The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is a world-leading centre for research and postgraduate education in public and global health. Our mission is to improve health and health equity in the UK and worldwide; working in partnership to achieve excellence in public and global health research, education and translation of knowledge into policy and practice.

Founded in 1899 by Sir Patrick Manson, the School has expanded in recent years at its two main sites on Keppel Street and Tavistock Place. The School's multidisciplinary expertise includes clinicians, epidemiologists, statisticians, social scientists, molecular biologists and immunologists, and we work with partners worldwide to support the development of teaching and research capacity.

Research income has grown to over £85 million per year from national and international funding sources including the UK government, the European Commission, the Wellcome Trust and philanthropic sources.

Education programmes have grown to more than 1,000 London-based Master's and Research students, 2,900 studying Master's by distance learning and 1,000 on short courses and continuous professional development. We have also launched a series of free online courses, and more than 15,000 people registered on the first of these, Ebola in context. Our staff, students and alumni work in more than 150 countries in government, academia, international agencies and health services.

The School is highly ranked in various university league tables. It was named the world's leading research-focused graduate school in the Times Higher Education World Rankings in 2013. In 2014, it was ranked in the top 10 universities in the world for citation rate by the new EU-supported U-Multirank database, fourth in the world for impact in medical sciences by the Leiden Ranking and third in the world for social science and public health in the US News Best Global Universities Ranking. According to the results of the UK government's Research Excellence Framework, published in December 2014, the School was ranked second overall (after the Institute for Cancer Research) on the key measure of impact.

Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases

The Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases encompasses all of the laboratory-based research in the School as well as that on the clinical and epidemiological aspects of infectious and tropical diseases. It is headed by Brendan Wren, who is Professor of Microbial Pathogenesis. The range of disciplines represented in the faculty is very broad and inter-disciplinary research is a feature of much of our activity. The spectrum of diseases studied is wide and there are major research groups with a focus on malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other sexually
transmitted diseases, vaccine development and evaluation, and vector biology and disease control. The Faculty is organised into four large research departments comprising: Pathogen Molecular Biology, Immunology and Infection, Disease Control, and Clinical Research. There is close interaction between scientists in different research teams. The Faculty has strong overseas links, which provide a basis for field studies and international collaborations in developed and developing countries. The teaching programme includes MSc courses, taught in-house and by distance learning, which are modular in structure, a variety of short-courses and an active doctoral programme (PhD and DrPH). For further information on the Faculty see: http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/itd/index.html.

**Department of Disease Control (Head: Professor Joanna Schellenberg)**

This multidisciplinary Department includes epidemiologists, entomologists, anthropologists and social scientists, clinical scientists, public health engineers and geographers. This range of expertise provides us with a battery of tools for focusing on the control of diseases that are insect-borne, water-borne or associated with poor hygiene – mostly in developing countries. Much of the research can be categorised as: evaluating disease control interventions; investigating implementation strategies - including working with the private sector; understanding the factors underlying household behaviour in relation to family health; or determining how control resources can be targeted most efficiently. Particular attention is paid to research directed at current health policy issues, including the gap between policy and practice.

The Department's Environmental Health Group plays a leadership role in research and operational support for hygiene behaviour change, household water supply and sanitation. Three key programmes which contribute to the work of the Group are the DFID funded consortium Sanitation and Hygiene Applied Research for Equity (SHARE), the Hygiene Centre (Unilever) and the improved sanitation randomised, controlled field trial jointly funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie).

The Department houses the largest research group in LSHTM working on malaria control. Ongoing projects include: research capacity strengthening in Africa through the work of the Malaria Capacity Development Consortium (MCDC); novel approaches to combating malaria in pregnancy (MiP) in both Africa and India; a number of projects which develop and evaluate delivery mechanisms to improve ACT access, targeting, safety and quality, all funded by the ACT Consortium. In addition, staff are involved in studies of Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) in West Africa and are supporting work on the large Phase 3 clinical trial study of the RTS,S malaria vaccine in children.

The Department is world-leading in applied entomology and insect borne diseases, and has provided a testing service for control products for over 20 years. The Arthropod Control Product Test Centre Artec provides access to the Department’s valuable mosquito colonies and in-house facilities for testing of repellents, insecticides and after-bite treatments. Its entomological field sites in Tanzania, Benin, The Gambia and Kenya are involved in a variety of vector borne disease control trials. The PAMVERC alliance between LSHTM and African partners work in partnership with WHO and the manufacturing industry on product development and evaluation under laboratory and semi-field conditions and in community trials.

Staff from the Department lead on studies investigating how meningococcal meningitis is spread in Africa and the impact of a new serogroup meningococcal A vaccine on reducing transmission (MenAfriCar Consortium). Staff are also assisting
in the evaluation of the impact of introduction of a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine into the routine EPI programme of The Gambia and in the initial testing of a new pneumococcal protein vaccine in the same area.

Also based with the Department is the IDEAS (Informed Decisions for Actions) project, which aims to improve the health and survival of mothers and babies through generating evidence to inform policy and practice. The Department also includes a major grouping of researchers using spatial analysis in public health.

Teaching

The School offers 19 one year full-time taught courses leading to the Master of Science (MSc) degree of the University of London and the Diploma of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (DLSHTM). The Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases runs or contributes substantially to ten of these courses and the “Immunology of Infectious Diseases” course is run from within the Department of Immunology and Infection. In addition, the Faculty is responsible for the three-month Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTM&H), the Diploma in Tropical Nursing and offers a range of specialist short courses lasting usually one or two weeks. Five MSc courses are also offered by Distance-based Learning, including one on Infectious Diseases.

Project information

The overall aim of the project is to develop an optimal attractive toxic sugar bait (ATSB) delivery system for attracting and killing sand flies indoors.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Post: Marie Curie Early Stage University Researcher

Grade: Research Assistant Academic Pathway Grade 5

Responsible to: Mary Cameron

Department: Disease Control

Main duties and responsibilities:

Undertake appropriate training, including in the safe handling of sandflies and insecticides; rear sandflies for their own experiments; design, implement and analyse behavioural bioassays to determine (1) the optimum sugar bait for attracting sand flies to a point source, and (2) the best killing agent (insecticide) to be used in the attractive toxic sugar bait formulation; data entry, statistical analysis and interpretation of data; preparation of reports and presentations; assist in scientific training networks; source materials and equipment for experiments; general laboratory duties, including preparation of chemicals; attend and contribute to team meetings.

Undertake a PhD programme of research, to be completed within 36 months of appointment.
To submit a PhD thesis, based either on a comprehensive description of the research performed or on original research publications.

Make a major contribution to writing of manuscripts including analysing results, writing up results and publishing articles outlining the methodology of the research undertaken.

Present research findings and conclusions at national and international meetings

Contribute to the academic life of the School as well as contributing to the EUROLEISH-NET.

If appropriate, to contribute to the Faculty teaching programme, no more than 10% of time per annum, if compatible with research and training commitments, and subject to the policy of the funding agency.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

BACKGROUND: Science graduates with at least a 2.1 or equivalent in a relevant biological subject; other first degrees, e.g. veterinary science, will be considered; a Masters degree in a medical entomology or related subject would be an advantage.

ESSENTIAL (ITN) requirements: Candidates must be in the first four years of their research career and not yet have a doctoral degree; candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the United Kingdom for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to 1st April 2017.

EUROLEISH-NET requirements: English proficiency (oral and written); availability to join the LSHTM on the 1st April 2017; fulfil academic requirements to enrol in a MPhil programme at LSHTM; willing to spend a significant amount of time (minimum 6 months) in Partner institutions when required.

SALARY AND CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT

The post is funded by the Marie Curie EUROLEISHNET project for a period of 21 months and will commence before April 1st 2017. Salary is at a fixed level of approximately £29,500 per annum, to include mobility allowance, or approximately £33,000 per annum if family allowance is also applicable. Annual leave entitlement is 30 working days per year for all staff (pro-rata for part-time staff). In addition to this, staff are entitled to public holidays and Director’s days on which the School is closed.

ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION STATEMENT

The School will comply with the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, which requires all employees to provide documentary evidence of their legal right to work in this country prior to commencing employment. Candidates will be required to bring their passport (and visa if applicable) to interview so that it can be copied and verified.

This role does not meet the minimum requirements set by UK Visas and Immigration to enable sponsorship of migrant workers. Therefore we cannot progress applications from candidates who require sponsorship to work in the UK.
Further information about Certificate of Sponsorship and eligibility to work in the UK, can be found at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points

APPLICATIONS

Applications should be made online via our website at http://jobs.lshtm.ac.uk. The reference for this post is ITD-DCD-23. Applications should also include the names and email contacts of 2 referees who can be contacted immediately if shortlisted. Online applications will be accepted by the automated system until 10pm on the closing date. Any queries regarding the application process may be addressed to jobs@lshtm.ac.uk.