GSK

Scope document – Africa Open Lab Call for Proposal
GSK Africa Open Lab call for applications Dec 2022 – Feb 2023

The GSK Africa Open Lab's next call for research proposals focused on funding innovative high-quality infectious disease research is now open with up to **£75,000** available per award. The aim is to fund projects whilst supporting the professional development of future African research leaders based in sub–Saharan Africa (SSA).

The deadline for submitting applications is **17th February 2023**

The award - what's included?

- Up to £75,000 available per award to cover a project for up to 36 months.

- The award will offer funding to cover the costs of an appropriate research project including costs for equipment, field work and data collection, consumables, and research assistance.

- Also available are opportunities for training activities relevant to achieving the aims of the project or research career development, including short courses and training visits to relevant research institutions in consultation with GSK.

- In addition to financial support, GSK will provide scientific support throughout the duration of the award term. The level of interaction will be determined through the application process and will be tailored to the individual needs of the project. GSK will explore links with scientists from academic and research groups in Africa and globally to provide additional mentorship to successful applicants.

- Funding is not provided for degree/fellowships tuition fees.

Eligibility

The applicant - you must meet all of the following criteria

- The principal investigator must be an African scientist in the early stages of their research and academic career, defined as: a basic biomedical scientist, clinically qualified investigator, or public health researcher, who has not previously competed successfully as principal investigator for a major research grant (>£100,000), and who is no more than five years from their highest postgraduate qualification (career breaks and time out of academic research will be taken into consideration).
- The minimum formal qualification required is a graduate degree. Most applicants will be expected to have a MSc, PhD or an MD. Applicants can hold a lecturer appointment, a junior fellowship, or be in another research staff position.
- Must demonstrate that they have a track record and ongoing commitment to health-related research and the skills and experience required to carry out the proposed work. Evidence of research output, including publications in peer reviewed journals, conference publications, presentations at scientific conferences, input into clinical guidelines or policy documents is required.
- Employed by a research or academic institution in SSA. Investigators from all qualifying institutions are welcome to apply. Additionally, applications are strongly encouraged from investigators from historically underrepresented population groups and institutions.
- A national of a sub-Saharan African country and based in an institution in SSA.

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The research projects

Your project must meet the following criteria.

Research proposal of relevance to disease understanding in the following disease areas:

- Malaria
- Tuberculosis
- Enteric infections
- Respiratory infections
- Neglected Tropical Diseases
- Emerging infectious diseases of particular relevance for Africa
- Other bacterial infections
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) linked to these infectious diseases

- Research may address infectious disease epidemiology, pathophysiology, aetiology or prevention and treatment of primary disease and the significant gaps in knowledge about the diversity and causes of disease, their presentation, variations in clinical features and responses to medicines and vaccines or mechanisms for improving access to medicines and vaccines.

- Research can include studies addressing the emergence of antimicrobial resistance linked to these infectious diseases, antibiotic stewardship and initiatives that seek to optimise the use and access to existing medicines and vaccines in SSA.

- Will generate significant data to strengthen further funding proposals that could lead to additional grant funding from other organisations and/or research collaborations in the longer term.

  - Proposals must demonstrate significant potential to scale up into further research. Proposals can include laboratory-based molecular analysis of field or clinical samples, but projects focused solely on studies in vitro, drug or vaccine discovery or using animal models will **not** be considered.
  - Applicants are strongly advised to ensure that they meet the eligibility criteria before applying.

How to apply

Applications for research grants will be subject to a 2-stage review process. Only those successful at the concept stage will be invited to submit a full application. Recommendations for award funding will be made based on scientific merit.

How to apply:

Please go to the GSK Supported Studies website available GSK's Supported Studies Program**.** Register and submit the completed preliminary concept application on the website under **Africa Open Lab** accompanied by your CV (Please use the CV Template provided).

The selection process

Completed concept proposals will be assessed by a scientific panel including the scientific advisory board of African infectious disease experts and academics from other institutions. Successful candidates will be invited to submit a full application. Please note that we will **not** provide written feedback for unsuccessful applications at the preliminary application stage.

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Reviewers will typically assess:

- The eligibility of the applicant
- The scientific merit of the proposed project
- The potential impact of the research
- The potential for scaling up the research
- The potential impact of the project on your career development

Contact details

For IT and program related queries contact the Supported Studies team: supported.studies@gsk.com