**In Search of Better Health**

**KENYA MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Opening date 14th August, 2023**                          **CGHR/364/07/23**

**Project description:** The Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School (UMass Chan) are conducting a community-based study in western Kenya to evaluate the immunogenicity and efficacy of the first malaria vaccine (RTS,S also called Mosquirix) approved for general use in children residing in malaria endemic areas. Using an integrated ***systems immunology and machine learning approach***, we will determine the effects of ongoing exposures to malaria, systemic inflammation, pre-existing anti-malarial immunity, and immaturity of cellular immune signatures on RTS,S vaccine hypo-responsiveness, defined as the inability to develop a core group of functional anti-CSP antibodies. This 3-year project is part of a larger NIH funded consortium involved in developing and evaluating the next generation of malaria vaccines.

**RTSS Malaria Vaccine Immunogenicity and Efficacy Grant: NIH U01 AI165524**

**Position:** Senior Research Scientist **(KMR 5)- 1 position**

**Reports to:** Principal Investigator

**Location**:   Center for Global Health Research, UMass-KEMRI partnership

a) **Job Specifications**
   The duties and responsibilities of the officer will entail:-
   i.     Responsible for implementing sophisticated immunologic protocols inteneded for flow cytometry, CyTOF and systems serology assays.
   ii.    Plan and coordinate all new study/project sample storage protocols in close liaison with researchers.
   iii.   Responsible for developing, review and oversee procedures and processes for scientifically rigorous blood sample collection, processing and storage.
   iv.    Produce clear and complete documentation of all procedures and processes.
   v.     Oversee defined procedures to log bar coded samples and link data, and to manage retrieval and re-entry processes.
   vi.    Supervises implementation of field and laboratory SOPs and guidelines.
   vii.   Responsible for training and certifying students or new laboratory personnel in research protocols.

viii. Offering basic trainings on good laboratory practices and facility emergency response plans; Plan and perform user inductions and regular update trainings.
ix. Implementation of statutory regulatory namely quality management audits, laboratory inspections and work process audits.
x. Produce maintenance plans for the repository with appropriate auditable Quality Systems incorporated that comply with international regulatory standards.
xi. Advice the Centre Scientific Committees on study protocol related issues to guide and inform decision making on the adherence to laboratory professional ethics.
xii. Contribute to writing manuscripts and grant proposals.

## b)Person Specification

For appointment to this grade, a candidate must have:-
i. At least four(4) years relevant work experience in human immunology research;
ii. Master's degree (or higher degree) in any of the following fields;- Biomedical Sciences, Health Sciences, Medical laboratory sciences or any relevant Basic Sciences or equivalent qualifications from a recognized Institution.
iii. Published at least four (4) articles in refereed journals with at least two (2) article as the first or lead author;
iv. Supervisory Course not lasting less than two (2) weeks from a recognized institution; OR demonstrated mentoring students.
v. Proficiency in computer application; including computational immunology software such as FlowJo, Omics, R.
vi. Demonstrated work performance and results;

## c)Key Skills and Competencies

i. Planning and supervisory skills
ii. Analytical and writing skills
iii. Communication and reporting skills
iv. Interpersonal skills
v. Team player

**Terms of employment**

Employment is a **three(3) years contract, renewable subject to availability of funds,** with a probation period for the first 3 months. Salary is negotiable within the KEMRI scheme of service depending on education, experience and demonstrated competency.

**How to Apply**
   a) All applicants must meet each selection criteria detailed in the minimum requirements.
   b) Must include a current CV with names of at least 2 referees.
   c) Must include copies of academic and professional certificates

All the applications to be done through **KEMRI Website [www.kemri.go.ke/e-recruitment](www.kemri.go.ke/e-recruitment) -**

**E-Recruitment Portal** on or before  4th September**, 2023** latest 5.00 p.m.

Please visit the KEMRI web site [www.kemri.go.ke](www.kemri.go.ke) for more details on the advertisement.

**KEMRI IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER; WOMEN AND PERSONS WHO ARE ABLED DIFFERENTLY  ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY. KEMRI DOES NOT CHARGE A FEE AT ANY STAGE OF ITS SELECTION PROCESS INCLUDING APPLICATION, INTERVIEW MEETING AND PROCESSING OF OFFER LETTER. IF ASKED FOR A FEE, REPORT SUCH REQUEST IMMEDIATELY TO RELEVANT AUTHORITY.**

*Only short-listed candidates will be contacted .*