



## **Call for Application: Post-doctoral Fellowships 2024-2026**

### **African Leishmaniasis Consortium (ALC)**

#### **First Round Selection**

The African Leishmaniasis Consortium (ALC) is implementing a postdoctoral fellowship program as part of the initiative for enhancing the competencies of future research leaders on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) in Africa. The initiative is supported with research grant funding from a program of the Science for Africa Foundation (SFA). The first round call will be used by the ALC to award 4 postdoctoral fellowship training for PhD holders who are interested in benefiting from the training in Africa. The successful candidates will be mandated to participate on ongoing research activities designed to achieve the objectives and deliverables of the ALC. The objectives of the ALC are being implemented through the 7 Research Priority Project Networks (RPPN) of ALC with efforts towards control and elimination of Leishmaniasis in Africa.

Postdoctoral Fellows receiving the awards will have the unique opportunity to gain experience from a multidisciplinary team of collaborating experts from different institutions and a broad scope of disciplines leading each RPPN. The opportunity would be beneficial to the fellows to develop holistic strategies towards Leishmaniasis control and elimination in Africa.

Fellowship recipients will be required to actively participate in RPPN objectives and deliverables activities including field surveys. Each fellow will benefit from supervision by at least two senior scientists selected among the RPPN research leaders and staff. The fellows will also be engaged in ALC mentorship program focusing on capacity building and career development. Each recipient will receive monthly stipend, financial contributions for: research expenses, publication, participation in an international conference and visit to an RPPN institution(s).

#### **Research Project Priority Network (RPPN)**

Postdoctoral Fellowship applications must focus on one of the Research Priority Projects Network listed below during this round of the call. The activities of the RPPN are designed to address challenges for the control and elimination of Leishmaniases in Africa.

RPPN	Post doc Position	Areas of work/ Aims	Leader	Leader Institution	Partner Institutions
Novel biomarkers and assays for VL diagnosis & patient management	1	Validate new parasite antigens for noninvasive rapid diagnosis of VL	Pr. Mukhtar Maowia	Bioscience Research Institute, Khartoum, Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia</li> <li>- Institut Pasteur d'Algérie, Alger, Algeria</li> <li>- The University of Ibadan Research Foundation (UI-RF), Ibadan, Nigeria</li> <li>- Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</li> </ul>
Vector dynamics & control	1	Harmonizing effective vector control and assessment of its impact across the region	Dr. Kamel Benallel	Institut Pasteur Algérie, Alger, Algeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia</li> <li>-Institut Pasteur Maroc, Casablanca, Morocco</li> <li>- University of Sciences, Techniques and Technology of Bamako, Mali</li> <li>-Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Spain</li> </ul>
Disease and risk factors distribution, socio-cultural determinants of dynamics, and persistence of	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct desk review of published and unpublished evidence on the distribution of</li> </ul>	Dr. Endalamaw Gadisa	Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Addis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Institut Pasteur Algérie, Alger, Algeria</li> </ul>

transmission in the communities		<p>VL and CL cases and Sandfly vectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop spatiotemporal map of leishmaniases</li> <li>• Identify the sociocultural and environmental driver or risk factors for establishment of leishmaniasis transmission</li> </ul>		Ababa, Ethiopia	<p>- Bioscience Research Institute, Khartoum, Sudan</p> <p>-Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Spain</p> <p>- The University of Ibadan Research Foundation (UI-RF), Ibadan, Nigeria</p>
Strategic research and translation to options and impacts for policy imperatives	1	Translation of research outputs into policy options and policy briefs	Pr Ayoade MJ Oduola	The University of Ibadan Research Foundation (UI-RF) University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria	<p>Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Spain</p> <p>Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia</p> <p>University of Sciences, Techniques and Technology of Bamako, Mali</p> <p>Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</p> <p>Bioscience Research Institute, Khartoum, Sudan</p>

### Duration of Postdoctoral Fellowships:

Each postdoctoral fellowship will be awarded for a total of two years of research residence at the partner institutions hosting one of the Research Priority Projects Network (RPPN) of the African Leishmaniases Consortium (ALC) in Africa. The postdoctoral fellowship program is part of the ALC initiative for enhancing competencies of future research leaders in Africa.

### List of Post doc supervisors of ALC

Each postdoctoral fellow will be supervised by at least 2 supervisors among ALC research leaders.

RPPN	Supervisors	Expertise
<b>Novel biomarkers and assays for VL diagnosis &amp; patient management</b>	Pr. Maowia Mukhtar -Sudan Pr. Waleed Elamine, Sudan P r. Khadija Benkhadir Essafi, Tunisia Dr. Mourad Barhoumi	-VL epidemiology, diagnosis & clinical trials - Molecular epidemiology - Molecular & cell biology / Biotech - Molecular parasitology
<b>Vectors : control and impact on dynamics</b>	Dr. Ismail Lafri / Algeria Pr. Youmna Mghirbi / Tunisia Pr. Souheila Guerbouj/ Tunisia Dr. Elisa Sicuri Spain	-Vet microbiology - Molecular entomology - Molecular epidemiology - Social and economic determinants of health
<b>Disease and risk factors distribution, socio-cultural determinants of dynamics, and persistence of transmission in the communities</b>	Dr. Endalamaw Gadisa, Ethiopia  Dr. Elisa Sicuri, Spain  Dr. Rafik Garni, Algeria	-Epidemiology inc. Spatial & Molecular epidemiology - Social and economic determinants of health - Epidemiology and mapping (Arc Gis)
<b>Strategic research and translation to options and impacts for policy imperatives</b>	Pr. Ayoade Oduola, Nigeria  Pr. Ikram Guizani, Tunisia Dr. Elisa Sicuri, Spain	- Global health / Policy imperatives -

### Eligibility Criteria for Postdoctoral Fellowship

Each recipient of the Postdoctoral Fellow must be from Africa and make the commitment to work on the project in an ALC institution in Africa hosting one of the 7 RPPN of ALC during this post-doc training. In addition, each recipient must meet the following requirements:

- Hold a PhD degree in the area of his/ her research interest and discipline including (but not exclusively) biotechnology, molecular biology, bioinformatics / genomics, epidemiology, public health with focus on qualitative study or sociology/anthropology or spatial statistics/geospatial health.
- The PhD must have been completed not more than 7 years at the time of the application.
- Preference will be given to candidates 40 years or younger at the time of application.
- Competitive selection framework will particularly welcome the participation of female applicants.

- Among expected outcomes: Publication of a minimum of 1 peer reviewed open access research article in addition to regular reports that are approved by the RPPN supervisors, to be evaluated for satisfactory progress by the scientific committee of ALC.

### **Fellowship Contract Agreement**

Each recipient of the fellowship will be required to sign a fellowship contract with the ALC predicated on the Grant agreement with the SFA guidelines on “Rules for Granting and Management of Grants”. The contract can only be signed after receipt of all the documentation required according to the fellowship. Once all the documentation has been received, the contracting entity has a period of 60 working days to conclude the fellowship contract. Once received, the fellow must return the contract duly signed within 15 working days to the secretariat of the ALC. The activities under the fellowship can only begin after proper authorization by the RPPN hosting institution and the secretariat of ALC.

### **Terms and Cancellation of Fellowship Contracts**

Each fellowship award ends with the completion of the assigned workplan, as well as with the expiration date for which it was granted or renewed without prejudice to the other causes. Each fellow is obliged to present regular reports according to the defined timeline in the contract and a final Report of the research project carried out, in accordance with the objectives and evaluation criteria defined with the Research Priority Project Network (RPPN) at the partnering institutions at the set timeline in the contract and within 30 days of completion of the fellowship (in case of the final report). The reports must be prepared in accordance with draft templates that will be shared after signing the contract agreement. Reports must be endorsed by the supervisors and submitted by the fellow to the ALC secretariat.

### **Participation in the Signature 8-week training program for Public Health and Research Leaders**

The training framework for the postdoctoral fellowship includes a requirement for timely completion of a set of training courses on the Signature 8-week training program for public health and research leaders developed by the ALC. The prescribed formal courses and training workshops on the platform are designed to build competencies in:

- o Science writing;
- o Communication;
- o Research management;
- o Leadership skills building;
- o Priority setting.

The Signature 8-week training platform is designed to provide a broad range of competencies necessary for establishing a successful collaborative research career by each postdoctoral fellow. The 8-weeks course provides foundation and fundamental principles of interdisciplinary research for postdoctoral fellows. The curriculum consists of two-week modules focusing on selected competencies relevant to the research specialization by each fellow.

### **Application Procedure**

Each applicant must complete **the application form** ([link to the application form](#)) and send the following documents to ([infoALC@pasteur.utm.tn](mailto:infoALC@pasteur.utm.tn)):

- A Motivation letter
- A copy of most recent curriculum vitae (CV)
- Three (3) letters of support for the application also explaining the relationship between the applicant and the referee, with at least one (1) from the institution, familiar with the applicant's PhD training. The letters should be directly sent by the referees to the ALC secretariat at the following email address ([infoALC@pasteur.utm.tn](mailto:infoALC@pasteur.utm.tn))
- Certified copies of diplomas, degree certificates and evidence of completion of the PhD within the past 7 years.

### **Important Dates:**

Call for Applications Release: 27 August 2024

Application Deadline: **07 October 2024**

Fellowship Award Announcement: 20 October 2024

Fellowship start: asap after 15 December 2024