

The Makerere University – UVRI Centre of Excellence for Infection and Immunity Research and Training (MUII-plus)

Our vision 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.

Applications for funding through MUII-plus should propose research which (i) is based in Uganda, (ii) has a clear link to Makerere University or to the Uganda Virus Research Institute and (iii) involves translational science, linking epidemiological or clinical studies to laboratory investigations, or to bioinformatics and computational analyses.

For this Second Call, only Scientists who are members of the MUII Centre, or who work with and are nominated by a Centre member, are eligible to apply. Details of Centre membership policy, of the responsibilities of Centre members, and of how to apply to be a Centre member, are available on the MUII website.

Applications that promote collaborations between Makerere and UVRI, and with other partners in Uganda, are encouraged, as are collaborations with world-leading regional and international research partners. Potential applicants who would like help in identifying suitable collaborations are encouraged to contact the secretariat through the Centre Manager for support.

Co-funding from a second source is encouraged where this is available and will enhance the research or training opportunity.

Candidates should submit their applications using the forms provided on the website. Further enquiries may be directed to the Centre Administrator, Mr Moses Kizza (mkizza@uvri.go.ug; moses.kizza@mrcuganda.org).

SECOND MUII-PLUS GRANTS CALL. GRANTS FOR MUII-PLUS CENTRE MEMBERS AND THEIR RESEARCH TEAMS AND COLLABORATORS

Grant type	Objectives	Eligibility criteria	What's included	Timeline & submission
1. Research travel grants	<p>These grants are intended to support MUII-plus scientists based in Uganda to visit and work with collaborating experts. Travel could be undertaken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To allow the researcher to undertake analyses or assays that cannot be done in Uganda, or where they would benefit from international expertise in terms of training, mentorship or collaborations or To allow the researcher to develop a collaborative funding proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Centre member, or a researcher in a Centre member's team, supported by the Centre member's recommendation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel costs such as bus or airfare, visa, travel insurance Accommodation and subsistence Maximum budget £4,000 	<p>Publication date: 11th March 2017</p> <p>This is a single-stage application process.</p> <p>Deadline for applications: 30th April 2017</p>
2. Visiting scientist grants	<p>These grants are intended to offer diverse opportunities for scientists who would like to visit Makerere University or UVRI: for example they could include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mbarara staff, visiting UVRI labs to acquire skills in new technologies "externs" (young post-doctoral scientists) visiting Uganda to plan new projects or work on analyses "Professors in Residence" undertaking short sabbaticals, offering mentorship, developing collaborations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors must be hosted by a Centre member, or a researcher in a Centre member's team The application is submitted by the host 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel costs such as bus or airfare, visa, travel insurance Accommodation and subsistence Maximum budget £3,000 	<p>Submission is by e-mail to: The MUII-plus administrator (see application form)</p> <p>Decisions will be communicated by 15th June 2017</p> <p>Grants awarded in response to this call must be used before 30th March 2018.</p>
3. Endeavour awards	<p>These grants are intended to support MUII-plus scientists with bright new ideas to propose interactive meetings with local or international partners on topics of their choice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Centre member, or a researcher in a Centre member's team, supported by the Centre member's recommendation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum Budget £2,000 	
How to apply	Submit a completed small grants application form (available on the website) by the 30th April 2017 deadline to The MUII-plus Secretariat: mak-uvri.rtp@rcuganda.org.			

Follow us on Twitter @MUIIPlus for early notifications of new opportunities and events!