



## UI-RESEARCH NEWS

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### Social Value as a Requirement for Ethical Research:

### *Harnessing the Benefits of Research Innovation*

#### Introduction

Research and innovation lie at the heart all human achievements, be they in culture, the arts or the sciences. They are also key to any society's progress and advancement. The reason is that human progress and development are only possible through research and innovative activities. And if the truth must be told, today, there is hardly any aspect of human life which has not been touched in one way or another by the information and technologies generated through research. Therefore, the need for research cannot be overemphasized.

#### What is research?

When the question 'what is research?' is asked, there may be some who regard it as otiose or trifling. However, the question is neither trivial nor petty but significant. The reason is that understanding what research is will help expand our knowledge base, enabling us to know the ways in which we can to translate the knowledge gained through research into practice. In answering the question therefore, we should mention that many definitions abound in the literature concerning what research is, but due to the constraint of space, we shall define it simply as systematic investigation into a subject to discover facts, to establish or revise a theory aimed at developing or contributing to generalizable knowledge. In line with this definition, an activity is said to be research when it generates new knowledge or corroborates existing knowledge, that is, scholars should be able to apply the principles learnt therein in other situations.

An important aspect of the definition given above is the requirement that the knowledge generated through research must be 'generalizable', that is, the knowledge generated should be capable of replication or repetition. But beyond the idea of replication or iteration, we need to state that the purpose of research is to inform action. Hence, researchers, funders and society at large, must evolve hands-on techniques for translating research findings or outcomes into practice. This leads us to the idea of social value of research.

#### The notion of social value in research: harnessing the benefits of research innovation

Well-conducted research must produce knowledge that is applicable outside of the research setting. Some scholars have interpreted this claim to mean that research must have 'social value'. 'Social value' is a well-developed concept in the social sciences literature, especially in such disciplines as sociology and psychology. Similarly, the concept has also made a strong entry in the bioethics as well as research ethics literature. But what is 'social value' in regard to research? The concept is somewhat ambiguous and difficult to delineate. However, in its simplest sense 'social value' means the benefit(s) that should accrue to society where research is conducted.

The question ‘what is the goal of research?’ has elicited varying answers from scholars, but the one given by James Perkins below is perceptive and illuminating. Perkins states as follow:

The acquisition of knowledge is the mission of research, the transmission of knowledge is the mission of teaching and the application of knowledge is the mission of public service.<sup>1</sup>

A rereading of Perkins’ will show that for him, the ‘acquisition’ of knowledge should not be an end in itself; rather, it in *applying* research knowledge to practical needs of society that the global community will benefit from research programmes and initiatives. Put differently, research knowledge is only worthwhile when it aims at promoting public good. By parity of reasoning, therefore, the social value of research (SVR) refers not only to “benefits” to individuals who participate in research but more significantly, the community where research is conducted. The relation between research and society has remained a constant theme in the research ethics literature. The history of global bioethics reveals that major documents on the ethical conduct of research involving human beings are premised on the principle that potential harms to research participants must not outweigh anticipated benefits.

For Emanuel and colleagues, “without social value, research exposes participants to risks for no good reason and wastes resources.” On their part, Habets et al believe that ‘social value’ should be expanded to include the “anticipated improvement” that a study or an intervention will bring because for them, social value “should be a prerequisite for research to involve human participants.”<sup>1</sup> Here, ‘anticipated’ benefits or improvement is another name used in qualifying social value. It is such benefits that can justify any research involving human beings.

Research involving human beings imparts at least three general categories of benefits:

1. The basic desire for new knowledge and understanding, which is the driving force for research
2. Benefits to participants
3. Benefits to society at large (social value).

A peek into the history of global bioethics shows that the Nuremberg Code (the first international guideline on human subject research) invoked the idea of “social value” of research by requiring that “medical experiments on human beings must have the potential to yield fruitful results for the good of society.” Reaffirming the idea, the Declaration of Helsinki (DoH), 1964, stated that clinical research should only be undertaken if risks to participants are justified by the importance of the research.

The National Code of Health Research Ethics of Nigeria (NCHRE) is more categorical in espousing the idea of SVR when it states thus: “research must have social or scientific value to either participants, the population they represent, the local community, the host country or the world, in order to justify the use of finite resources and risk exposure of some participants to harm.”<sup>1</sup> The Code also requires that research evaluates issues that lead to improvements in health and contribute to ‘meaningful knowledge’. Indeed, it is not only ethics documents but also research ethics scholars that have come to accept that social value should be a precondition for ethical research or research involving human beings.

## Delineating between ex-ante and ex-post assessments of value

In the academic literature, attempts have been made to distinguish between the *ex-ante* and *ex-post* assessments of value. *Ex-ante* means “before the event” while *ex-post* is another word for actual returns, translated from the Latin “after the fact.” In regard to SVR, value is *ex-ante* when the expected benefits form an integral part of the research from the start; it is *ex-post* when benefits are evaluated for their effects. There is debate whether value assessment should be *ex-ante* or *ex-post*. But what is not at debate is the necessity of SVR itself.

Some scholars have identified what they regard as “pathways” in which research can drive or generate values for all involved. Four such pathways are summarized below:

1. Increasing the stock of useful knowledge.
2. Training skilled people.
3. Creating new scientific instrumentation and methodologies and collaborating with users in the use of such facilities or processes.
4. Collaborating in research projects and networks with users.<sup>1</sup>

On their part, Emanuel et al developed what they describe as ‘benchmarks’ that will ensure social value in research. The benchmarks are four in number and are listed as follow:

- i. The first one is to specify who the beneficiaries of the research are.
- ii. The second is to assess the importance of the health problems being investigated and the prospective value of the research for each of the beneficiaries.
- iii. The third is to enhance the value of the research for each of the beneficiaries through dissemination of knowledge, product development, long-term research collaboration, and/or health system improvements.
- iv. The fourth is to prevent supplanting the extant health system infrastructure and services.<sup>1</sup>

## Concluding remarks

As important as social value is, the concept should neither be understood merely in terms of risk-benefit assessment, nor should it be interpreted only as justification for research. For Ghoshal, to conceive of social value that way, will be to see it as “leftover-benefits.” Such a conceptualization Ghoshal avers further, “would derogate the idea of value, besides focusing only on the affected/concerned research participants and not on the larger global community.”<sup>1</sup> Properly construed, therefore, social value of research refers to benefits accruable to the community as a whole. In the words of London, social value is justified by the fact that:

“The research enterprise represents a permissible use of a community’s scarce public resources and is a permissible target of social support when it functions to expand the capacity of the basic social structures of that community to better serve the fundamental interests of that community’s members.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> James Perkins, See “James A. Perkins Quotes.” *Quotes.net*. STANDS4 LLC, 2020. Web. 28 Nov. 2020. <<https://www.quotes.net/quote/16341>>.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Emmanuel et al Emanuel EJ, Wendler D, Killen J & Grady C: What Makes Clinical Research in Developing Countries Ethical? The Benchmarks of Ethical Research. *The Journal of Infectious Diseases* 2004; 189:930-7; Habets, MGJL, van Delden, JJM and Bredenoord, AL. The social value of clinical research. *BMC Medical Ethics*. 2014 Sept. DOI: 10.1186/1472-6939-15-66.

<sup>3</sup> Federal Ministry of Health. National Code of Health Research Ethics. Abuja, 2007, p. 39. While the other codes did not use the phrase ‘social value’, the Nigerian code did.

<sup>4</sup> See Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. Value of Research. Policy Paper by the Research, Innovation, and Science Policy Experts (RISE). Brussels, Belgium: European Commission, 2015.

<sup>5</sup> Emanuel EJ, Wendler D, Killen J & Grady C: What Makes Clinical Research in Developing Countries Ethical? The Benchmarks of Ethical Research. *The Journal of Infectious Diseases* 2004; 189:930-7.

<sup>6</sup> Ghoshal, R. The social value of research: interrogating the paradoxes. *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*. 3 (3), 2018. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.20529/IJME.2018.001>.

<sup>7</sup> London, AJ. Justice and the Human Development Approach to International Research. *Hastings Cent Rep* 2005; 35(1): 24–37: 33.

# PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF COVID-19

The novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) is a new strain of the virus that has not been previously identified in humans. SARS-CoV-2 is the virus that causes coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The Federal Ministry of Health, through the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), has activated a national Emergency Operations Centre at the highest level and is leading the national response. A National Rapid Response Team has been deployed to support affected State Governments with response activities.

As at 1st of May 2020 there were 18 laboratories in NCDC's molecular laboratory network with the capacity to test for COVID-19 in Nigeria, more are still being added. These laboratories were sufficiently equipped with reagents and supplies for testing.

On the 27th of April, President Muhammadu Buhari announced that there would be a phased and gradual easing of the lockdown in these locations. He added that, however, the following additional preventive measures would be enforced:

- Mandatory use of non-medical face mask/covering for all persons while in public spaces. Use of medical latex hand gloves are prohibited
- Mandatory provision of handwashing facilities/sanitizers and extensive temperature checks in all public spaces. Anyone with temperature above 38 degrees Celsius will not be allowed into public spaces and should be told to return home
- Mandatory temperature checks in public spaces
- Prohibition of interstate travel except for essential travels and services
- Prohibition of gatherings of more than twenty (20) persons outside of a workplace
- Prohibition of gatherings of more than twenty (20) persons at a funeral; all infection prevention and control measures and physical distancing of 2 metres must be adhered to
- Controlled access to markets and locations of economic activities
- Physical distancing of 2 metres between people in workplaces and other public spaces

## HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Members of the University Community should undertake simple measures to prevent the spread of the virus, by following these measures:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap under running water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based sanitiser if water is not available
- Cover your mouth and nose properly with a tissue paper when sneezing and/or coughing. Dispose of the tissue properly immediately after use. You may also cough into your elbow if a tissue is not available
- Maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing repeatedly
- Maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance with other people when in public places
- Wear a non-medical face mask/covering when leaving the house
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Ensure routine cleaning of high-contact areas such as toilets, door handles, telephones, light switches etc.
- Consciously distance yourself at least two (2) meters to the next person. Stay 6 feet away, especially if the person around is coughing or sneezing.
- Do not shake hands or hug any person.
- Unnecessary visitors should not be allowed
- An ill person should be asked to stay away from the office
- Offices can practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example tables, desk, light switch, sinks, electronics, door handles, toilets, etc.
- If you have recently returned from a place or area within the last 14 days with widespread of transmission and have a fever, cough, or breathing difficulty, stay at home and call your state hotline or the NCDC on 080097000010.
- Self-isolate if you returned from any place or area within the last 14 days with widespread transmission of COVID-19

## ABOUT CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

COVID-19 appears to cause mild to severe respiratory symptoms like fever, cough and difficulty breathing. From current evidence, about 80 persons out of 100 persons with the disease will recover. In about 10- 15% of cases, it will cause severe illness. It appears that death is not a common outcome and occurs mostly in patients with underlying health issues.

There is no specific treatment yet for COVID-19. However, many of the symptoms can be treated. Treatment is based on the patient's clinical condition, but supportive care for infected persons can be highly effective.

The above are precautionary measures to guide and protect us as individuals and entire system at large. Therefore, we are encouraged to kindly observe the prevention measures conscientiously.



# NEWS

## As Professor Abel Idowu Olayinka Bows Out of Office as the 12<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan



**Prof. A.I. Olayinka**

If we were to write an anthem about research in the University of Ibadan in the last five years, the period covered by the Vice Chancellorship of Prof. A. I. Olayinka, it would be an anthem of great strides and all-round progress. From Medicine to Technology to the Natural and Human Sciences, the Research Management Office can testify to increased research profile of the university during his tenure.

This no doubt accounted for the sharp and steady rise of its ranking. Aside this, our students won a string of thesis competitions such as the African Studies Centre, University of Leiden African Thesis Competition. In laboratory-related disciplines, old laboratories began to breathe afresh, and new ones were built. An example is the Fabrication Laboratory (FABLAB) in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Research in Nuclear Medicine would soon take on new speed and intensity with the establishment, in UI, of the first Department of Nuclear Medicine in West Africa. The tenure did not only witness a revolution in teaching and learning but strongly supported and implemented pedagogical training through the “Partnership for Pedagogical Leadership in Africa (PedaL)” project. There is far much more than we can list here.

The giant strides in research in the last five years should delight but not surprise us: we had a Vice Chancellor who, after spending four years as Dean of Postgraduate Studies, spent four years as Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) – two research-intensive leadership positions which must have prepared him to leapfrog growth in research management and promotion. He midwived the establishment of West African Research and Innovation Management Association (WARIMA), and planted the University of Ibadan in the Development Research Uptake in Sub-Sahara Africa (DRUSSA) network. Through his support and motivation, the Research Management Office became a beehive of research capacity development programmes. During his administration the RMO received a new four year capacity building grant titled “Nigerian Innovative Research Management Structures project (NIReMaS)”, built within the framework of the Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES), in collaboration with the University of Cologne (UoC) in Germany”. The implementation of this project will commence in early 2021. More importantly, he established a Deputy Vice Chancellery devoted solely to research and partnership (DVC RISP). To be modest, Prof. A. I. Olayinka took research promotion, management and stimulation to unprecedented heights in the University of Ibadan. Therefore, as he bows out of office as the 12<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor of our great university we celebrate him and wish him well in all his future endeavours.

## Professor Adebola Ekanola Appointed as Acting Vice Chancellor



**Prof. A.E. Ekanola**

Professor Adebola Ekanola has been appointed as the Acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan. Professor Ekanola is the current Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic. He was a former Dean of Faculty of Arts and Director of the Office of International Programmes (OIP). He is a Philosopher. The entire Research Management Office family wishes him a very successful tenure.

## UI Research Management Office Gets New Grant

The Research Management Office (RMO) in collaboration with the University of Cologne in Germany and two other Nigerian universities was successful in a joint application titled “Nigerian Innovative Research Management Structures (NIReMaS)” at the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The aim of the FOUR-year project (Years 2021 – 2024) is to build structures for proposal writing and research management, support early career scholars to apply and conduct international research.

The project will involve workshops (including online workshop), staff exchange in which RMO staff will be able to stay one more week after the workshops in Cologne in order to get direct insight into the UoC research management practice. Early career scholars can take advantage of online consultation to get advice about networking possibilities for their research proposals and find mentors for their projects. Also, early career staff will have opportunity to come to Cologne for a 1-2 months research stay, in order to develop their research proposal, build up a relevant network for their proposal and get supported by an academic advisor as well as the UoC research management department.

Finally, the project aims to build long-term cooperation between the UoC and its Nigerian partners. The implementation of NIReMaS project will start from the beginning of year 2021.

## University of Ibadan-Small and Medium Enterprise FAIR

Realising the importance of the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in socioeconomic development of a country and indeed as the growth driver of the Nigeria economy, and in commitment to the research and development (R&D) and town-gown relationships that fosters economic growth, the University of Ibadan hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> UI-SME Fair, tagged “Co-Create The Future: UI and SMEs on Thursday, 12 November, 2020 at the International Conference Center.

The FAIR brought together key stakeholders in the SME sector to provide crucial support for SMEs or their growth and sustainability in addition to providing a platform to ensuring that researches emanating from the University of Ibadan are geared towards providing practical solutions to the needs of the SME sector and the Nigerian society at large.

Speaking at the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abel Idowu Olayinka, FAS, declared that the University has the mission to contribute to the transformation of the society through creativity and innovation and this has led to a renewed and unshaken commitment to foster relationship(s) with Small and Medium Businesses, with a view to solving technical challenges relating to such businesses. He expressed his desire to see the Fair transformed into a national annual discourse serving as a platform of participation for other SMEs as well as for other tertiary institutions in Nigeria with the University of Ibadan as chief convener of the laudable initiative.



**Dignitaries at the SME Fair**

The Chairman of the ceremony, a former Dean, Faculty of the Social Sciences and Pioneer Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation of the institution, Prof. Adedoyin Soyibo was delighted to witness the birth of the major dream he had during his tenure. In his words: "The ideas and conceptions that one imagined, God has made then possible and I am so excited and happy to be here."

In her welcome address, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships), Prof Olanike Adeyemo, indicated that SMEs are the drivers of economy anywhere in the world. In her words, she said "to support Nigeria and make it work, we need to collaborate."

The FAIR was well attended by relevant stakeholders including SMEs, Banks, Consultants, Government agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

## African Research Universities Alliance Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases (ACE-NCD)

As part of the institution's mission to expand the frontiers of knowledge through provision of excellent conditions for learning and research, the University of Ibadan (COMUI) was selected as one of the partner institutions in a grant scheme funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) through the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) whose aim is to support and strength research capacity under the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases (ACE-NCD). The ARUA Centre of Excellence on NCDs (ACE-NCDs) provides a platform for the creation of a long-term strategic network of researchers in African Universities through a hub and spoke model to strengthen intra-African collaboration, and collaboration between the network and the rest of the world.

The ACE-NCD will build on the strengths of the core university members, University of Nairobi (Kenya and the Hub), University of Ghana, University of Ibadan (Nigeria), Makerere University (Uganda) and the University of the Witwatersrand (S. Africa). At its inception, the ACE-NCD has also partnered with the University of Leicester and University of Glasgow who shall support its development. In addition, the ACE-NCD will bring on board relevant stakeholders involved in prevention, control and management of NCDs within their regions including medical research institutions, relevant professionals, policy-makers, civil society to ensure co-design and co-production of high impact research output that shall support policy-making, interventions, and commercialisable intellectual property. Continental and regional teams will be supported to develop winning grant proposals around the agreed upon ACE-NCD thematic areas, thus ensuring sustainability and growth of the ACE-NCD beyond the life of the current grant.

The vision of the team is to be the leading center of excellence for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Africa, producing transformative ideas, efficient and sustainable solutions, to reduce the burden of NCDs in Africa. The ARUA ACE-NCD aims to, as part of its activities, provide training and capacity-building in support of NCD research through Masters and PhD across its thematic areas - prevention, multi-morbidity, mechanisms of disease, bio-banking [bio makers], and big data programs across its member Centers of Excellence. Since the award of this grant, the ACE-NCD investigators have continued to participate in several activities that guides this partnership. The joined the rest of the COE network in response to a call for application for provision of funding support its PhD students whose research work centers on its thematic areas.

Some of the core strength of the Ibadan COE include: Clinical Research Core; Data management, Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Core; Biorepository, Laboratory, Genomics and Transomics Core; Social Sciences; Public Health and Community Engagement /Empowerment Core. The Ibadan team is led by Prof. Mayowa Owolabi, Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, University of Ibadan and Director, Centre for Genomic and Precision Medicine, and the pioneer chair of the H3Africa Cardiovascular Disease consortium. Prof. S. Jegede, and Dr. A. Adebisi are Deputy Directors. Other investigators include Dr. R. Akinyemi, Prof. O. Arulogun, Dr. A, Adeoye, Prof. S. Olopade, Dr. O. Ogah, Dr. O. Akpa, Prof. A. Emeke, Dr. F. Samuel and Dr. Ojebuyi

Furthermore, the University of Ibadan COE has continued to extend invitations to other non-ARUA African universities as part of its activities to form a strong network of researchers broadly addressing the problem of NCDs in Africa. The COE aims to, courtesy of its investigators, and in furtherance of the partnership's objectives, co-design and run webinar programmes focusing on its thematic areas for researchers within and outside its network.

**Prof. Mayowa Owolabi, FAS**  
Director, ARUA NCD Center of Excellence,  
University of Ibadan  
Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences,  
University of Ibadan  
Director, Centre for Genomic and Precision  
Medicine  
Pioneer chair of the H3Africa  
Cardiovascular Disease consortium



**Prof Samuel AY Jegede PhD**  
Deputy Director (Training and Capacity Building), ARUA NCD Center of Excellence, University of Ibadan  
Director, RMO, University of Ibadan

**Dr Akin Adebisi PhD**  
Coordinator, CRIM, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan  
Deputy Director (Research and Translational Impact), ARUA NCD Center of Excellence, University of Ibadan

## Tertiary Education Fund (TETFund) Centres of Excellence (TCoEs)

University of Ibadan is one of the 12 Nigerian Universities that has just been selected for the establishment of TETFund Centre of Excellence. The inaugural ceremony took place at the TETFund Office in Abuja on Thursday 26 November, 2020. University of Ibadan was selected to establish a *Centre of Excellence in Multi-Disciplinary Studies*.

## Nigerian Communication Commission: Endowment of Professorial Chair to the University of Ibadan

The Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) has endowed a professorial chair to the University of Ibadan in the fields of Engineering, Computer Science, ICT and the Social Sciences targeted at deepening knowledge in these areas and producing inventions and innovations that will advance the telecommunications industry.

In a letter dated 03 December, 2020 with reference number NCC/RC/UI/020 endorsed by the Executive Vice-Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the Commission, Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta (FNSE), to the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Adebola Babatunde Ekanola, (MNAL), stated that the endowed amount is the sum of N20,000,000.00 (Twenty Million Naira Only) with the completion period of Two (2) years with effect from the date of signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The award is in accordance with the established Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

## GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES

### New African Plant Nutrition Research Fund Opens Initial

The African Plant Nutrition Research Fund invites preliminary project proposals that benefit African agriculture. The preliminary proposals will be screened and a selected number of the preliminary proposals will be invited to submit a full proposal.

**Call release date: 5 November, 2020**  
**Proposal Deadline: 21 December, 2020 (23:59 East African Time)**  
**2020 Priority Funding Areas**

The African Plant Nutrition Research Fund invites preliminary project proposals in three priority areas:

## 1. Weather-sensitive nutrient management solutions for cereal-based and tree-based cropping systems.

### Examples include:

1. Adapting crop nutrition practices to variable weather and climate change to address stress conditions
2. Weather forecasts and fertilizer recommendations; using digital technology for improved crop nutrition

## 2. The role of plant nutrition for improved system health in the soil-crop-livestock-human continuum.

### Examples include:

1. Crop nutrition impacts on soil, animal, and human health
2. Integrated soil fertility management in mixed crop-livestock systems
3. Assessing and managing crop nutrition in non-responsive soils and rehabilitating degraded soils

## 3. Big data aggregation and analysis for assessment of crop yield and nutrient response.

### Examples include:

1. Using weather and climate data to improve crop management and yields
2. Synthesis of crop and yield data for predictive models supporting improved nutrient management
3. Data acquisition and synthesis leading to understanding nutrient removal/partitioning in perennial cropping systems

### Funding for this Call

**Grant funding of no more than \$50,000 USD per year for up to three years is typical for projects.** Projects requesting more than \$50,000 or lasting longer than three years will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Proposals that leverage additional sources of funding are strongly encouraged.

### How to Apply

**Preliminary research proposals are due by Monday, December 21.** No exceptions will be granted.

The proposal must be submitted via the website [apni.net/research-fund](http://apni.net/research-fund). Emailed, mailed or faxed proposals will not be accepted. If there are difficulties with the website, contact [info@apni.net](mailto:info@apni.net).

[Download Flyer English \(pdf\)](#)

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## FELLOWSHIPS

### McDonald-Agape Fellowship in Bioethics

Through a generous grant from the McDonald-Agape Foundation, The Kennedy Institute of Ethics is pleased to announce a new McDonald-Agape Postdoctoral Fellowship in Bioethics. The Fellowship is designed to promote the academic career of a junior scholar with outstanding potential for scholarship and leadership in bioethics. We are inviting applications from exceptional candidates for this two-year fellowship, which will begin in July, 2021. Priority will be given to physicians, but those with other terminal degrees are also eligible. Some previous education in bioethics is required, but a formal degree in ethics is not necessary. The program is highly selective. Only one candidate will be accepted in this fellowship's inaugural year.

### The Program

The McDonald-Agape Fellowship is a two-year program of study and scholarship at Georgetown's prestigious Kennedy Institute of Ethics. The fellow will conduct scholarly work directly with Dr. Daniel Sulmasy, the André Hellegers Professor of Biomedical Ethics and Acting Director of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics. Qualified physician fellows will have the opportunity to maintain practice skills through limited outpatient work at the MedStar-Georgetown University Hospital.

The program will be uniquely tailored to the needs, interests, and background of the successful candidate. It will include opportunities for formal study, research, participation in the life of the Kennedy Institute, and

experience in clinical bioethics consultation. The proximity of the main campus and the medical center provides unique opportunities for interdisciplinary study and collaborative research. The Law Center is also accessible via Georgetown University Transportation Services.

Fellows will participate in:

- The Kennedy Institute-Pellegrino Center joint monthly bioethics seminar
- The annual Intensive Bioethics Course
- Formal mentoring sessions
- The Ethics Consult Service of the Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics

Additional opportunities include:

- The monthly Joint Bioethics Colloquium at the NIH
- Programs of the Law Center's O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law
- Coursework for credit or audit may be arranged in relevant departments on the main campus or the Catholic Clinical Ethics Master's degree program at the Medical Center. The fellowship itself does not support a degree.
- Teaching opportunities in a relevant department, if qualified

Stipend: \$70,000 per year (plus benefits)

**Applications will be accepted beginning Nov. 1, 2020 and must be received by Jan. 3, 2021. Send applications to: [kiesearch@georgetown.edu](mailto:kiesearch@georgetown.edu).**

### Simons-Berkeley Research Fellowship 2021-22

**Deadline for applications: December 15, 2020**

The Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing is a major international venue for collaborative research in theoretical computer science and related fields. The Institute is housed in Calvin Lab, a dedicated building on the UC Berkeley campus, and provides a vibrant and welcoming environment for visiting researchers. In each academic semester, the activities of the Institute are largely focused on specific research programs, each of which attracts around sixty long-term participants ranging from senior scientists to graduate students. The Institute, created in 2012 through a grant from the Simons Foundation, opened its doors in Fall 2013.

### Research Programs

In 2021-22, the Institute will host four research programs on the following topics: in Fall 2021, "[Computational Complexity of Statistical Inference](#)," and "[Geometric Methods in Optimization and Sampling](#)" and in Spring 2022, "[Causality](#)" and "[Learning and Games](#)." Descriptions of these programs and other information about the Institute can be found at [simons.berkeley.edu](http://simons.berkeley.edu).

### Requirements

The Institute invites applications for Simons-Berkeley Research Fellowships for the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters. Simons-Berkeley Research Fellowships are intended for exceptional young scientists (within at most six years of the award of their PhD at the start of academic year 2021-22). Applicants who already hold junior faculty or postdoctoral positions are welcome to apply. In particular, applicants who hold, or expect to hold, postdoctoral appointments at other institutions are encouraged to apply to spend one semester as a Simons-Berkeley Fellow, subject to the approval of the postdoctoral institution.

The Institute expects to award about 30 Fellowships in 2021-22; the majority of these are for one semester, but several appointments for a full academic year are expected to be made. In each semester of residence, each Fellow will normally participate in at least one of the ongoing programs at the Institute. In addition, the Institute co-hosts joint fellowships, in which a Fellow spends a period (typically one semester) as a Simons-Berkeley Fellow and is also appointed to a research position at a partner institution.



Positions at partner institutions include:

postdoctoral positions at the [Center for Mathematical Modeling](#) in Santiago, Chile;

the [Collaboration on the Theoretical Foundations of Deep Learning](#) (Berkeley, Stanford, MIT, UCI, UCSD, TTIC, EPFL, Hebrew);

the [Foundations of Data Science Institute](#) (Berkeley, MIT, Boston, Bryn Mawr, Harvard, Howard, Northeastern); the [Halicioğlu Data Science Institute](#) at UC San Diego;

the [Institute for Foundations of Machine Learning](#) (UT Austin, University of Washington, WSU);

the [Max Planck Institute for Informatics](#) in Saarbrücken, Germany;

the [Toyota Technological Institute](#) at Chicago, and

the [Weizmann Institute of Science](#) in Rehovot, Israel.

Applicants interested in such a joint fellowship should submit both a Simons-Berkeley Fellow application and an application at the partner institution. For questions about positions at a partner institution, please contact that institution directly.

**Salaries and benefits are competitive, and assistance with visas and housing will be provided.**

The Institute particularly encourages applications from women and minority candidates.

#### Application Instructions

Each applicant should prepare the following documents in a **single PDF file**: Cover letter, briefly describing your interest in the Institute and its programs, Curriculum vitae, including a full list of publications, Research statement

In addition, applicants must submit the names and email addresses of **three** recommenders. When an applicant submits this form, each recommender will receive an automatically generated request for a letter. Applicants may wish to check with their recommenders before the deadline that they have submitted their letters; it is ultimately the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the letters are submitted.

The call for 2021/22 Fellowships is open. To apply, please complete the [application form](#) before December 15.

The deadline for receipt of complete application materials (except letters) is **December 15**; late applications will not be considered. The deadline for receipt of recommendation letters is **December 31**.

**Source / More information:** [Official Website](#).

## SSRC African Peacebuilding Research Fellowships 2021

The African Peacebuilding Network (APN) of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) invites research fellowship applications from African researchers, policy analysts, and practitioners working on conflict and peacebuilding issues at universities and research institutions; or regional, governmental, and nongovernmental agencies or organizations in Africa.

A core component of the APN, the Individual Research Fellowships (IRF) program is a vehicle for enhancing the quality and visibility of independent African peacebuilding research both regionally and globally, while making peacebuilding knowledge accessible to key policymakers and research centers of excellence in Africa and around the world. Fellowship recipients

produce research-based knowledge that is relevant to, and has a significant impact on, peacebuilding scholarship, policy, and practice on the continent.

For its part, the APN works toward inserting the evidence-based knowledge that fellowship award recipients produce into regional and global debates and policies focusing on peacebuilding. The program also strives to build a highly visible and active network of African scholars and practitioners capable of projecting African perspectives and voices onto global discourses and practices of peacebuilding.

Support is available for research and analysis on the following issues:

- Root causes of, and emerging trajectories of violent conflict;
- Natural Resource Conflict;
- Geopolitics and histories of conflict and peace;
- Minorities, under-represented groups, and the social dynamics of conflict and peace;
- Theory and practice of conflict mediation;
- Resilience, conflict prevention and transformation;
- State and non-state armed actors, transnational crime, extremism, displacement and migration;
- Post-conflict elections, democratization, governance and economic reconstruction;
- Statebuilding, including state-society relations and state reconstruction;
- Transitional justice, reconciliation, and peace;
- The economic and financial dimensions of conflict, peacekeeping, and peace support operations;
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and peacebuilding;
- UN-AU-REC Partnerships and Peace Support Operations;
- Digital media, technology, and peace;
- Cultures, media, and art(s) of peace;
- Gender, youth and peacebuilding;
- Water conflict and peace;
- Public health, post-conflict development, peace, and security;
- Prevention of mass atrocities; and
- Covid-19, conflict, peace and development.

#### WORTH

- Up to seventeen (17) individual fellowships of a maximum of \$15,000 each will be awarded.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- All applicants must be African citizens currently residing in an African country. This competition is open to African academics, as well as policy analysts and practitioners.
- Applicants who are academics must hold a faculty or research position at an African university or research organization, and have a PhD obtained no earlier than January 2011.
- Applicants who are policy analysts or practitioners must be based in Africa at a regional or sub-regional institution; a government agency; or a nongovernmental, media, or civil society organization, and have at least a master's degree obtained before January 2016, with at least five years of proven research and work experience in peacebuilding-related activities on the continent.
- Women are strongly encouraged to apply.

**DEADLINE:** February 1, 2021

To apply and more information [visit here](#)

## Fully Funded Kofi Annan Fellowship in Public Health 2021

The programme targets aspirational leaders with a background in any field of public health including, but not limited to, One Health, medicine, finance, policy, animal health, or environmental health.

These are leaders who want to acquire advanced skills in leading impactful health initiatives, employing health diplomacy, as well as enhance their ability to develop bold, strategic and achievable goals to propel Africa towards achieving Agenda 2063. If this is your aspiration and you are ready to advance public health outcomes in Africa, you should apply.

The Fellowship will use a hybrid learning methodology that includes self-directed learning to accomplish a Personal Development Plan (PDP) over 12 months. Experiential learning shall take place through webinars, keynote lectures, online self-directed study with evaluations, case studies and an individual leadership challenge project. It will include eight weeks of institutional residential placements for all Fellows as a cohort. Fellows will spend the rest of the training period in their home country, continuing with their regular work responsibilities while also completing assigned courses and implementing the leadership challenge project. Fellows will be matched with experienced mentors and coaches to support their continued learning experience.

**DEADLINE:** December 11, 2020

To apply and more information [visit here](#)

## ISRF Independent Scholar Fellowship Competition (ISF8)

Launch: 11th January 2021

Deadline: 19th February 2021

The Independent Social Research Foundation wishes to support independent-minded researchers to explore and present original research ideas which take new approaches, and suggest new solutions, to real world social problems.

The Foundation intends to award on a competitive basis, to candidates of sufficient merit, up to five Independent Scholar Fellowship grants to support original interdisciplinary research, across the range of the social sciences, to be held from a start date no later than the end of December 2022.

The award is intended to enable the buy-out from current occupation of an independent scholar to pursue his/her research full- or part-time (or for cost of living support if not seeking buy-out from existing employment) for a period of up to 12 months, and will be considered to a maximum of \*€31,500 or £28,750\* per successful applicant. Reasonable childcare or other domestic costs may be considered.

An 'Independent Scholar' is understood as someone, whether or not currently in non-academic employment, who is engaged on intellectual work of a nature and standard comparable to that of a professional academic\*\*.

Normally applicants will hold a PhD. Other academic or professional qualifications may be considered, along with publications usually in peer-reviewed academic journals. Monographs, professional journals and publications in the popular media may also be considered.

Applicants should consult the Criteria as set out on the ISRF website and show that they meet them. Applicants should follow the Application procedure and should present their Proposal in the format specified there.

<https://isrf.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1b81f160b006ed10808142489&id=6a13285270&e=f0dde8ec36>

## Einstein Fellowships 2022 in Social or Natural Sciences

**Deadline for applications: May 15, 2021**

*Awarded by the Einstein Forum and the Daimler and Benz Foundation*  
The Einstein Forum and the Daimler and Benz Foundation are offering a fellowship for outstanding young thinkers who wish to pursue a project in a different field from that of their previous research. The purpose of the fellowship is to support those who, in addition to producing superb work in their area of specialization, are also open to other, interdisciplinary approaches – following the example set by Albert Einstein.

### Benefits

The fellowship includes living accommodations for five to six months in the garden cottage of Einstein's own summerhouse in Caputh, Brandenburg, only a short distance away from the universities and academic institutions of Potsdam and Berlin. **The fellow will receive a stipend of EUR 10,000 and reimbursement of travel expenses.**

### Call for Applications

Candidates must be under 35 and hold a university degree in the humanities, in the social sciences, or in the natural sciences. **Applications for 2022** should include a CV, a two-page project proposal, and two letters of recommendation. All documents must be received by **May 15, 2021**.

At the end of the fellowship period, the fellow will be expected to present his or her project in a public lecture at the Einstein Forum and at the Daimler and Benz Foundation. The Einstein Fellowship is not intended for applicants who wish to complete an academic study they have already begun. A successful application must demonstrate the quality, originality, and feasibility of the proposed project, as well as the superior intellectual development of the applicant. It is not relevant whether the applicant has begun working toward, or currently holds, a PhD. The proposed project need not be entirely completed during the time of the fellowship, but can be the beginning of a longer project.

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO FELLOWSHIPS WILL BE GIVEN FOR DISSERTATION RESEARCH. THE PROPOSED PROJECT MUST BE SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT IN CONTENT, AND PREFERABLY FIELD AND FORM, FROM THE APPLICANT'S PREVIOUS WORK.

**Source / More information: [Official Website](#).**

## Call for Applications! Visiting Scientists Fellowship Program 2021, University of Montpellier, France

**Deadline for applications: January 15, 2021.**

### Objectives of the program

This hosting programme is dedicated to senior researchers from abroad, whose research project is related, in a transversal and innovative way, to the three action areas of the *Montpellier Advanced Knowledge Institute on Transitions (MAK'IT)* – agriculture & food, environment, health – and contributes to its mission to analyse, accompany and accelerate transitions towards sustainable development. The selected fellows are invited for a 3 to 12 month residency in a research structure of the Montpellier University of Excellence (MUSE) consortium of their choice.

Co-funded by MAK'IT and the host research structure, this programme offers these fellows a privileged working environment for nurturing their ideas and creativity in a decompartmentalised way within a world-renowned scientific community. MAK'IT organizes regular exchanges among fellow residents who are pushed to foster innovative interdisciplinary approaches, breaking with academic routines and geared toward the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). MAK'IT fellows are also strongly encouraged and actively supported in their efforts to create new connections and develop concrete collaborations with Montpellier's scientific community.



Who can Apply?

**Nationality:** researchers of all nationalities, who have not resided in France for more than 12 months in the three years preceding the call for applications.

**Tax residence:** candidates must have a tax residence abroad.

**Level of education:** candidates must hold a doctorate or equivalent and have at least 10 years of research experience after obtaining their doctorate or equivalent, on the date of arrival.

**Professional status:** candidates must have an employment contract in a foreign university or research institution (other than a French research institution abroad), or be attached to it through an emeritus, covering the period of their fellowship. A letter of attachment, signed by the head of the home institution, will be required in the event of selection at the end of the evaluation process.

**Disciplines:** all disciplines, in life and engineering sciences or SHS.

**Research project:** candidates' research project must address, in a transversal way, MAK'IT's three main fields of action: agriculture & food, environment and health.

**Invitation letter and scientific partnership:** applicants must have received a letter of invitation and of financial commitment from the MUSE consortium's research structure in which they wish to be hosted. MAK'IT can support candidates in obtaining this letter.

**Languages:** Fluency in English is required, understanding of French is preferable.

Hosting conditions and benefits

A hosting agreement is signed between the University of Montpellier, on which MAK'IT depends administratively, the hosting research structure and the fellow to formalize the following modalities.

**Research resources**

Fellows invited by MAK'IT are detached from their usual obligations in their home institution and have the necessary availability to freely devote themselves to their research project and participate in the Institute's activities.

During their stay in Montpellier, they each have an office equipped with a computer, Internet access and printing facilities within the research structure that hosts them. The fellows also have access to several meeting rooms and a 250-seat amphitheatre in MAK'IT's premises.

MAK'IT facilitates access and extended lending rights in the main libraries of the University of Montpellier, as well as the possibility, with financial participation, of having lunch at the cafeteria of the research structure that hosts them, when this option is available.

**Housing**

MAK'IT works with a seasonal apartment rental agency in Montpellier to offer guest fellows a range of quality apartments, selected by itself, that are fully equipped and nearby or easily accessible from the Institute.

MAK'IT, via the host research structure of the fellow, takes full and direct responsibility for the accommodation costs of its residents. Requests for family accommodation must be indicated in the application form in order to be considered.

**Flat-rate monthly allowance**

Fellows invited to MAK'IT remain attached to their home institution during their stay: they do not have an employment contract with the Institute and it is their responsibility to ask their institution of origin to maintain all or part of their salary.

MAK'IT allocates guest fellows a monthly allowance of a non-negotiable lump sum of €3,000. This amount is calculated to enable fellows to largely cover the costs related to their stay in Montpellier and to finance their scientific activity (travels to meetings, registration fees for scientific events, purchases of books or software, etc.).

**Travel and visa**

MAK'IT, via the host research structure of the fellow, covers its fellows' return trip between Montpellier and their usual place of residence, in economy class.

Any immigration costs (visa) are also covered.

**Insurance and social security coverage**

MAK'IT does not cover insurance and social security costs, which must be borne by the fellows themselves or their employer. The MAK'IT team is at the fellows' disposal to assist them in dealing with international health insurance companies, in the event that the coverage available through their home institution is not valid in France.

The fellows must provide proof of adequate social security coverage, covering the risks of illness, accidents at work and civil liability, before arriving in Montpellier.

**Administrative services**

The MAK'IT team is at the fellows' disposal to help them with the administrative procedures related to their installation in Montpellier and the organization of their scientific events.

If necessary, their families also benefit from specific support: schooling of children, assistance with the academic integration of spouses, French as a foreign language courses, etc.

Commitments of the fellow

A stay at MAK'IT aims to enable invited fellows to carry out their research through an innovative and enriching approach, by freely organising their activities and working hours and benefiting from the necessary services and assistance in their daily practical and administrative procedures. It also implies the acceptance of certain conditions.

**Time spent in Montpellier**

Each invited fellow is required to be in Montpellier for at least 90% of the duration of his stay (excluding periods of closure of the Institute). This residency requirement, which is essential to establish genuine partnerships with the local scientific community, is compatible with occasional absences, which must be reported in advance. Absences of less than a week are simply notified to the host research structure and the MAK'IT team. A longer absence will be subject to management approval.

**Contribution to MAK'IT activities**

The fellow commits to contribute to the interdisciplinary activities, meetings and reflections organized by MAK'IT during his/her stay. He/she undertakes to share the progress of his research with the other residents and the local scientific community and to prepare a short activity report at the end of his/her stay.

**Organisation of an international public scientific event in Montpellier**

With the logistical and financial support of MAK'IT, the fellow commits to organise, during his stay in Montpellier, at least one scientific event of international scope, open to the public, in connection with his research project and in collaboration with the research structure that hosts him and the Montpellier scientific community more broadly.

**Communication and dissemination of results**

The fellow retains the intellectual property rights to the results of his/her research carried out as part of this fellowship with MAK'IT.

He/she undertakes to contribute to MAK'IT's publications and other communication tools concerning the progress of his research.

He/she keeps MAK'IT informed of its participation in external symposia, seminars or scientific events as well as of his/her publications, prizes and distinctions obtained.

He/she authorizes MAK'IT to publish his/her portrait and, if relevant, the results of his/her research carried out at MAK'IT for the Institute's archives. In the event of their wider dissemination, the fellow undertakes to mention the support he has received from MAK'IT and to affix the Institute's logo to them.

#### Evaluation process

MAK'IT attaches great importance to the quality and impartiality of its selection process. Each application received that meets the eligibility criteria is evaluated by MAK'IT Scientific Council (MASC), composed of independent international experts, during two annual evaluation sessions in March/April and September/October. The MASC issues a reasoned opinion on each application and forwards it to MAK'IT Management Board (Board of the MUSE initiative) for final decision.

At the end of these two successive phases, candidates are informed of the result of the selection. Successful candidates receive a letter of invitation from MAK'IT Director detailing the proposed conditions of stay.

#### Evaluation criteria

**EXCELLENCE:** Do the scientific background and international recognition of the candidate meet the standards set for this programme? Does the proposal entail research at the highest level?

**INNOVATION:** Does the proposed project break new ground? Does it hold the promises of new insights and the potential to produce new knowledge, including publications? Is the science-society interface addressed in the project?

**INTERDISCIPLINARITY:** To what extent does the proposed project draw on different disciplines? Will it facilitate interdisciplinary exchanges?

**RELEVANCE:** Does the project have relevance for MAK'IT and its three action areas? Does it constitute a meaningful contribution to the acceleration of transitions within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? Are the proposed exchanges with Montpellier's scientific communities significant enough and able to lead to extended collaborations?

**FEASIBILITY:** How convincing is the project design? How realistic is the research plan?

#### How to apply?

The requested application material (in English exclusively) will consist of:

The completed online application form

A detailed curriculum vitae

A 5-page research proposal (not including the bibliography) or a 10-minute video presentation

A selection of two significant publications (articles or book chapters)

A letter of invitation and financial commitment from a recognized research unit from the Montpellier University of Excellence (MUSE) consortium

**Source / More information:** [Official Website](#).

## APN Individual Research Fellowships

### Overview

#### Request for Proposals

The African Peacebuilding Network (APN) of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) invites research fellowship applications from African researchers, policy analysts, and practitioners working on conflict and peacebuilding issues at universities and research institutions; or regional, governmental, and nongovernmental agencies or organizations in Africa.

#### About the Individual Research Fellowships Program

A core component of the APN, the Individual Research Fellowships (IRF) program is a vehicle for enhancing the quality and visibility of independent African peacebuilding research both regionally and globally, while making peacebuilding knowledge accessible to key policymakers and research centers of excellence in Africa and around the world. Fellowship recipients

produce research-based knowledge that is relevant to, and has a significant impact on, peacebuilding scholarship, policy, and practice on the continent. For its part, the APN works toward inserting the evidence-based knowledge that fellowship award recipients produce into regional and global debates and policies focusing on peacebuilding. The program also strives to build a highly visible and active network of African scholars and practitioners capable of projecting African perspectives and voices onto global discourses and practices of peacebuilding.

Support is available for research and analysis on the following issues:

- Root causes of, and emerging trajectories of violent conflict;
- Natural Resource Conflict;
- Geopolitics and histories of conflict and peace;
- Minorities, under-represented groups, and the social dynamics of conflict and peace;
- Theory and practice of conflict mediation;
- Resilience, conflict prevention and transformation;
- State and non-state armed actors, transnational crime, extremism, displacement and migration;
- Post-conflict elections, democratization, governance and economic reconstruction;
- Statebuilding, including state-society relations and state reconstruction;
- Transitional justice, reconciliation, and peace;
- The economic and financial dimensions of conflict, peacekeeping, and peace support operations;
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and peacebuilding;
- UN-AU-REC Partnerships and Peace Support Operations;
- Digital media, technology, and peace;
- Cultures, media, and art(s) of peace;
- Gender, youth and peacebuilding;
- Water conflict and peace;
- Public health, post-conflict development, peace, and security;
- Prevention of mass atrocities; and
- Covid-19, conflict, peace and development

Fellowships are awarded on a competitive, peer-reviewed basis and are intended to support six months of field-based research, from June 2021 to December 2021. Up to seventeen (17) individual fellowships of a maximum of \$15,000 each will be awarded. Women are strongly encouraged to apply.

During the fellowship period, recipients are required to participate in two mandatory workshops organized by the APN. These workshops will provide opportunities to refine recipients' research designs, focus and methods; present findings; explore ways to make their work more accessible through publications and other means to multiple peacebuilding constituencies; networking, and developing constructive working relationships with other fellows, senior academic, and practitioner facilitators.

Fellows are also strongly encouraged to contribute to the APN's Working Paper and Policy Briefing Note series, as well as to the program's digital forums and social media platforms (Kujenga Amani, Facebook, and Twitter).

### Research Fellowships Proposals

The APN is interested in innovative field-based projects that demonstrate strong potential for high-quality research and analysis, which in turn can inform practical action on peacebuilding and/or facilitate inter-regional collaboration and networking among African researchers and practitioners.

Proposals should clearly describe research objectives and significance, with alignment between research questions and goals and research design/methods. Proposals should also demonstrate knowledge of the research subject and relevant literature, and address the feasibility of proposed research activities, including a timeline for project completion. Applicants should also discuss the likely relevance of the proposed research to current knowledge on peacebuilding practice and policy and situate it within existing literature. We strongly encourage the inclusion of a brief, but realistic, budget outline, keeping within the allotted amount for the fellowship and fitting appropriately within a six-month project and the

## Eligibility

All applicants must be African citizens currently residing in an African country. This competition is open to African academics, as well as policy analysts and practitioners.

Applicants who are academics must hold a faculty or research position at an African university or research organization, and have a PhD obtained no earlier than January 2011.

Applicants who are policy analysts or practitioners must be based in Africa at a regional or sub-regional institution; a government agency; or a nongovernmental, media, or civil society organization, and have at least a master's degree obtained before January 2016, with at least five years of proven research and work experience in peacebuilding-related activities on the continent.

## Application Process

All applications must be uploaded through our [online portal](#).

## Requirements

- Completed Application Form
- Research Proposal & Bibliography
- Expected Publication(s)
- Current CV
- Proposed Research Timeline
- Proposed Research Budget
- Two Reference Letters
- Language Evaluation(s) (if required)

If you encounter any difficulties accessing the online portal, please contact APN staff at [apn@ssrc.org](mailto:apn@ssrc.org), or by telephone at (+1) 718-517-3669.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**All materials must be submitted no later than 11:59pm (EST) on February 1, 2021.**

## View Vacancy -- MRC Postdoctoral Research Scientist in Bioinformatics - LMS 1421

**Open Date:** 13/11/2020, 10:25

**Close Date:** 03/01/2021, 23:55

Research Institute: MRC London Institute of Medical Science

**Research Institute / Unit Information:** The London Institute of Medical Sciences (LMS) is an Institute funded by the MRC and is a Division of the Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College. Based on the Hammersmith Hospital Campus in West London (W12), the LMS has first class facilities and provides investigators from clinical and basic science backgrounds with the opportunity to pursue innovative, multidisciplinary research within the established clinical base of Imperial College. For more information, visit [www.lms.mrc.ac.uk](http://www.lms.mrc.ac.uk).

UK Research and Innovation is a new entity that brings together nine partners to create an independent organisation with a strong voice for research and innovation, more information can be found at [www.ukri.org](http://www.ukri.org)

**Band:** MRC - 4

**Location:** London

**Salary:** £36,631 - £39,472\* p.a. including allowances

**Contract Type:** Fixed Term

**Job Type:** Science

**Full Time / Part Time:** Full Time

**Contract Length:** 2 years

**Job Description:** The Computational Cardiac Imaging Group works at the

intersection of clinical imaging, bioinformatics, computer vision and molecular cardiology to explore the mechanisms underlying heart function. The group uses machine learning to analyse cardiac motion for predicting patient outcomes, discovering potential therapeutic targets and identifying genetic risk factors. We use a flexible and inter-disciplinary approach to research that moves between individuals, populations and model organisms.

We are seeking a talented postdoctoral scientist with a background in data science or bioinformatics. The post holder will be a key member of our team developing genotype-phenotype association models. This will use data from UK Biobank – including whole exome sequencing, as well as data from multinational clinical cohorts. The work will involve developing sophisticated data modelling and genetic association pipelines using complex image-derived traits.

The post offers an exciting opportunity to work at the cutting-edge of translational medicine research in a vibrant and supportive multi-disciplinary team that crosses traditional scientific domains. The post holder will have the opportunity to liaise with an extensive network of collaborators, attend scientific conferences, and publish the results of their work in leading journals.

**Person Specification:** Education / Qualifications / Training required (will be assessed from application form):

### Essential:

- PhD (or equivalent experience) in Bioinformatics / Data Science or a closely related discipline

**Knowledge and experience (will be assessed from application form and at interview):**

### Essential:

- Ability to code in R and Python with proven skills in programming
- Previous experience in biomedical data science or genomic research

**Further Information:** Applicants should submit a CV, a brief cover letter describing scientific interests and names and contacts of two scientific references.

\*Salary quoted is inclusive of London weighting. Additional allowances comprise a £1,000 lump sum Settlement Allowance plus a yearly Training Allowance of £850 in the first year, paid in monthly instalments. The Training Allowance increases to £1,300 in year two.

The MRC is a great place to work and progress your career, be it in scientific research or the support functions. The MRC is a unique working environment where our researchers are rewarded by world class innovation and collaboration opportunities that the MRC name brings. The MRC is an excellent place to develop yourself further and a range of training & development opportunities will be available to you, including professional registration with the Science Council.

Choosing to come to work at the MRC (part of UKRI) means that you will have access to a whole host of benefits from a defined benefit pension scheme and excellent holiday entitlement to access to employee shopping/travel discounts and salary sacrifice cycle to work scheme, as well as the chance to put the MRC and UKRI on your CV in the future.

Our success is dependent upon our ability to embrace diversity and draw on the skills, understanding and experience of all our people. We welcome applications from all sections of the community irrespective of gender, race, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, disability or age. As "Disability Confident" employers, we guarantee to interview all applicants with disabilities who meet the minimum criteria for the vacancy.

UKRI supports research in areas that include animal health, agriculture and food security, and bioscience for health which includes research on animals, genetic modification and stem cell research. Whilst you may not have direct involvement in this type of research, you should consider whether this conflicts with your personal values or beliefs.

We will conduct a full and comprehensive pre-employment check as an essential part of the recruitment process on all individuals that are offered a position with UKRI.

[Click to read more and apply](#)



## OUR MOTTO

Advancing translational research output and uptake to meet societal needs

## OUR VISION

To support researchers with information on funding opportunities, encourage collaboration and provide adequate training/services for the acquisition of knowledge and skills in grantsmanship that will enable carrying out of cutting-edge research

## OUR MISSION

To be the flagship of innovative research administration and management in Sub-Saharan Africa, a catalyst for doing and up taking cutting edge research in the society

## WHAT WE DO?

### *Pre-grant application services*

- Funding opportunities: disseminate research funding opportunities
- Confirm eligibility of researchers according to sponsor guidelines
- Liaise with funding agencies on behalf of the university
- Interpret sponsor guidelines & regulations
- Register & assist with agency submission websites

### *Proposal Writing*

- Review Request for Applications (RFAs) and Request for Proposals (RFPs)
- Proposal development
- Ensure compliance with submission guidelines
- Institutional support documentation for grants application
- Edit and format grants applications for readability
- Review and sign research proposals on behalf of the University or as a delegate of the University

### *Budgeting*

- Budget templates
- Cost sharing
- Routing and approval

### *Training*

- Provide training opportunities relating to grantsmanship for early career researchers.

### *Award Services Communication*

- Identify and communicate proactively and effectively award parameters and sponsor terms and conditions to researchers and other administrative staff.
- Network with researchers to share and obtain information for effective scientific communication.

### *Project management*

- Provide assistance to researchers and staff on post-award administrative processes
- Liaise with sponsors to ensure compliance with guidelines and to resolve conflicts and concerns (where applicable)
- Initiate and manage partnership agreements, sub-awards and sub-contracts with external collaborators

### *Fiscal Stewardship*

- Provide support to researchers to facilitate the management of research funds and ensure financial management and control on behalf of external Sponsors.
- Ensure the preparation and submission of financial reports to sponsors according to set deadlines
- Coordinate and respond to audits and monitoring visits requested by sponsors in collaboration with other units such as bursary, procurement services and the researcher.

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