



Applications are invited for a PhD Project Studentship

At Amsterdam University Medical Centres in partnership with School of Public Health, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (SPH/KNUST),

Start date: November 2018 Duration: 4 years

We are seeking an aspiring PhD candidate with passion for biomedical research and strong drive and determination to push the frontiers of knowledge for societal benefit of patient care. The position offers a stipend, and excellent supervision within an internationally renowned research group including a period of study in the Ghana and The Netherlands.

Closing date for applications: September 14th 2018: 5 PM

PROGRAMME

Title of research project: *Cardiovascular disease prediction among Ghanaian residents in Ghana and Europe*

Background: Cardiovascular disease (CVD) and its risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity and dyslipidaemia are now major global health burden. Sub-Saharan African populations both in African and in the diaspora have been particularly affected for reasons that are not yet clear. Unfortunately, for so long, the underlying reasons for the increased risk still remain less understood mainly due to lack of longitudinal studies. Consequently, the CVD risk algorithms for prevention and treatment are largely based on European populations and evidence suggests these are invalid for the African populations. The lack of understanding of the underlying determinants is hindering policy makers' and clinical efforts in addressing the problem head on. This is happening at a time when preventive measures have led to significant reduction in CVD in high-income countries. To make progress, more evidence on the underlying factors is clearly needed in order to develop adequate policy, clinical and public health responses to minimise the high burden of CVD among the African populations.

In this project, we will follow up the RODAM study (<http://www.rod-am.eu/>) participants in the Netherlands and urban and rural Ghana to identify key changes in environmental exposures and epigenetic modifications driving the high burden of CVD and risk factors among Ghanaian migrants in Europe and their compatriots who did not migrant and living in rural and urban Ghana to guide intervention programmes and to provide a basis for improving diagnosis and treatment. We are looking for an enthusiastic and creative researcher who has a keen interest in migrant health and cardiovascular diseases and risk factors. The project will be carried out in Amsterdam UMC in collaboration with Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana.

Your main tasks are:

- Set up and coordinate data collection (recruitment, physical examination, questionnaires) with a team, according to SOPs, in close collaboration with the central Pros-RODAM coordinator
- Coordinate data entry according to SOPs and data management (including data-cleaning)
- Analyse the data and report findings for scientific publications

Requirements:

- BSc in a relevant subject from a reputable university with a second class upper or first class

- MSc in Public Health, epidemiology, Medical Biology, or a related field in the life sciences or MPhil in a relevant subject from a reputable university
- Affinity with vulnerable groups and prevention of cardiovascular disease and genetics
- Experience with processing and analyzing quantitative data
- You must satisfy the general PhD entrance requirements for SPH/KNUST and Amsterdam UMC
- Good verbal and written communication skills in English

Competencies:

- You have excellent knowledge and skills in conducting scientific research and reporting of results.
- You work accurately and carefully.
- You have the ability to work in an international and multidisciplinary team.
- You are flexible, solution-oriented and have good social skills.
- You like to work in a team, but you can also work independently.
- Prior publication in internationally recognized journals is a bonus.

We offer:

- A position for 4 years in which research should be carried out leading to a number of publications and a PhD thesis.
- To operate in an international and multidisciplinary team of researchers with immense experience in migration and health, CVD, genetics and global health.
- As a student in the Amsterdam UMC Graduate School, you will have access to excellent further training and development. The candidate will also be able to attend course outside Amsterdam UMC Graduate School if necessary

Location of work and payment: The candidate will spend the first 24 months in SPH/KNUST to contribute to the data collection and the remaining 24 months in Amsterdam. Payment is commensurate with standard salary of PhD students in Ghana and the Netherlands.

Your application should include the following documents:

1. Motivated letter of application.
2. Curriculum vitae, incl. education and experience.
3. Copy of diplomas/degree certificate(s).
4. List of publications.
5. Names and contact details for at least two referees.

How to apply: Applications should be submitted to Prof. Ellis Owusu-Dabo (eowusu-dabo.chs@SPH/KNUST.edu.ghb) or Prof Charles Agyemang (c.o.agyemang@amc.uva.nl) by email comprising a) curriculum vitae; b) transcripts; and c) a cover letter detailing motivation, research interests and previous relevant experience; contact details including a phone number; and the names and contact details of two referees.

Interested candidates are encouraged to discuss the project informally with Prof. Ellis Owusu-Dabo [eowusu-dabo.chs@SPH/KNUST.edu.ghb] or Prof Charles Agyemang [c.o.agyemang@amc.uva.nl].

Closing Date for applications: 3rd September 2018: 5 PM.