

“Postdoctoral Fellows for Program Science Based Research”

Background

The Institute for Global Public Health (IGPH) at the University of Manitoba (UM) established in February 2020 was built on the foundation of the Centre for Global Public Health (established in 2008). IGPH works towards enhancing the University of Manitoba’s leadership in global public health. IGPH has a university-wide mandate and is rooted in the Department of Community Health Sciences in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. With over \$300 million in external grant funding over the past decade, the IGPH has established unique global health research infrastructure platforms in India (4 main and several field offices), Kenya, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

IGPH is a global leader in Program Science. Program Science is defined as the “systematic application of theoretical and empirical scientific knowledge to improve the design, implementation and evaluation of public health programs.” Program Science is an iterative, multi-phase research and program framework in which programs drive scientific inquiry. IGPH uses a Program Science approach across all its areas of work and geographies.

One of the *flagship programs of IGPH in India is the Uttar Pradesh Technical Support Unit (UPTSU)*. UPTSU is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). UPTSU provides technical assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh in the areas of reproductive, maternal, child health and nutrition (RMNCH) and health systems strengthening (HSS) to achieve its health and nutrition goals. UPTSU is led by IGPH, UM, with a consortium of key partners including India Health Action Trust (IHAT), JHPIEGO, Clinton Health Action Initiative (CHAI), Johns Hopkins University, Community Empowerment Lab, and Centre for Social and Behaviour Change. Training and capacity building, monitoring and evaluation, health systems and embedded research are central to the work, using a Program Science approach. Data is generated, used and applied at all levels to inform decision making, policy and practice. With over 1200 team members, the project covers all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh, which has over 100,000 villages and towns. The program benefits about 5.5 million pregnant women annually, new mothers, young couples, children below five years, over 300,000 front-line workers, clinical staff including auxiliary nurse midwives, staff nurses and doctors, and program administrators and managers at state, district and block levels. IHAT is the main implementing partner for IGPH, UM.

IHAT is a Charitable Trust under the Indian Trust Act, 1882 and is registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.

IGPH has long standing core academic partnerships with King George Medical University (KGMU), a premier medical institute located in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, apart from multiple other important Government bodies and academic institutions. KGMU is a leading medical institution based in Lucknow, UP. KGMU is committed to the provision of excellent medical care, research and medical education. KGMU is ranked among the top ten medical colleges in India.

Proposal

In partnership with UOM-IHAT and KGMU, it is proposed to recruit one pair of post-doctoral researchers to spend large part of their time in Uttar Pradesh with UPTSU, to amplify the program science based research further. IGPH aims to recruit 1 postdoctoral research fellow through its internal processes of the University of Manitoba and the King George Medical University (KGMU) in coordination with UOM-IHAT can recruit one post-doctoral researcher to twin with the UoM recruited post-doctoral researcher. One of the aims is to peer-learn from different systems.

Postdoctoral researchers will work in the area of 'effective coverage' of RMNCH, TB and HSS, using a Program Science approach. Specifically, areas of interest within RMNCH include quality of care within facilities, identification and management of high-risk pregnancies, and community level care with a focus on newborn health. For research related to TB, the focus will be on identification including diagnosis and notification. Within HSS, the focus will be on human resource for health (HRH), supply chain and digital innovation. The research will have a strong focus on understanding and addressing inequity within RMNCH, TB and HSS. They will work as a part of a larger multi-disciplinary team who are collectively working on a research program to help optimize the RMNCH programs and outcomes by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Postdoctoral researchers will be *jointly mentored by a senior researcher from the University of Manitoba and a senior researcher from KGMU*. It is proposed that the maximum duration of their engagement will be for a *period of two years*. Funding will be from University of Manitoba-IHAT.

Objective

The key objective of the two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship is to develop and support the health research career of aspiring academics. The successful candidate will be supported to achieve their proposed research goals with an experienced research mentor and advisory team relevant to the field of expertise and supported to consider an appropriate research academic trajectory.

Eligibility and selection process

The applicant must possess Ph.D. Degree or MD or Dr PH from a recognized institute in India in one of the following domains:

- Public Health/ Community Medicine/ Medicine/ Health systems & Policy/ Health
- Population Studies/ Demography/ Statistics/ Social Sciences/ Nutrition

The applicant *should not be more than 40 years of age* at the time of application.

Candidates will have to submit a brief 2 page research proposal (not exceeding 1000 words) and a cover letter with an updated C.V within a deadline of 4 weeks from the advertisement.

KGMU will constitute a selection panel including members from UOM-IHAT and shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview for the final selection. The final research topic will be jointly decided by the candidate and the research mentor.

Emoluments / Stipend

The Post Doctoral Fellowships are awarded on a full time basis with provision of the following by the UoM-IHAT:

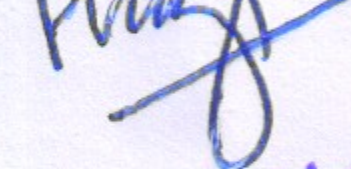
- A stipend @ INR 125,000 per month for a period of two years
- Support for participation /travel in two Conferences including International Conferences.
- Support in open access publication fees

Expectation

The selected candidates will have to join within 2 months of selection at KGMU.

The expectation is high quality research and output of a minimum of two publications in peer reviewed international journals.

Send the proposal through e-mail to the Dean, Research & Development, King George's Medical University, Lucknow (E.mail: res@kgmcindia.edu) latest by 19th February 2024.

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