



Call for Fellowships Afrique One-ASPIRE

TTP1: Canine Rabies Control and Elimination

Ref: [TTP1-Rabies-PhD3](#)

Project Title: Evaluation of community-directed rabies intervention strategies

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 new community-directed strategies of dog vaccination, particularly in rural communities. The project will be linked with an intervention trial where outcomes will be compared in communities where dog vaccination is carried out by different delivery models, either through: (a) an established annual dog vaccination campaign coordinated centrally through the district veterinary office using cold-chain stored vaccines or (b) a community-directed approach using thermotolerant vaccines stored in villages.

The PhD research project aims to document the variability in strategies implemented by communities, identify critical components of both strategies that are likely to influence the general applicability and scalability, document inter-sectoral barriers and facilitators in line with “One Health” principles, and explore issues of private and public goods by assessing perceptions and benefits of dog vaccination.

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: The supervisory team will be drawn from researchers at partner institutions with expertise in rabies epidemiology, intervention research and health economics, including: IHI, UoG, Washington State University, NM-AIST and Swiss TPH.

Qualifications: The candidate must be a citizen of an African country. Candidates from any discipline contributing to One Health will be considered, but preference will be given to candidates with previous experience in social sciences and/or health economics. 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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