence and further gaps in the literature to take forwards in future research proposals.

Post-doc opportunity at KWTRP: Supporting public/community engagement evaluations

Supervisors: Ms. Noni Mumba and Mr Alun Davies
            Dr. Dorcas Kamuya and Prof Sassy Molyneux

Location: Kilifi

Area of work:
The Kenyan Medical Research Institute-Wellcome Trust Research Programme (KEMRI-WTRP) is a large multi-disciplinary research programme with two main physical bases: one in Kilifi on the Kenyan Coast, and in Nairobi. The KWTRP site on the Coast is the main administrative centre, including a community liaison group headed up by Ms Noni Mumba, which supports researchers across the KWTRP to design and track their community engagement activities. The KWTRP is relatively unusual in having a strong research basis to its’ community engagement work, with that research being well known internationally.

We are looking for a post doc researcher to support the monitoring and evaluation activities of our community engagement work on the Kenyan Coast. Specifically the post doc would:

- Familiarize him/herself with the public/community engagement work of the programme
- Work with the above named researchers to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for work within and beyond the main demographic and surveillance area on the Coast
- Assist with the analysis of the data already collected to evaluate the impact of a particular engagement activity: a radio programme broadcast as a series in 2017
Contact person: Prof: Mike English  (menglish@kemri-wellcome.org)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>JOB TITLE:</th>
<th>Post-Doctoral Epidemiologist – Quality of Care Measurement in Paediatrics</th>
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<tr>
<td>DEPARTMENT:</td>
<td>Health Services Unit</td>
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<td>LOCATION:</td>
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**JOB PURPOSE:** *state why/what this job exists to do*

The Health Services Unit based in Nairobi is working with a number of hospitals in counties in Kenya to help develop improved information on the causes, characteristics and outcomes of paediatric admissions. The team has, over a number of years developed a variety of metrics of the quality of care provided to inpatient children and newborns with common illnesses.

An opportunity exists to develop a focused set of work to:

- Estimate the likely requirements for key diagnostic investigations that could support high quality care
- Evaluate the actual use of key diagnostic investigations in routine practice to aid diagnosis and management of common severe childhood illnesses in hospitals
- Estimate the gap between the need for key diagnostic investigations that could support high quality care and those that hospitals are actually able to provide
- Use the findings to inform international thinking on the need for improvements in access to basic diagnostics

The post-holder will work alongside a team of post-doctoral scientists including Drs. Ayieko, Akech, Agweyu and Gathara and with a wider team working on improving hospital information systems and developing measures of the quality of hospital care that is co-ordinated by Prof. Mike English.

Specifically the post-holder will be expected to analyse existing datasets to determine the patterns of clinical characteristics of children admitted to hospital and use these data linked to national recommendations on use of diagnostics to estimate needs. They will analyse the same datasets to determine actual diagnostic use. They will need to develop a conceptual approach that supports their statistical analyses and guides the reporting of this work.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:** *state the main duties for the job*

a. Collate and review literature on use of basic diagnostics as part of hospital care for children in LMIC countries and how often clinicians are unable to access basic tests
b. Develop a conceptual approach to defining a basic investigation set that should be used that links diagnoses in children to a package of investigations

c. Drawing on literature and the derived conceptual framework develop an analytical plan to estimate needed investigations for the population of children admitted to Kenyan hospitals

d. Compare the investigations needed with those undertaken to determine the type of investigations that are left undone and the prevalence of investigations that are undone

e. Write a report detailing the findings and explaining the development of the metric of quality of care used

**SKILLS AND COMPETENCE:** state the educational background, experience & skills required to perform the job

- PhD in Epidemiology / Statistics
- Good understanding of the field of child health – ideally a background in medicine, pharmacy, laboratory science or other health related discipline
- Advanced skills in use of R or STATA to undertake statistical analyses
- Familiarity with developing analysis plans
- Data management skills – ideally experience with large databases including understanding of data dictionaries
- Skills in literature review
- Excellent scientific writing skills
- Good presentation skills (use of powerpoint or other media) and communication skills
- Ability to work with limited supervision
- Ability to meet deadlines

**AGINCOURT POPULATION AND HEALTH UNIT, SOUTH AFRICA**

Post-doc opportunity at Agincourt

Contact Person(s): Klipstein-Grobusch & F Gomez-Olive Casas

One year postdoctoral position available investigating demographic, life-style and environmental factors in relation to cardiovascular disease at the Medical Research Council / Wits University Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt), School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

The study will draw on a large-scale HIV/cardiometabolic risk factor survey conducted in 2010 / 2011 undertaken in about 4500 residents aged 15 years and older of the Agincourt Health and Demographic Surveillance Site (HDSS), who through the HDSS have been followed up for vital status. The postdoctoral fellow will be partly based at the Medical Research Council / Wits
University Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt) in Acornhoek and partly in Johannesburg, South Africa contributing actively to the units adult health research agenda with a focus on cardiovascular disease risk and mortality. For further information on the HIV/cardiometabolic risk factor survey please see https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25885455 and for information on the Medical Research Council / Wits University Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt), School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, please see http://www.agincourt.co.za/
Acceptance onto the programme will be done by the Wits/MRC unit and is conditional on receiving a CARTA post-doctoral fellowship.

Please contact
"Klipstein-Grobusch email address: K.Klipstein-Grobusch@umcutrecht.nl and copy F Gomez-Olive Casas, email address: F.Gomez-OliveCasas@wits.ac.za

AFRICAN POPULATION AND HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER (APHRC)

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Opportunity at APHRC: Higher Education Research

Supervisors: Dr. James Kisia (jkisia@aphrc.org)
Prof. Peter Ngure pngure@aphrc.org

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

Area of work:
The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) is an international non-profit, non-governmental research organization committed to conducting high quality and policy relevant research on population, health, education and development issues facing sub-Saharan Africa. APHRC seeks to recruit a Postdoctoral Research Fellow to support Higher Education Research in its Research Capacity Strengthening division.

The Research Capacity Strengthening (RCS) division leads APHRC’s efforts to build sustainable human capacity for research and development in Africa by strengthening individual and institutional research capacity in Africa. Part of the division’s mandate is to generate, synthesize, and disseminate evidence on issues related to research capacity and higher education in Africa. Work in this area will focus on:
- higher education systems and research capacity leadership production in the region
- education models and research capacity programs in Africa
- developing and sustaining effective higher education and research capacity strengthening systems in Africa
We are looking for a post-doctoral level researcher to conduct some initial work in this area and to lay the foundation for more Higher Education research work in the future. The Postdoctoral researcher would be expected to:

- Review literature on Higher Education
- Lead and contribute to proposal development
- Participate in the design of Higher Education research and training tasks within the division
- Lead and contribute to the implementation of projects including project design
- Project management including data management and analysis, scientific writing, and reporting to donors
- Lead in policy engagement and dissemination of research findings to appropriate audiences

Qualifications and experience:

- PhD in Population, Higher Education, Public Health or closely related fields. The fellowship should be taken up within two years of completion of doctoral degree
- Strong writing skills and good record of publications on relevant areas in sub-Saharan Africa
- Experience and strong interest in the areas of Population, Public Health, Higher Education
- Strong quantitative and qualitative skills (managing, analyzing and interpreting data), with extensive familiarity with Packages (e.g. STATA, NVIVO)
- Computer literacy in Microsoft packages (Word, PowerPoint, Excel)

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow Opportunity at APHRC: Population Dynamics and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (PDSRHR)**

Contact person: Dr. Chimaraoke Izugbara

Email: cizugbara@aphrc.org

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

APHRC has developed a robust and multifaceted evidence base about sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues, with special attention to young people. Our research has also provided understanding of what works to increase uptake of modern contraceptives within high-fertility communities, and has informed debate around unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortion.

Areas of focus in this unit aim to promote sustainable population growth and improved sexual and reproductive health and rights across the life course. We are looking for a post-doctoral level researcher to work in these areas.

**INDEPTH NETWORK**

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow Opportunity at INDEPTH Network**
Contact Person:    Dr. Martin Bangha
Email: martin.bangha@indepth-network.org

INDEPTH is an international Network of demographic research institutions providing health and demographic data. INDEPTH works in low- and middle-income countries by enabling them set health priorities and policies based on the best available evidence and cost-effective use of tools, interventions and systems to ensure and monitor progress towards national goals.

There are many potential postdoc opportunities at INDEPTH. Please get in touch with the contact person, Dr. Martin Bangha for more details.

ESKAS POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Opportunity at Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH)

Contact Person:    Prof. Nino Kuenzli

CARTA fellows are invited to apply for the ESKAS postdoctoral fellowships through the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH). For further details on these fellowships, please visit the following link (https://www.sbfi.admin.ch/sbfi/en/home/topics/swiss-education-area/scholarships-and-grants/swiss-government-excellence-scholarships-for-foreign-scholars-an.html).