



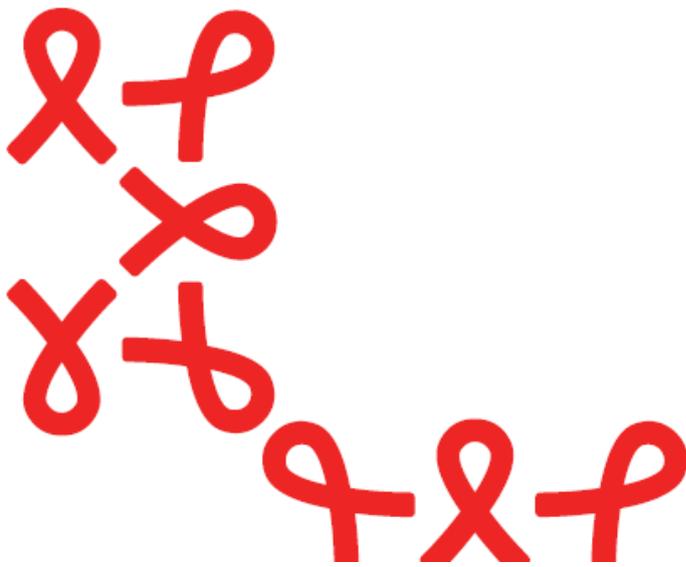
Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research (CIPHER)

Growing the Leaders of Tomorrow Fellowship Programme

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

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FELLOWSHIP OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Growing the Leaders of Tomorrow Fellowship Programme is to contribute to strengthened HIV clinical research capacity in high-burden countries in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) by providing two-year research fellowships to emerging young leaders in paediatric HIV clinical science.

When top-tier publications and guidelines in paediatric HIV are mapped out, there is a clear disconnect between where the majority of international leaders are from (mainly from well-resourced countries) and the geography of the epidemic, particularly SSA where the majority of treating physicians work. There is recognition that support is needed to develop young leaders in paediatric HIV clinical research, especially in resource-limited settings. This project seeks to contribute to the success of emerging paediatric HIV investigators in SSA by providing participants a chance to work with internationally renowned mentors on a research project that will develop their skills and place them in a stronger position to apply for subsequent intermediate level fellowships or grants.

Specifically, the programme is aimed at medical practitioners from SSA with clinical research experience and the potential to become the next generation of leaders in paediatric HIV clinical science. Candidates will have established links with a potential mentor, who is a prominent researcher in paediatric HIV with an established clinical research collaboration based at an institute of excellence in SSA. By supporting their work with the mentor, the programme will strengthen each fellow's research skills and facilitate their integration into international clinical research networks while also contributing to increased institutional capacity in SSA. The fellowship funds are to provide a stipend for the fellow and can support travel to attend one academic meeting to present results; fellowship funds are not intended to cover direct research expenses, which must be provided by the host institution or additional grants.

The programme has four key outcomes:

1. Fellows have increased knowledge and skills in HIV clinical research;
2. Fellows can compete more effectively for international research funding opportunities;
3. Fellows have strengthened relationships with a leading clinical scientist in paediatric HIV and with an institution of excellence in SSA;
4. Priority research gaps in paediatric HIV clinical science are addressed.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications will be submitted by the fellows, with documented participation of the mentor and support of their institution(s). Mentors may apply with more than one fellow.

Mentor's eligibility criteria

The mentor must:

- Be either an Associate or Full Professor or Chief/Principal Research Officer with an established position at a research institute in SSA;
- Submit their CV, including publication record in paediatric HIV clinical research;

- Demonstrate that they are the principal investigator of the proposed research project that the fellow will be contributing to and that direct research expenses and adequate infrastructure for the period of the fellowship will be provided for by other grants or sources of funding;
- Establish a mentorship plan that demonstrates how the fellowship will contribute to skill building and professional development of the fellow, as well as ensuring successful completion of the research project.

Fellow's eligibility criteria:

- The fellow must be a junior investigator with a doctoral degree (PhD) or a doctor of medicine degree (e.g., MD, MBBS or equivalent) obtained no more than ten years before the application deadline and who has less than five years of relevant research experience.
- The fellow must hold a passport from a country in SSA¹.
- The fellow must fulfil one of the following criteria prior to the application submission deadline:
 - He/she is a clinical/research trainee (e.g., research or clinical fellow, senior medical resident/Registrar) at an SSA academic institute or an SSA institute whose primary mission is research.
 - He/she has a faculty or comparable position (e.g., assistant professor, lecturer, research officer) at an SSA academic institute or an SSA institute whose primary mission is research.
 - He/she is working at an SSA organization with adequate research infrastructure to undertake the proposed research activities.
- The fellow (and mentor) must demonstrate that funding to support the direct costs of the proposed research is available.

For questions regarding the eligibility criteria, applicants are encouraged to read the frequently asked questions on the [CIPHER website](#). For other questions, contact the programme administrator at cipher@iasociety.org.

The research project should respond to the identified research gaps in [Annex I](#).

OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

The Growing the Leaders of Tomorrow Fellowship Programme is a two-stage process:

1. Fellow/mentor pairs submit an application;
2. Twelve short-listed fellows are invited to attend a skill strengthening and networking workshop in Lilongwe, Malawi, where they will present their application.

¹ Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of the, Congo, Republic of the, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, United Republic of, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Following the workshop three awardees will be selected to receive a two-year fellowship of up to US\$ 70,000 (US\$ 35,000 per year).

Activity	Key dates
Online application system open	February 2017
Short-listed candidates' invitation to a skill strengthening and networking workshop	April/May 2017
Skill strengthening and networking workshop	13-15 May 2017
Notification of awardees	End of May/Beginning of June 2017
Research starting date	Between July and November 2017

FUNDING INFORMATION

A detailed budget and budget justification must be provided. Awards will be for up to US\$ 70,000 in total, including indirect costs and travel expenses. Second-year funding is contingent upon demonstration of satisfactory progress during year one. Funding for the last quarter of the fellowship is contingent upon proof of submission of an application to an intermediate fellowship or equivalent development award or grant.

The award will be made available to the mentor's host institution. Indirect costs are limited to 10% of the total amount requested. It is expected that the majority of the award will be used for the fellow's stipend, distributed over the two-year fellowship period. The stipend may cover only the cost of living (e.g., health and accident insurance, salary) and travel expenses. Travel expenses may include attendance at one conference to present results of the research conducted during the fellowship. The fellowship funds are not intended to cover direct research expenses, which should be provided for by the host institute or through additional grants.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted no later than 15 March 2017, 18:00 CET.

Applications for the programme must be submitted by the fellow through the online application form that will be available on the CIPHER website from 15 February 2017 until 15 March 2017, 18:00 CET. Applicants will be asked to detail past achievements of the fellow and mentor, their research goals, provide an abstract of their proposed project, and write a research plan and mentorship plan for the duration of the fellowship.

Documents to be uploaded:

- Mentor's curriculum vitae, including publication record in paediatric HIV clinical research;
- Fellow's degree(s);
- Fellow's passport;
- Letter of support from Mentor's and Fellow's institution (unless the institution is the same);

- Research plan, including funding and timeline; IRB approval if available (included in the form);
- Mentorship plan (included in the form).

Selection is based on past achievements of the fellow and mentor; support by the host institution; the quality of the research proposed and the mentorship plan; and the potential of the overall proposal to forward the professional development of the fellow.

CONDITIONS

Duration: Fellowships must be served continuously for the duration of the award. The fellowships must be started between July and November 2017.

Reporting: Fellows and mentors must provide narrative and financial progress reports every six months during the fellowship period and a final fellowship report, including a final financial report to the IAS based on a template that they will receive.

Terms: All fellows must apply for at least one intermediate fellowship or equivalent career development award or grant by the end of their two-year fellowship.

Meetings: Short-listed candidates (fellows) must attend the skill strengthening and networking workshop in May in Lilongwe, Malawi. Awardees must attend the 9th IAS Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2017) in July in Paris, France, where an official awards ceremony will be held and they will be engaged in capacity building events. Additional support will be provided for short-listed candidates to attend the workshop and for fellows to attend the IAS 2017, as well as the 22nd International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2018), the Netherlands.

ANNEX I: ELIGIBLE RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The research funded by the Growing the Leaders of Tomorrow Fellowship Programme must address crucial gaps in paediatric HIV research that impede optimal HIV diagnosis, prevention, treatment and care for infants, children and adolescents affected by HIV in SSA. Eligible research projects include original research that falls within defined priority clinical research questions.

Clinical Research

- a) Pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic and pharmacogenomic studies of paediatric antiretrovirals and of drugs for co-morbid conditions (particularly for TB, and malnutrition), with a focus on pre-term infants and neonates;
- b) Studies to evaluate the short- and long-term complications of HIV and of antiretroviral therapy and the pathogenesis of such complications, as well as management of HIV, including interventions to treat HIV co-infections (especially TB) and co-morbidities (including malnutrition), as HIV-infected children age through adolescence and young adulthood;
- c) Studies to evaluate pharmacokinetics and safety of newer ARV drugs in pregnant women and in breast milk, and the effect of antiretroviral therapy during pregnancy on maternal pregnancy complications, pregnancy outcomes (e.g., prematurity, low birth weight) and neonatal outcomes (morbidity and mortality) in HIV- and antiretroviral-exposed uninfected and HIV-infected neonates, including studies to evaluate potential pathogenesis of adverse effects;
- d) Studies to evaluate the long-term effects of *in utero* exposure to maternal antiretroviral therapy in HIV-exposed uninfected children and adolescents, including effects on metabolism, bone mineral density and growth, other laboratory/biologic markers, and physical and cognitive development;
- e) Studies evaluating and/or validating diagnostic assays to assess neurocognitive and physical development among HIV-infected and HIV-exposed uninfected infants, children, and adolescents in resource-limited settings.