

Job Description

Job Title	Epidemiologist
Band	2/3 dependent on qualifications and experience
Organisation	Medical Research Council Unit, The Gambia

Summary Position Details

Salary: An attractive salary will be paid in Band 2/3

Full time or Part time: Full-time

Contract and Duration: 3 years

Closing Date/s: tbc

Interview/Selection Date/s: tbc

For displaced staff there are generous overseas allowances, rent-free furnished residential accommodation, shipment of personal effects and annual flights to and from base country

Detailed Job Description

Background

Established in 1947, the Medical Research Council Unit in The Gambia has an international reputation for ground-breaking research into some of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the tropics. The overall goal of the Unit is to improve the health of people in developing countries by aiming for excellence in research, health care and training. The research programme of the Unit spans from basic scientific research (immunology, microbiology, virology and molecular biology) to clinical studies, large epidemiological studies, intervention trials and translational research. The field and laboratory-based work draws on excellent research and clinical facilities and attracts international funding. The Unit has about 150 scientists, clinicians and senior administrative staff from many parts of the world, as well as visiting researchers, and over 400 support staff. There are also field stations – Basse, Keneba, Walikunda and Caio (in Guinea Bissau) - each in a different ecological setting, providing varied research opportunities.

To reflect changes in national and global health priorities and new international funding opportunities a new research portfolio has been organized under three themes: Child Survival; Disease Control & Elimination; and Vaccination. These themes have been selected to target health needs of developing countries, to reinforce sub-regional and international collaborations and to address some of the major current priorities in the Millennium Global Health Goals.

The post-holder will provide high level epidemiological support for the broad range of ongoing projects at the Unit. He/she will also provide epidemiological advice/support in the formulation of future research projects and will be expected to also initiate independent research and grant proposals within the remit of the Unit's research themes.

List of Duties / Work Programme / Responsibilities

The post-holder will:

- Provide senior epidemiological support for ongoing research projects at the MRC.
- Provide senior epidemiological support to the TB Global Fund Projects and other externally-

funded projects.

- Contribute to the development of research proposals/protocols by providing epidemiological expertise.
- Present results at both internal meetings and external international meetings.
- Pursue independent research interests that are relevant to the Unit's research.
- Be committed to continued professional development.
- Assist colleagues at the MRC with the preparation of grant applications.
- Be responsible for ensuring that all information relating to research participants and staff follows Good Research Practice and that confidentiality of personal data is respected.
- Contribute to the on-the-job training and support for staff at the Unit as appropriate, e.g. MSc & PhD Students.
- Undertake all work strictly following the safety guidelines as laid down in the MRC's Safety Manual.

Contacts and Communication

- i. The post-holder will report to the Theme Leader Disease Control & Elimination, Professor Umberto D'Alessandro
- ii. The post-holder is a full-time member of staff of the MRC.
- iii. The Unit Director is Professor Tumani Corrah.
- iv. The Vaccinology Theme Leader is Professor Beate Kampmann.
- v. The Director of Operations is Mr Peter Noble.

Personal Skills and Attributes

Excellent communicator, self-motivated and enthusiastic with excellent management skills

Position and Person Requirements

Epidemiologist

Qualifications

Essential:

PhD or equivalent in a relevant discipline.

Desirable:

MB BS/ MD or equivalent undergraduate medical qualification
MSc in epidemiology or MPH

Knowledge and Experience

Essential:

Significant post-doctoral field experience as an Epidemiologist related to the Unit's research themes, i.e. Child Survival, Disease Control & Elimination and Vaccinology
Good research record as demonstrated through peer reviewed publications
Excellent written and spoken English

Desirable:

Experience in laboratory procedures in research or experience of collaborative research involving laboratory determined outcomes and/or exposures
Experience and demonstrable success in training and supervising research staff such as MPH, PhD and post-doctoral students.

Person Specification

Essential characteristics:

Ability to lead an independent area of research

Track record in successful grant applications

Practical experience in the implementation and co-ordination of epidemiological studies or randomized trials

Ability to multitask and deliver quality outcomes on time

Practical experience in managing large amounts of data and familiarity with statistical (e.g. stata) and database management (e.g. access) software

Ability to work independently and as a member of a multidisciplinary team

Excellent inter-personal skills and a willingness to work with others to overcome problems as and when they arise

Willingness to travel to field sites including neighboring West African States

Ability to work effectively in a multicultural environment, provide mentorship to junior colleagues and supervise MSc and PhD students

Good written and oral communication skills in English

Desirable:

Special Requirements

Essential:

Significant experience on research projects conducted in low-income countries

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL UNIT, THE GAMBIA

EPIDEMIOLOGIST

For 60 years now, our laboratories in The Gambia have been carrying out internationally competitive research and have established ourselves as the leading research centre in sub-Saharan Africa. Perhaps more importantly, we continue to push forward into new and challenging areas. We have developed an exciting new research agenda to reflect changes in national and global health priorities. Our new science portfolio is organised around three themes: Child Survival, Disease Control & Elimination and Vaccination.

We are seeking an Epidemiologist to provide senior epidemiological support to a wide range of ongoing and planned research projects at the MRC Unit, The Gambia. You will have a PhD in epidemiology/public health or equivalent with extensive experience in infectious disease related field and clinical research, a track record of publications in peer-reviewed journals & in successful grant applications and experience in data analysis. In addition, you will have the ability to provide high level epidemiological support to the Unit's research themes, excellent IT skills and be able to demonstrate excellent communication and managerial skills in a multi-cultural environment. Although based in Fajara you will travel to our upcountry field stations and to neighbouring West African countries to interact with projects being implemented there.

MB BS/MD or equivalent, an MSc or MPH in epidemiology and demonstrable success in training and supervising research staff would be an advantage.

The appointment will be for 3 years.

An attractive salary will be paid in MRC's Band 2/3 dependent on qualifications and experience. Generous overseas allowances, furnished accommodation, flights and other benefits apply for displaced staff.

If you are interested and have the skills and abilities for this position please contact the Human Resources Office (hruk@mrc.gm) for an application form and a copy of the job description and person specification. Telephone enquiries can be made on 00220 4495442 extension 1001. Completed application forms together with a detailed CV and a covering letter should be sent to hruk@mrc.gm quoting reference GAM1.

Closing date: 12th September, 2011.

For further information about MRC UK visit www.mrc.ac.uk and for MRC Gambia www.mrc.gm

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