

The Makerere University – UVRI Centre of Excellence for Infection and Immunity
Research and Training
(MUII-plus) – PhD Fellowship in Pre-eclampsia Research

The vision of MUII-plus is African institutions and African scientists leading Infection and Immunity research which is relevant to Africa and which has a transformative impact on African Health. Our goal is to realise this vision through a Centre of Excellence for Infection and Immunity research in Uganda.

Infectious diseases still represent a major health burden in Africa. **HIV, malaria and tuberculosis** are still major killers. **Neglected infectious diseases** cause extensive illness and misery. **Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases** threaten the fabric of society. Vaccines, improved diagnostics and improved interventions are greatly needed for most of these conditions. However, the transition to urban living and changing lifestyles mean that exposure to infections is changing and the so-called “non-communicable” diseases (NCDs) – such as cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke – are becoming major concerns in our societies. There are important **infection-NCD links**: infections may be casual agents (as in some cancers) or may modulate immune responses and even protect against inflammatory diseases (such as asthma). At the same time, **human genetic studies** promise new insights into immunobiology because genetic variability in Africa is so high, and **pathogen genomics** contributes understanding of biology and transmission. MUII-plus is interested in supporting research in these important areas.

MUII-plus funding opportunities are directed at two goals. First, to support training and career development for potential and emerging African leaders in Infection and Immunity research. Second, to support Infection and Immunity researchers at all levels in Uganda to undertake world-class research by providing grants which support collaborative initiatives and short-term technical and professional training.

Through the MUII plus Group Leader Award held by Dr Annettee Nakimuli, a PhD fellowship to investigate the immunology and genetics of pre-eclampsia in an indigenous African population is being advertised.

PhD Fellowship in Pre-eclampsia research

Purpose:

This is a three-year PhD fellowship to be undertaken at Makerere University. The successful candidate will work under the mentorship of Dr Annettee Nakimuli to develop a PhD research project to investigate the immunology and genetics of pre-eclampsia and its consequences among women attending Mulago Hospital. The PhD fellow is expected to undertake an international collaboration, with international co-supervision and mentorship. This collaboration may be within or outside Africa. This is intended to broaden and enhance the research experience and training. MUII-plus will support the PhD fellow to identify suitable collaborators.

Eligibility criteria:

- I. Masters degree in Obstetrics and Gynaecology or any Basic Science Masters in a relevant area (Immunology or Genetics)
- II. Award will be conditional on acceptance for a PhD programme at Makerere University

What is included in the PhD Fellowship:

This fellowship includes University fees, student stipend, health insurance, one return airfare for student, one return airfare for overseas co-supervisor, travel insurance, visa costs, research funds, bench fees and costs for international conference attendance.

Application process:

Applications should be submitted to the MUII-plus Administrator, Mr Moses Kizza (mkizza@uvri.go.ug; moses.kizza@mrcuganda.org) and should consist of a cover letter (not more than 1 page), resume (not more than 4 pages), a personal statement (not more than 1 page), scanned copies of certificates and three letters from referees. The personal statement should include your aspirations for career progression in the next 8 years, research interests and any information you consider relevant. Closing date for receipt of applications is 17th March 2017. **Ask the referees to send reference letters directly to Mr Kizza by the same date.**

Application deadline: 17th March 2017

Interviews for shortlisted applicants only: Late March 2017

Start date: 1st April 2017

Enquiries:

Enquiries can be forwarded to Dr Annetee Nakimuli (annettee.nakimuli@gmail.com) or Administrator, Mr Moses Kizza (mkizza@uvri.go.ug; moses.kizza@mrcuganda.org).

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