



Call for Fellowships Afrique One-ASPIRE

TTP1: Canine Rabies Control and Elimination

Ref: [TTP1-Rabies-PhD2](#)

Project Title: One Health surveillance approaches to guide rabies elimination [suitable for both the rabies and surveillance TTPs]

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

Project Description: A target of zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies has been set for 2030 and large-scale control programmes are being rolled out in parts of Sub-Saharan Africa. However, there is very limited guidance on rabies surveillance to improve case detection as elimination is approached, or how to manage control programmes once progress towards elimination has been made.

Recent results demonstrate the effectiveness of active case finding to increase case detection. This potentially affordable and practical approach can be used to improve provision of post-exposure prophylaxis administration and strengthen intersectoral partnerships and capacity needed for control of emerging zoonoses. Moreover, the need for genomic approaches to guide the strategy and implementation of elimination programmes is increasingly recognised, to identify sources of incursions and minimise their frequency.

The project will involve the pilot implementation of active surveillance approaches including genomic surveillance to: (a) determine case detection in different settings; (b) assess costs of active case finding and feasibility within a One Health framework; (c) evaluate critical criteria to identify and confirm rabies cases; (d) pilot field sequencing approaches and (e) assess incursion frequency and sources. The project will build on existing rabies control programmes in both southern and northern Tanzania, working as part of a rabies research team within a long-term research programme and will involve substantial periods of fieldwork.

Mentorship Team: The project will involve an international supervisory team including: Godfrey Mbaruku and Zacharia Mtema (IHI); Rudowick Kazwala (SUA);

Joram Buza, NM-AIST; Katie Hampson and Sarah Cleaveland (UoG); Gibson Kibiki (MUHAS)

Qualifications: The candidate must be a citizen of an African country. Candidates from any discipline contributing to One Health (e.g. public health, veterinary and animal sciences, ecology, geography, epidemiology or health economics) will be considered. Candidates with a Master's degree in a relevant field and those with previous quantitative/statistical programming experience 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 Europe, depending on internal budget considerations.

For more information, contact the co-leads:

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