



Call for Fellowships Afrique One-ASPIRE

TTP1: Canine Rabies Control and Elimination

Ref: [TTP1-Rabies-PhD1](#)

Project Title: Investigating the potential of thermostable rabies vaccine to improve strategies for rabies control and elimination in Africa.

Enrolment: The PhD fellow will be enrolled at the NM-AIST or SUA, Tanzania.

Project Description: Rabies is a deadly zoonosis that kills 59,000 people every year, with most deaths occurring in Asia and Africa. A large body of epidemiological evidence suggests that the global elimination of canine rabies is feasible and it is now a declared objective of the international agencies with a target of zero human deaths from canine-mediated rabies set for 2030. However, gaps remain regarding implementation of cost-effective and sustainable intervention strategies and research translation into effective national, regional and global policies.

The project will build on recent results demonstrating a high thermotolerance of inactivated dog rabies vaccine (Lankester et al., 2016), which has created opportunities for developing novel strategies of delivering dog rabies vaccination, particularly in rural communities. The project will involve an intervention trial in rural Tanzania to investigate: (a) the cost-effectiveness of different delivery strategies, including community-directed dog vaccination strategies; (b) dynamics of dog population immunity in communities adopting different delivery models; (c) opportunities for integrating dog rabies vaccination with delivery of other health services.

The project will be based in the Serengeti ecosystem, northern Tanzania, working as part of a rabies research team within a long-term research programme and will involve substantial periods of fieldwork.

References: Lankester F., Wouters P.A.W.M., Czupryna A., Palmer G., Mzimiri I., Cleaveland S., Francis M.J., Sutton D.J. and Sonnemans D.G.P (2016) Thermotolerance of an inactivated rabies vaccine for dogs. *Vaccine (in press)*

Mentorship Team: An international supervisory team comprising researchers with expertise in rabies epidemiology, One Health and intervention research including: Joram Buza (NM-AIST), Zacharia Mtema (IHI), Rudowick Kazwala (SUA), Felix Lankester (Washington State University), Katie Hampson and Sarah Cleaveland (UoG)

Qualifications: The candidate must be a citizen of a country in Africa. Candidates from any discipline contributing to One Health (e.g. public health, veterinary and animal sciences, social sciences, epidemiology or health economics) will be considered. Candidates with a Master's degree in a relevant field are preferred.

Training: Training will be provided primarily in Tanzania, with opportunities for further training within the Afrique One-ASPIRE consortium and with supervisory partners in the UK and US, depending on internal budget considerations.

For more information, contact the co-leads:

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