



*In Search of Better Health*

## KENYA MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Project description:** The Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are working to strengthen malaria laboratory capacity at KEMRI's Centre for Global Health Research in Kisumu, western Kenya. The candidate will be responsible for validating and conducting laboratory analyses to support a project designed to detect phenotypic HRP2/3 gene deletions in *Plasmodium falciparum* using a novel multiplex bead-based assay (MBA) and genotypic confirmation using next generation sequencing (NGS). S/he will also be involved in using NGS to evaluate molecular markers of antimalarial drug resistance and other relevant markers of interest in collaboration with academic collaborators. The candidate will be expected to assist with other laboratory projects as assigned and will be expected to develop his or her own research agenda and write at least one grant to be submitted no later than the start of the 8<sup>th</sup> month of taking up this position.

**Position:** Assistant Principal Research Scientist , **Job Group, KMR 4**, (1 position)

**Location:** CGHR-Kisumu with fieldwork in western Kenya

**Reporting to:** Head of the Malaria Division, CGHR.

**Job Summary:** The officer will be responsible for leading the adaptation of laboratory technologies from the CDC's Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria, and NOMADs Nanopore Technology group to KEMRI/CGHR, will work in collaboration with and be supported by CDC laboratory scientists in Atlanta and Nairobi, as well as other external collaborators. S/he will be responsible for ensuring that laboratory quality standards are followed when conducting laboratory research including lab protocols and relevant Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), implementation of competency tests, management of lab accreditation status and maintenance of appropriate laboratory information management system (LIMS. S/he will also take lead in writing laboratory-research grants, oversee lab-related research studies, write manuscripts and in training and supervision of laboratory staff and graduate students. S/he will be responsible for the preparation of updates of lab-related projects for monthly lab research meetings.

### a) Job Specifications

The duties and responsibilities of the officer will entail: -

- i. Providing day to day guidance in a specialized laboratory or given field of study;
- ii. Establishing a specific line of research including writing grant applications to maintain the specified research projects;

- iii. Providing full supervisory responsibility for junior professional and technical staff attached to his/her research projects;
- iv. Guiding training and development of staff and students attached to his/her research projects;
- v. Developing of research proposals and sourcing for grants in relevant research thematic areas;
- vi. Implementing laboratory research projects and/or supervise designated aspects of the work;
- vii. Coaching and mentoring of junior scientists in formulation of research ideas, proposal writing and sourcing for grants;
- viii. Monitoring and evaluating implementation of lab research projects;
- ix. Preparation of project progress reports and submission of the same to the CDC on-site PI and Head of Malaria Division in Kisumu and other CDC collaborators in a timely fashion;
- x. Disseminating and translating lab research findings for evidence-based policy formulations and implementation;
- xi. Making a significant contribution in devising, planning work and defining research priorities;
- xii. Identifying technology with potential for intellectual property protection; and
- xiii. Developing a training schedule and evaluation scheme for all lab-related trainings such as good clinical and laboratory practice (GCLP), biosafety, internships.

#### **b) Person Specifications**

For appointment to this grade, a candidate must have: -

- i. At least eight (8) years relevant work experience;
- ii. Bachelor's/ Master's Degree in any of the following disciplines: - Biomedical Technology /Sciences, Microbiology, Parasitology, Immunology, Molecular Biology or equivalent qualifications from a recognized Institution;
- iii. Doctorate degree in any of the following disciplines: Molecular Biology, Immunology, Population Genetics, Genetic/Genomic Epidemiology, Molecular Epidemiology or equivalent qualifications from a recognized institution;
- iv. Developed at least twelve (12) proposals, six (6) of which have been funded;
- v. Published at least six (6) articles in refereed journals with at least three (3) articles as the first or lead author;
- vi. Strong hands-on experience with current laboratory methods in molecular biology/immunology in malaria or other childhood diseases in Kenya or sub-Saharan Africa.
- vii. Knowledge and use of at least one statistical software package, e.g. STATA, R, SPSS, or SAS
- viii. Management Course lasting not less than four (4) weeks from a recognized institution;
- ix. Experience working in collaboration with multiple agencies/partners.

### c) Key Skills and Competencies

- i. Strategic thinking;
- ii. Proposal writing skills;
- iii. Analytical skills;
- iv. Lab technique troubleshooting skills
- v. writing skills with evidence.
- vi. Communication and reporting skills
- vii. Interpersonal and negotiation skills
- viii. Team player

**Terms of employment:** This is a **one (1) year contract, renewable subject to availability of funds**, with a probation period for the first 3 months. Salary is negotiable within the KEMRI scheme of service depending on education, experience and demonstrated competency.

Successful candidates will be required to provide the following: Certificate of good conduct, Higher Education Loans Board compliance certificate, KRA Tax compliance certificate, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission clearance.

Kindly attach your CV, cover letter, copies of certified academic and professional certificates, testimonials and other relevant documents.

All the applications to be done through KEMRI Website [www.kemri.go.ke/e-recruitment](http://www.kemri.go.ke/e-recruitment) - E-Recruitment Portal on or before 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2024, 5.00 p.m.

Please visit the KEMRI web site [www.kemri.go.ke](http://www.kemri.go.ke) for more details on the advertisement.

***KEMRI IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY; PERSONS WHO ARE ABLED DIFFERENTLY, WOMEN, YOUTH AND THOSE FROM MARGINALIZED AREAS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY. KEMRI DOES NOT CHARGE A FEE AT ANY STAGE OF ITS RECRUITMENT PROCESS INCLUDING APPLICATION, INTERVIEW AND PROCESSING OF OFFER LETTER. IF ASKED FOR A FEE, REPORT SUCH REQUEST IMMEDIATELY.***

***Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.***