VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Summary

Position:	**Senior Research Scientist (1 post)**
Reports to:	**Senior Principal Research Scientist**
Workstation:	**Bagamoyo**
Apply by:	**February 28th 2024**

Institute overview

Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) is a leading research organization in Africa with a strong track record in developing, testing, and validating innovations for health. Driven by a core strategic mandate for research, training and services, the Institute's work now spans a wide spectrum, covering biomedical and ecological sciences, intervention studies, health-systems research and policy translation.

Position Summary

Ifakara Health Institute seeks a **Senior Research Scientist** to oversee multiple research projects within the Biomedical Research and Clinical Trials department. The scope of research encompasses basic biomedical research, clinical trials, and epidemiological studies in the field of malaria, neglected tropical diseases, and zoonotic diseases. This will also include human infection challenge studies that seek to understand host-pathogen interactions, naturally acquired immunity and validation of new interventions. The position requires a person with a deep understanding of clinical research methodologies, project management, and a proven track record in successfully managing a diverse portfolio of research initiatives.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Develop and implement a strategic plan for the research team, aligning projects with institutional priorities.
- Conduct regular portfolio assessments to ensure that individual projects contribute synergistically to the overarching objectives of the research team.
- Evaluate the scientific and strategic merit of proposed research projects, providing recommendations to Principal Senior Research Scientists for portfolio expansion or adjustment.
- Proactively identify funding opportunities that align with research goals and support the Principal Senior Research Scientist in the preparation and submission of grant applications, whether independently or through collaboration with local and international partners.
- Collaborate with Project leaders, and other stakeholders to create detailed project plans, outlining objectives, milestones, timelines, and resource requirements.
- Monitor project progress against established timelines, identifying potential bottlenecks or delays and implementing corrective actions.
- Ensure that all projects adhere to ethical guidelines, regulatory standards, and institutional policies throughout their lifecycle.

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Phone: +255222774756

Bagamoyo Branch
Inside District Hospital
P.o. Box 74 Bagamoyo
Phone: +255232440065

- Work closely with finance and resource management teams to allocate budgets effectively, ensuring optimal utilization of funds for each project within the portfolio.
- Monitor and manage resource allocation, including personnel, equipment, and technology, to align with project requirements and timelines.
- Implement cost-saving measures without compromising the quality and integrity of the research.
- Facilitate regular collaboration and communication among researchers, clinicians, statisticians, data managers, and regulatory affairs professionals involved in the portfolio.
- Foster a team-oriented environment, encouraging knowledge-sharing and leveraging diverse expertise to address complex challenges.
- Coordinate cross-functional meetings and workshops to enhance collaboration and ensure a comprehensive understanding of project goals.
- Identify potential risks and challenges associated with each research project and the overall portfolio.
- Develop risk mitigation strategies and contingency plans in collaboration with project teams.
- Proactively address and resolve issues to prevent or minimize the impact on project timelines and deliverables.
- Establish and enforce quality assurance processes and standards for all research projects.
- Conduct regular audits and assessments to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, standard operating procedures, and best practices.
- Implement corrective actions as needed to address quality issues and prevent recurrence.
- Ensure compliance with study protocols, and safeguard the rights, safety, and welfare of study volunteers.
- Regularly update Principal Research Scientist and stakeholders on project progress, challenges, and achievements through clear and concise written and verbal communication.
- Prepare and deliver comprehensive reports and presentations for internal and external audiences.
- Customize communication approaches based on the target audience, ensuring effective dissemination of information.
- Stay abreast of emerging trends, methodologies, and technologies in clinical research, recommending and implementing process improvements to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.
- Stay abreast of advancements in clinical research methodologies, technology, and regulatory landscape in the field of interest to the research team.
- Propose and implement process improvements to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and accelerate project timelines.
- Foster a culture of continuous learning and improvement within the research portfolio management team.
- Offer scientific mentorship and guidance to students and interns actively involved in projects, fostering their professional development, and contributing to a collaborative learning environment.
- Assume higher-level responsibilities by effectively managing and leading the clinical team, ensuring cohesive teamwork, and facilitating the achievement of project objectives.
- Facilitate the delivery of clinical care to study volunteers, prioritizing safety throughout the trials and upholding the highest standards of quality.

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- Provide guidance, supervision, and mentorship to the research team, including medical officers, clinical officers, pharmacy staff, and nurses, to ensure a cohesive and proficient healthcare environment.
- Foster continuous professional development and a commitment to excellence within the team to enhance the overall quality of clinical care provided during the trials.
- Collaborate with the statisticians to conduct in-depth statistical analyses of research data.
- Assist Statistician in the design and implementation of statistical methodologies.
- Ensure the accuracy and integrity of statistical results through rigorous validation processes.
- Interpret and communicate statistical findings to Principal Research Scientist, team members and other stakeholders.
- Lead the development of research manuscripts in collaboration with project leaders and stakeholders.
- Coordinate with co-authors to integrate diverse perspectives and ensure a cohesive manuscript.
- Manage the submission process to peer-reviewed journals and address reviewer comments.

Qualification and Experience

- A Ph.D. or equivalent advanced degree in a relevant scientific discipline in epidemiology, clinical research, public health.
- Eligibility for registration with the Medical Council of Tanganyika.
- Minimum of 4 years of progressive experience in clinical research, with a strong emphasis on managing complex portfolios of clinical trials and epidemiological studies.
- Training in ICH-GCP.
- Experience/qualification in adult medicine or pediatrics (clinical or research).
- Experience/qualification in basic biostatistics and clinical research.
- Training in adult and/or pediatric life support (basic and/or advanced).
- Current passport and ability to travel for international meetings.

Skills and Competencies

- Project Management Skills: Proven track record in project management, including planning, execution, and monitoring of clinical research projects.
- Regulatory Knowledge: In-depth understanding of global regulatory requirements and ethical considerations governing clinical research.
- Leadership and Collaboration: Demonstrated ability to lead and collaborate with cross-functional teams in a matrix environment.
- Communication Skills: Exceptional written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to articulate complex scientific concepts to both technical and non-technical audiences.
- Problem-solving: Strong analytical and problem-solving skills, with the ability to make informed decisions in a dynamic research environment.
- Adaptability: Ability to adapt to changing priorities and manage multiple tasks simultaneously.
- High levels of confidentiality and integrity.
- Excellent interpersonal, written, presentation, and communication skills. Strong analytical, critical thinking skills.
- Effective management.

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- Ability to build and lead diverse teams and maintain collaborative relationships in a multicultural environment.

Remuneration
An attractive and competitive remuneration package will be offered to successful candidates as per IHI salary scales for scientists.

Equal Opportunity
IHI is an equal opportunity employer. We prohibit intentional biases or discrimination and harassment of any kind at the work place and during recruitment. All employment decisions are based solely on job requirements and individual qualifications, and our recruitment process is governed by the labour laws of Tanzania.

Mode of Application
All candidates who meet the above job requirements should send their application letters together with their detailed curriculum vitae (CVs) showing contact addresses including email, telephone/cell phone numbers and copies of academic and professional certificates to the email address below.

The **deadline** for this application is **17:00 hours** on **Wednesday February 28th 2024**. All e-mail application subject lines should include: **SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST - BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND CLINICAL TRIALS. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for an interview.**

Human Resources Manager,
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