

RESEARCH FELLOW



Job Title:	Research Fellow in Epidemiology (potentially Trial Manager)
Department:	Disease Control
Faculty:	Infectious and Tropical Diseases
Location:	Cove, Benin
FTE:	Full Time 1.0
Grade:	Grade 6
Accountable to:	Jackie Cook / Dr Natacha Protopopoff
Job Summary	<p>The post holder will support the delivery of a cluster randomized controlled Trial (RCT) on vector control interventions involving the most promising new generation of long-lasting insecticidal net. The RCT aims to produce evidence on the efficacy of two type of dual active-ingredient LLIN's compared to standard LLIN's against malaria infection and transmission by resistant mosquito populations. This is an exciting opportunity to be part of high-profile research that will help define future malaria control policy of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and African member states.</p> <p>The post holder will support all epidemiological components of the project and should therefore be organized, diligent and able to work under pressure. The candidate will work within a larger multi-disciplinary team so excellent communication and interpersonal skills will be essential as well a strong team spirit.</p>

GENERAL INFORMATION

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, the School has expanded in recent years at its two main sites on Keppel Street and Tavistock Place. Our staff, students and alumni work in more than 150 countries in government, academia, international agencies and health services. Research income has grown to more than £110 million per year from national and international funding sources including UK government and research councils, the European Union, the Wellcome Trust, Gates Foundation and other philanthropic sources. 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.

Our education provision has expanded to more than 1,000 London-based Master's and Research students, 3,000 studying postgraduate courses by distance learning, and 1,000 each year on short courses and continuous professional development. Our free online courses (MOOCs) are studied by more than 30,000 participants globally.

The School performs well in various global university league tables. In the US News Best Global Universities Ranking 2017, we are ranked sixth in the world (together with Oxford University) in the fields of social sciences and public health. In the 2016 CWTS Leiden Ranking, the School was ranked fifth in the world for research impact across all disciplines, based on the share of institutions' outputs within the top 1% of papers by citation in all areas of science and independent

of size of output.

The School was named University of the Year 2016 by Times Higher Education, in recognition of our response to the Ebola epidemic. The School is a member of the M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centres, Universities and National Academies, the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region, and the Consortium of Universities for Global Health.

FACULTY INFORMATION

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 James Logan)

The Department of Disease Control is a multidisciplinary, cross-cutting department, operating in a global context and committed to excellence in research, innovation, learning and engagement. We have an outstanding reputation for internationally competitive research and teaching excellence, with demonstrable impact in the control of diseases, worldwide. Our diverse scientific staff comprises entomologists, epidemiologists, mathematical modellers, geographers, public health engineers, hygiene specialists, social scientists, engineers, statisticians and clinical scientists. We also have a strong team of project administrators, coordinators, managers, and communication specialists, who provide expert support to our research programmes in the UK and overseas. We are a highly collaborative Department, with extensive partnerships and collaborations with researchers from many countries and organisations around the world, as well as internally, with multiple School Departments. Our work cuts across several School Centres such as the Vaccine Centre, the Malaria Centre, Centre for Evaluation and the MARCH Centre.

Our staff play influential roles as consultants and key advisors to organisations including the WHO, CDC, Malaria Consortium, Public Health England, Department of Health, DFID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Royal Society, Research Councils, Academy of Medical Sciences, the World Bank, Governments and private sector manufacturers and innovators, amongst many others. Our range of expertise provides us with an impressive set of tools for addressing the control of diseases that are insect-borne, water-borne or associated with poor hygiene – mostly in low- and middle-income countries. Much of our research is directed at current health policy issues and addressing gaps between policy and practice.

Teaching

The School offers 18 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. Six MSc courses are also offered by Distance Learning, including one on Infectious Diseases.

Research Training

The School offers two doctoral training programmes. The MPhil/PhD degrees are designed for those who wish to go on to a full time research career. The DrPH is directed towards those who expect their careers to be more in the practice of public health.

The portfolio of duties outlined below will vary in accordance with the detailed expectations of the role (attached), which may be varied from time to time, and agreed at your annual Performance and Development Review (PDR).

Project information

Insecticide resistance in malaria vectors across Africa is the most serious problem facing malaria control progress. Policy has recently shifted away from pyrethroid-only long lasting insecticidal nets to next generation LLIN combining either two types of insecticide or a pyrethroid plus synergist. Several types of bi-treated net incorporating novel types of insecticide (and evaluated in small scale entomological trials by LSHTM in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) demonstrate great potential to combat the threat of insecticide resistance and maintain control of malaria transmitted by pyrethroid resistant mosquitoes in Africa. The proposed study is a cluster randomised controlled trial (CRT) which compares the new vector control interventions involving the most promising new generation LLIN to prevent malaria in areas where vector mosquitoes are resistant to pyrethroids. The project will take place in Benin and aims to produce evidence on the relative effectiveness of new LLIN's against malaria infection (prevalence and incidence) and transmission by resistant mosquito populations to help define future malaria control policy of the WHO and African member states.

The project is a collaboration between the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and Centre de Recherche Entomologique de Cotonou in Benin (CREC). LSHTM and CREC form the PAMVERC alliance of trial sites (Pan African Malaria Vector Control Consortium) and have worked together since 2002. The multi-disciplinary trial is funded by UNITAID.

We are seeking to recruit a Research Fellow to support, in close collaboration with partner Institution CREC, the epidemiological components of the trial. The trial has several main epidemiological objectives:

1. Estimate malaria case incidence in children aged 6 months to 10 years in all study clusters through regular cohorts visits
2. Estimate malaria infection prevalence within all study clusters through repeated cross-sectional surveys
3. Estimate anaemia prevalence in children under 5 years old in all study clusters through repeated cross-sectional surveys

The Research Fellow will have a varied role incorporating data collection, data management and analysis and therefore will need to be organized, diligent and able to work under pressure. The Research Fellow will work within a larger multi-disciplinary team so excellent communication and interpersonal skills will be essential, as well a strong team spirit. There is potential to enrol on a PhD programme with LSHTM if not already qualified to this level.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Main Activities and Responsibilities

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

1. To undertake high quality research & scholarship, including contributing to drafting major grant proposals and/or leading on drafting small grant proposals;
2. To contribute to peer-reviewed publications, including as lead author, as well as contributing to report writing;
3. To make a contribution to research degree student supervision, as appropriate to qualifications and experience;
4. To manage small grants or elements of larger grants, ensuring compliance with good practice in relation to the conduct of research, the ethics policy and other relevant School

policies.

5. To coordinate and supervise routine epidemiological data collection in all study sites;
6. To lead the development of sub- protocols, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and data collection tools
7. To ensure that all data and samples are collected and stored in a safe and secure manner;
8. To synthesise data, undertake preliminary analysis and to communicate findings to a wide variety of audiences, including government officials, academics and funders;
9. To undertake high quality research & scholarship;

For the trial management

1. To lead planning and implementation of the trial including contribution to the design of the RCT, protocol amendment, development of SOP, data management and analysis plan, report writing
2. To coordinate the ethics application with other research team members.
3. To supervise the trial research activities
4. To coordinate the activities of other team members, including entomology, data management, and field staff

EDUCATION

1. To contribute to the delivery of high quality, research-informed teaching and assessment in relation to your specific subject and within the broader area covered by your department and disciplinary field;
2. To contribute to the improvement of the quality of the School's education, by participating in the development of new and updated learning and teaching materials or approaches.
3. To participate in some aspects of the Partner Institution (CREC) Education Programme or educational outreach activities if required;

INTERNAL CONTRIBUTION

1. To undertake activities that support the Department, Faculty or the School;
2. To participate in the School's PDR process.
3. To make a contribution to scientific meetings within CREC and LSHTM

EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTION

1. To demonstrate good external citizenship by contributing to learned society/conference events, journal and grant reviews etc;
2. To support supervision and mentorship of junior scientists with training and teaching

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

1. To keep up to date with the latest research/thinking in your academic field and with changes to pedagogic practice within the School and more generally;
2. Where the length and nature of the position permits, to apply for and, if accepted, undertake a doctoral degree (if not already acquired);
3. To undertake and successfully complete the mandatory training required by the School appropriate to the role.

GENERAL

All academic staff are free within the law to question and test received wisdom, and put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, to enable the School to engage in research and promote learning to the highest possible standards.

All staff at LSHTM are also expected to:

1. Act at all times in the School's best interests;
2. Treat School staff, students and visitors with courtesy and respect at all times;

3. Comply fully with School policies, procedures and administrative processes relevant to the role, including when acting as Principal Investigator, accepting academic, managerial, financing and ethical responsibility for a project
4. Uphold and support the School's values (as set out in the School Strategy document);
5. Act as ambassadors for the School when hosting visitors or attending external events.

The above list of duties is not exclusive or exhaustive and the role holder will be required to undertake such tasks as may reasonably be expected within the scope and grading of the role.

Role descriptions should be regularly reviewed to ensure they are an accurate representation of the role.

[MAY 2018]

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

- MSc or PhD in epidemiology or a closely-related subject and a track record of publications in epidemiology or vector borne diseases
- Substantial relevant experience in control of vector borne diseases in a developing country (ideally in an African setting)
- Project management experience, including supervision of staff
- Evidence of running research projects independently and generating research ideas
- Prior experience with epidemiological data collection and management, including use of programmes such as Open Data Kit
- Data analysis skills, including use of programmes such as Stata or R
- Ability to work with limited supervision
- Willing to be based in Benin
- Excellent communication skills in English language (oral and written)
- Good communication skills in French language (oral and written)

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

- Experience of team management
- Previous clinical experience
- Previous work or research experience with malaria
- Experience with entomological data collection and/or analysis

SALARY AND CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT

The post is available from 1st January 2019 until 31st December 2020. The salary will be on the Academic Grade 6 scale in the range £39,304 to £44,634 per annum (inclusive of London Weighting). The post will be subject to the LSHTM terms and conditions of service. Annual leave entitlement is 30 working days per year, pro rata for part time staff. In addition to this there are discretionary "Director's Days". Membership of the Pension Scheme is available.

Applications should be made online via our website at <http://jobs.lshtm.ac.uk>. 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 of the closing date. Any queries regarding the application process may be addressed to jobs@lshtm.ac.uk. Please quote reference ITD-DCD-2018-29

The supporting statement section should set out how your qualifications, experience and training meet each of the selection criteria. Please provide one or more paragraphs addressing each criterion. The supporting statement is an essential part of the selection process and thus a failure to provide this information will mean that the application will not be considered. An answer to any

of the criteria such as "Please see attached CV" will not be considered acceptable. Please note that if you are shortlisted and are unable to attend on the interview date it may not be possible to offer you an alternative date.

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 email a copy of their passport (and visa if applicable) to HR prior to their interview and if appointed will be asked to bring the original documents in to be copied and verified before their start date.

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.

Academic Expectations: Research Fellow

Examples of expected types of activities are listed; the selection of activities will vary from year to year and not all activities in each category would necessarily be done in any one year. The statement in each shaded heading summarises the general expectations for contributions in each category. Given the nature of employment as a Research Fellow, it is expected that most activity will focus on knowledge generation, but some activity in other areas is required and will support career progression.

<i>Knowledge generation: Independent contributions and a clear trajectory towards excellence as an academic researcher</i>
<i>Research and scholarship</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertaking research• Working with PIs to draft grant proposals and/or leading writing of small grants, work packages or sections of larger proposals or personal fellowship applications• Contributing to peer-reviewed outputs, including as first author, as expected by the subject area/discipline in terms of types of output• Poster/oral presentations at relevant conferences, translation of research findings into educational materials• Social media contributions such as twitter, blogs, web-based media or webinars <i>Doctoral degree supervision</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For RFs with Doctorate, some contribution to doctoral degree supervision is encouraged (e.g. specialist skills training; ad hoc advice; advisory committees). RFs without a Doctorate may also advise in areas of specialist knowledge¹ <i>Research management, leadership and support</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective management of own time and activities• Management of small research grants or elements of larger grants, including management of data collection and relationships with research collaborators, support to grants management <i>Professional development</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Courses and other professional development activities, referenced to RDF• To apply for and undertake a doctoral degree (if not already acquired), if contract and funding source permit;
<i>Education: Basic competence in teaching and assessment</i>
<i>Teaching and assessment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research-informed teaching and assessment contributions (e.g. contributions to modules, MSc project supervision) <i>Educational development and innovation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contributing to the development of new educational materials, learning opportunities or assessments approaches <i>Education leadership and management</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None expected <i>Professional development</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation in professional development activities referenced to UKPSF (e.g. HEA, PGCILT, preparation for doctoral degree supervision, shadowing more experienced colleagues)
<i>Internal contribution: Contributions to School functioning and development</i>
<i>Internal citizenship</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contributing to at least one Department, Faculty, School, or Centre event or special interest group in any one year;• Supporting external School collaborations/partnerships (beyond own research or education role) where relevant <i>School leadership and management roles</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None expected

¹ Such RFs are expected where the length and nature of the position permits, to apply for and, if accepted, undertake a doctoral degree (if not already acquired)

<i>External contribution: Contribution beyond the School</i>
<i>External citizenship</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contributing to learned society/conference events, journal and grant reviews etc <i>Knowledge translation and enterprise: not expected but options include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collecting evidence of research impact for impact case studies (e.g. policy records, correspondence with policy makers, media highlights)• Engaging with policy/practice/industry/NGO communities and the general public• Supporting MOOCs/OERs or other (e.g. educational) outreach