

Job Title:	Research Fellow in Infectious Disease Epidemiology
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 Family, Research Fellow
Responsible to:	Professor Sir Roy Anderson
Key Working Relationships (internal):	Lead investigators, other epidemiologists, statistician 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 21 in the first instance.

Research Programme

The research programme focuses on Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a group of debilitating, disabling, and even fatal infectious diseases which disproportionately affect people living in poverty around the world. Founded in 2012, the London Centre for Neglected Tropical Disease Research (LCNTDR) was created to coordinate and promote scientific research around on the biology, epidemiology, and control of NTDS. In this research the design, implementation, and evaluation of NTD control and elimination programmes is a priority. The LCNTDR acts as a coordinating body between several NTD research institutions based in London – Imperial College London, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), the Natural History Museum (NHM), and the Royal Veterinary College (RVC). The Sanger Centre at the University of Cambridge and the SCI Foundation are associate members.

The LCNTDR aims to improve communication between its members, act as a platform for pooling technical expertise in order to obtain funding to carry out research and field studies in developing countries, and communicate results to inform policy, donors, and the general public. The LCNTDR is based in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology in the School of Public Health at Imperial College London.

Purpose of the Post

This post is funded by the Children's 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 biannual 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 identification and independent validation surveys), WaSH coverage (through cross-sectional WaSH assessments) and qualitative research (focus group discussions).

The post holder will carry out own, plan and lead a high-quality programme of research to undertake project management and supervise multi-disciplinary teams. In addition, you will be expected to submit publications to refereed journals and to attract external research funding.

The Research Fellow will also be responsible for all technical input and coordination of Geshiyaro evaluation activities on behalf of LCNTDR, in coordination with the partner evaluation organisation, EPHI.

Specifically, the role will entail coordinating four major activities:

- (1) preparation, training, field supervision, and analysis of sentinel site data collection.
- (2) form preparation, training, and progress reports for the mass drug administration (MDA);
- (3) protocol refinement, training, field supervision and analysis of the independent treatment coverage survey; and
- (4) analysis of the qPCR data.

To complete these activities the post holder will manage a team of four staff (statistician, data manager, epidemiologist, and research assistant) all of whom will provide technical input and assist with report writing. The post holder will be present for the data collection period with pre-preparation and post-analysis time included (approximately 4 months per year) in Sodo, Wolayita, Ethiopia.

Further training in new diagnostic methods will be given, however key qualifications for the post are a strong background in infectious disease epidemiology, in particular SCH and STH, in addition to data management and the ability to work for periods in the field in Ethiopia developing good working relations with local staff and the treated communities.

An important aspect of the project is the dissemination of the results to global stakeholders, in particular via working closely with WHO, agencies running the programme in Ethiopia (EPHI and the FMOH) and the funder CIFF, to inform public health decision making for the control of NTDs in Ethiopia.

Key Responsibilities

To lead and undertake research of the highest quality in the broad area of Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs):

- Support the preparation, training, supervision, and analysis of epidemiological data collection, and the impact of mass drug administration.
- Conduct literature reviews, collate and present result
- Investigate and support research on new diagnostic tools for helminth infections
- Visualise results and data to generate insight
- Write clear and effective manuscripts
- Guide manuscripts through peer-review process
- Attend conferences and present results
- To assist with teaching, supervision and tutorial work in both London and Ethiopia (to the degree required by the candidate for their own career development)
- Publish research papers in peer-reviewed journals
- Attend and present work at international conferences
- Obtain research grants from national and international funding bodies, and obtain funding from industry where appropriate
- Supervise postdoctoral researchers, postgraduate students and undergraduate research projects

Teaching

- Teach undergraduate and postgraduate courses within the regulations of the awarding body of the funder.

Management

- To appropriately manage the resources allocated to their funding.

Research Duties

- To continue to develop a personal programme of research, developing research proposals and funding bid and being successfully awarded them.
- To take initiatives in the planning and leading of research
- To manage research projects
- To direct the work of small research teams, supervising and taking responsibility for the research team
- To write reports for submission to research sponsors
- To present findings via publications to referred journals and to colleagues at conferences
- To provide guidance to staff and students
- To attend relevant workshops and conferences as necessary
- To develop contacts and research collaborations within the College and the wider community
- To promote the reputation of the Group, the Department and the College

Education

- Teach and examine courses to all levels: undergraduate, master's and higher research degrees, through lectures, seminars, course work, tutorials and personal supervision
- Assist in the administrative duties involved in teaching including examining and the development of learning and teaching in general
- Develop course proposals and contribute to curriculum development
- Develop approaches to teaching and learning which are innovative and reflect developing practice elsewhere
- Supervise and provide pastoral care for all students

Other Duties

- To undertake appropriate administration tasks
- Contribute to departmental management as required
- Monitor and ensure effective management of assets and budgets allocated as part of the role
- [For members of staff who have responsibility for collecting, inputting and maintaining data] To be responsible for ensuring that data is accurate, up-to-date and complete.
- To attend relevant meetings
- To undertake any necessary training and/or development

Person Specification

Requirements	Essential (E)/ Desirable (D)
Candidates/post holders will be expected to demonstrate the following:	
Education	
PhD in Infectious Disease Epidemiology or related subject;	E
Experience	
A strong interest in neglected tropical diseases and working in resource poor settings	E
Epidemiological research experience	E
Experience in related international development	E
Experience supporting financial, grants, or contractual management	E
Working knowledge of data management and data cleaning for large populations	E
Knowledge of computational and data storage software (preferably Stata or R).	E
Experience of working with external collaborators in the UK and overseas	E
Experience in collecting/analysing epidemiological data.	E
Knowledge of research methods and statistical procedures	E
Practical experience within a research environment and / or publications in relevant and refereed journals;	E
A record of high-quality publications in international peer-reviewed journals	E
Demonstrated ability to interact with other academics	E
Experience of the supervision of research of undergraduate/postgraduate students or postdoctoral staff	E
Experience of presenting results and findings to specialist and non-specialist audiences e.g. at significant conferences or engaging with the public on science	E
Demonstrated success in delivering research results with evidence of national recognition and a growing reputation	E
The appropriate technical skills to perform research in the field and to design, plan and lead high quality original research, project managing the research activity, ensuring deliverables are achieved and, if applicable, supervising and taking responsibility for research team colleagues	E
Evidence of having made a significant contribution to writing proposals	E
Evidence of teaching and teaching support	E
Skills & Abilities	
Ability to conduct a detailed review of recent literature	E
Ability to develop and apply new concepts; Able to formulate research questions and develop successful research proposals and funding bids	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 direct the work of a small research team and motivate others to produce a high standard of work	E
Ability to organise own work with minimal supervision; ability to work effectively, both independently and collaboratively	E
Ability to prioritise own work in response to deadlines	E
Advanced computer skills, including word-processing, spreadsheets and the Internet	E

Personal Attributes	
Willingness to work as part of a team and to be open-minded and cooperative	E
Flexible attitude towards work	E
Discipline and regard for confidentiality and security at all times	E
Willingness to undertake any necessary training for the role	E
Willingness to travel both within the United Kingdom and to spend time abroad (Ethiopia) to conduct research	E

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 [7 Imperial Expectations](#) detailed below:

- 1) Champion a positive approach to change and opportunity
- 2) Communicate regularly and effectively within and across teams
- 3) Consider the thoughts and expectations of others
- 4) Deliver positive outcomes
- 5) Encourage inclusive participation and eliminate discrimination
- 6) Support and develop staff to optimise talent
- 7) Work in a planned and managed way

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 where their use is shown to be necessary for developing new treatments and making medical advances. 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.

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research/research-integrity/animal-research/>

Committed to equality and valuing diversity, we are an Athena SWAN Silver Award winner, a Stonewall Diversity Champion, a Disability Confident Leader and work in partnership with GIRES to promote respect for trans people.