

Job Description

Job Title:	Research Assistant (Epidemiological Data)
Department/Division/Faculty:	Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine
Campus/Location:	St Mary's Campus, Paddington
Job Family/Level:	Research Job Family, Research Assistant (Pay scale)
Responsible to:	Professor Sir Roy Anderson
Line Management for:	N/A
Key Working Relationships (Internal):	Lead investigators, other epidemiologists, statisticians, and mathematical modellers in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Key Working Relationships (External):	Project collaborators, funder Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), foundations and agencies, other international academic groups
Contract type:	Full time and Fixed Term until 30 June 2025. Part-time/flexible working will be considered, and details can be discussed at interview

Purpose of the Post

This post is funded by the Childhood Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) as part of the evaluation team of The Geshiyaro project, which aims to break the transmission of soil transmitted helminths (STH) and schistosomiasis (SCH) in Southern Ethiopia. The LCNTDR, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the impact of water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) in conjunction with mass drug administration (MDA), implemented by World Vision Ethiopia and the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), respectively.

The overall aim of the project is to develop a scalable and cost-effective model of interventions for the interruption of transmission of STH and SCH leading to the cessation of MDA for disease control in Ethiopia. The primary outcome is to reach a 2% or less prevalence of STH (by species) and SCH in individual communities, as diagnosed by qPCR, 24 months after stopping MDA after three rounds of annual treatment.

Key objectives of the evaluation team are to evaluate the impact of WaSH and MDA on the interruption of transmission of STH and SCH in a focal geographic area of Ethiopia. This is measured through parasitological (baseline and endline mapping, as well as annual longitudinal sentinel sites), treatment coverage (both through biometric registration and independent validation surveys), WaSH coverage (through cross-sectional WaSH assessments) and qualitative research (focus group discussions).

The post holder will join a team of epidemiologists at Imperial College London, in the LCNTDR in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology. Further training in epidemiology and parasitology will be given, however key requirements for the post are a strong background in data management and the analysis of epidemiological data.

The London Centre for Neglected Tropical Disease Research (LCNTDR) was founded in 2012 with Professor Sir Roy Anderson as Director. Its mission is to be an international resource and centre of excellence for research on the epidemiological analysis and modelling of the transmission and control of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). The Centre is built upon world-leading research in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at Imperial College London on infectious disease transmission, evolution

and control. It provides research support to control implementation agencies and undertakes applied collaborative work with national and international agencies plus philanthropic organizations in support of health policy planning and disease control programmes to reduce the burden of morbidity and mortality arising from NTDs in Africa, South America and Asia.

The research will be undertaken with LCNTDR, and at times, there will be a requirement to spend time at EPHI in Addis Ababa and the project site in Sodo in Ethiopia. The project will benefit from the translational focus of the Department and Centre, and the close existing links it has with public health bodies in Ethiopia, and academic partners in Ethiopia. An interest in developing skills in local languages in Ethiopia would be of value.

Key Responsibilities

Research Duties

- Development of data collection forms in SurveyCTO
- Harmonisation of large data sets
- Analysis of data (operational, epidemiological, behavioural and treatment) relevant for the research project
- To develop operational reporting framework and tools for project activities
- To visualise results and data to generate insight
- To contribute to writing clear and effective manuscripts
- To attend conferences and present results
- To identify and develop suitable techniques, and apparatus, for the collection and analysis of data
- To assist with the analysis of data
- To always ensure the validity and reliability of data
- To maintain accurate and complete records of all findings
- To assist with the writing of reports to research sponsors
- To present findings to colleagues
- To provide advice to other staff and students
- To assist with the publication of findings
- To attend relevant workshops and conferences as necessary
- To develop contacts within the College and the wider community
- To promote the reputation of the Group, the Department and the College

Other Duties

- To assist with general laboratory activities
- To undertake any necessary training and/or development
- To undertake appropriate administration tasks
- To attend relevant meetings

Person Specification

Requirements	Essential (E)/ Desirable (D)
Candidates/post holders will be expected to demonstrate the following:	
Education	
Undergraduate and/or Master's degree in Data Science or Epidemiology with a good coding ability in R	E
PhD in Data Science, Statistics or Epidemiology	D
Experience	
Experience developing data collection forms for electronic data capture and associated data architecture (preferably SurveyCTO, ODK, EpiCollect, or EpiInfo)	D
Experience in collecting/analysing epidemiological data	D
Experience of working with external collaborators in the UK and overseas	D
Knowledge	
Harmonisation of large datasets	E
Working knowledge of data management, cleaning and analysis for large populations	E
Knowledge of computational and data storage software (preferably Stata or R)	E
Knowledge of basic research methods and statistical procedures	E
Skills & Abilities	
Research skills (epidemiology) – data cleaning, analysis, statistics	E
Ability to collate data, interpret and present results to a high standard	E
Ability to conduct a detailed review of recent literature	E
Ability to develop and apply new concepts	E
Creative approach to problem-solving	E
Excellent verbal communication skills and the ability to deal with a wide range of people	E
Excellent written communication skills and the ability to write clearly and succinctly for publication	E
Ability to organise own work with minimal supervision	E
Ability to prioritise own work in response to deadlines	E
Advanced computer skills, including word-processing, spreadsheets and the Internet	E
Ability to speak Amharic and Welayta	D
Other	
Willingness to undertake any necessary training for the role	E
Willingness to work as part of a team and to be open-minded and cooperative	E
Excellent organisational skills	E
A meticulous approach and attention to detail	E
Flexible attitude towards work	E
Discipline and regard for confidentiality and security at all times	E
Willingness to travel internationally and spend some time in Ethiopia, as required	D

Further Information

Please note that job descriptions cannot be exhaustive, and the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties, which are broadly in line with the above key responsibilities.

Imperial College is committed to equality of opportunity and to eliminating discrimination. All employees are expected to follow the [Imperial Values & Behaviours framework](#). Our values are:

- Respect
- Collaboration

Imperial College London

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Innovation

Employees are also required to comply with all College policies and regulations paying special attention to: Confidentiality, Conflict of Interest, Data Protection, Equal Opportunities, Financial Regulations, Health and Safety, Information Technology, Smoking, Private Engagements and Register of Interests. They must also undertake specific training and assume responsibility for safety relevant to specific roles, as set out on the [College Website Health and Safety Structure and Responsibilities](#) page.

The College is a proud signatory to the San-Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), which means that in hiring and promotion decisions, we evaluate applicants on the quality of their work, not the journal impact factor where it is published. For more information, see <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research/research-evaluation/>

The College believes that the use of animals in research is vital to improve human and animal health and welfare. Animals may only be used in research programmes which are ultimately aimed towards finding new treatments and making scientific and medical advances, and where there are no satisfactory or reasonably practical alternatives to their use. Imperial is committed to ensuring that, in cases where this research is deemed essential, all animals in the College's care are treated with full respect, and that all staff involved with this work show due consideration at every level. [Find out more about animal research at Imperial.](#)

We are committed to equality of opportunity, to eliminating discrimination and to creating an inclusive working environment for all. We therefore encourage candidates to apply irrespective of age, disability, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion and belief, gender reassignment, sex, or sexual orientation. We are an [Athena SWAN Silver Award](#) winner, a [Disability Confident Leader](#) and a [Stonewall Diversity Champion](#).

July 2023