

TDR Clinical Research & Development Fellowships^(*) **supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

(*) TDR Clinical R&D career development fellowships provide a generous monthly stipend, travel, health insurance, computer, alumni membership and professional meeting participation.

Summary of the Training Programme

The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) invites researchers, living and working in the developing countries, to apply for one of ten 12-month career development fellowships on Clinical Research & Development at selected pharmaceutical companies and related institutions globally. The goal is to develop human resources to promote high quality R&D in the disease endemic countries (DEC) in the areas of project management, regulatory compliance and good practices. It is expected that qualified professional will be able to enhance DEC product development capacity on diagnostics, drugs and vaccines against infectious diseases that disproportionately impact low income countries. The programme will train individuals *in situ* with relevant partners in order to develop specialized skills not readily taught in academic centres, including *inter alia* R&D project management, regulatory compliance and good practices. Upon completing their fellowships, the individuals are expected to return to their home institutes and assume a leading role and become valuable resources in the global effort on R&D for neglected infectious diseases.

The proposed training programme extends TDR's work in empowering DEC scientists to lead, manage and direct vaccine trials against AIDS/HIV, malaria, tuberculosis and other neglected tropical diseases and is based on a successful model developed between GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals (GSK) and TDR over the past eight years.

TDR reserves the right to propose candidates to specific locations for training based on their field of interest and opportunities available among partners. Although all companies are expected to provide the trainees with good exposure to general technical and managerial principles of R&D practices, individual programmes will be established within each company according to ongoing activities. A list of potential host organizations will be provided to successful candidates.

Alumni Network and post-training opportunities

An electronic alumni network will be organized and a meeting of past and current fellows will be held annually. The meetings will last three days each at the end of each programme year and will be held in locations other than Geneva. A vibrant alumni network will greatly contribute to the long-term sustainability of the programme by providing a forum for ongoing communication, better interaction and linkage building.

A follow-up grant will be made available to successful trainees to provide an additional opportunity for interaction with their peers and development of individual interests after completing the period of training. Applications for these funds must be proposed as an integral part of a personal development programme (PDP) and institutional programme that clearly documents the career development plans for the fellows. There would also be opportunity to attend an annual scientific meeting such as the one for the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene or the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Eligibility

Applications are requested from developing country nationals working or involved in the Ministries of Health, academic or research institutions. Preference will be given to candidates under 35 years holding an MD or PhD degree with clinical and research experience in infectious diseases. Candidates will be computer literate and able to demonstrate fluency in English. Other languages, especially French, are an asset. Candidates must be able to demonstrate how the training programme will be put to use upon return to their home institute and country. Prior international experience is an asset.

Application

The application should be sent in electronic format (Word, PDF or RTF only) to RCStraining@who.int (no application form is required). Reference letters must be scanned and attached electronically. The following information should be provided:

1. Full name with the family name underlined.
2. Date of birth, sex and nationality (copy of information page of passport or other identification document may be requested at a later date).
3. Name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address of institution where the applicant is employed.
4. Telephone number for personnel contact and possible interview (if not the same as institutional telephone number above #4) must be included.
5. Educational qualifications, including place of study and graduation date (transcripts and copies of qualifications are not required but may be requested later).
6. A brief description of the applicant's current post and of the post held immediately before.
7. A description (1 page maximum) of the applicant's current work/research interests including disease(s) interest.
8. A brief description of how the applicant, if selected, plans to apply the acquired skills and knowledge after returning to his home country/institution.
9. A list of the applicant's publications and other abstracts or presentations.
10. A letter of recommendation from two senior scientists/professors that includes their address, telephone numbers, fax numbers and e-mail addresses. Please scan and include these with the application.
11. An endorsement from the Director of the applicant's home institution testifying to the ability of the applicant to undertake successfully the training proposed and certifying that the applicant, if selected, will be granted a leave of absence. The Director should also indicate how the proposed training will strengthen the institution's capability to conduct clinical research upon the return of the trainee.
12. Applicants from countries requiring national endorsement should submit their applications through proper government channels. A copy of all applications should be sent to the WHO Representative's Office in their home country for information purposes.

All applications must be received at RCStraining@who.int by 15 April 2009

For further information: Steven Wayling, Research Networks Manager
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Candidates closely matching the eligibility criteria will be contacted to arrange a telephone interview in May and final candidates may have a face to face interview in Geneva.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome in June 2009
Training will begin by mutual consent as soon as possible