**Research Career Development Fellowship – Call for applications**

With funding from the UK Global Challenges Research Fund, we have established a new Partnership for Increasing the Impact of Vector Control ([PIIVeC](http://www.lstmed.ac.uk/research/collaborations/partnership-for-increasing-the-impact-of-vector-control-piivec)). We are currently recruiting up to 10 Research Career Development Fellows (RCDFs) to contribute to the strengthening of research capacity in controlling vector-borne diseases in Burkina Faso, Cameroon and/or Malawi. We welcome applicants from all backgrounds who are committed to increasing the supply and demand for high quality evidence to reduce the burden of vector-borne disease and anticipate recruiting across a variety of disciplines (*e.g.* entomology/vector biology, epidemiology, economics, ecology, anthropology, public health, policy, etc.). Preference will be given to candidates from Burkina Faso, Malawi or Cameroon. Applications from women and those returning to research are particularly encouraged.

Ideally, the successful candidate will have a PhD; Master’s graduates with a proven record in the design and implementation of research projects will also will be considered. Fellowships are tenable for 3 years and will be based in one of the African partner institutes (see FAQ document, available for download on the [PIIVeC webpage](http://www.lstmed.ac.uk/research/collaborations/partnership-for-increasing-the-impact-of-vector-control-piivec)). In addition to salary support, the fellowship includes research and training support. Successful candidates will be expected to train junior scientists, and mentorship and support in building a research team will be provided. PIIVeC seeks to increase the representation of African scientists in global vector control policy and advisory organisations and promote inter sectorial collaborations, and there will be opportunities for fellows to undertake secondments within partner organisations.

As PIIVeC aims to promote collaborations across multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary groups, the candidate must be able to communicate effectively with diverse people and demonstrate both flexibility and self-discipline in their work ethic.

The PIIVeC partners have identified a number of knowledge gaps that may interest prospective fellows, please see below. However, applicants can propose their own original projects within the broader PIIVeC theme.

In order to be considered for the post, please send a CV, the completed application form, and the completed personal statement form to PIIVeC@lstmed.ac.uk

Deadline for applications 31st January 2018.

**Person Specification**

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| **Requirements** | **Essential(E)/****Desirable(D)** |
| Doctoral degree | D |
| Master degree | E |
| Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Malawi nationality | D |
| Demonstrable commitment to long term career in Africa | E |
| Demonstrable record of designing and implementing research projects | E |
| Demonstrable commitment to a career in public health | E |
| Published in peer reviewed journals | D |
| Willingness to travel throughout the partner countries | E |
| Willingness to work in one or more of the partner countries | E |
| Able to communicate effectively in English | E |
| Ability to work in multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary environments | E |
| Commitment to continuous professional development | E |
| Experience of providing mentorship or training | D |

**Identified Knowledge Gaps**

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| **Themes** | **Discipline(s)** | **Example Questions** |
| Control of *Aedes aegypti* in Africa | Entomology | What impact do existing interventions have on *Aedes* vector populations/ disease incidence?What impact could IRS have on *Aedes* borne diseases in Africa? |
| Impact of Indoor Residual Spraying with slow-acting insecticides | EpidemiologyEntomology | What are the most appropriate methods to measure the entomological efficacy of slow-acting insecticides in the field?Do slow-acting insecticides have the same public health value as currently used insecticide classes? |
| Impact of insecticide resistance on vector control | Molecular entomology EntomologyEpidemiologyModellingAnthropology  | Design and evaluation of molecular markers for insecticide resistanceDesign and interpretation of effective insecticide resistance surveillance strategiesWhat is the evidence that insecticide resistance management is successful?What is the impact of pyrethroid resistance on users and non-users of LLINs?What is the impact of insecticide resistance in non-target domestic pests (*Culex, Mansonia*, bedbugs, cockroaches, etc.) on acceptance and usage of LLINs and IRS? |
| Past, present and future of community-based approaches to vector control  | AnthropologyEvidence Synthesis | What models of community interventions have been successful in the past? What hasn’t worked and why?What factors influence the adoption, use, and appropriateness of vector control tools within target (rural and urban) communities?What impact could community-based methods developed in Latin America and Asia have on *Aedes* borne diseases in Africa? |
| Influence of human behaviour on the effectiveness of vector control | AnthropologyEntomologyEpidemiology  | What are the best ways to measure exposure to vector borne diseases when taking into account human and vector behaviour  |
| Economics and financing mechanisms for vector-borne disease control | EconomicsPolicy Analysis | What is the most efficient approach to allocate resources to control vector borne disease?Influence of alternative financing mechanisms on global and national strategies |
| Understanding failure to better target vector control | Policy AnalysisAnthropology | What factors prevent scale up of proven interventions?What factors limit the effectiveness of interventions in given settings? |
| Elimination of Human African Trypanosoma (HAT) in Malawi/Cameroon | Entomology | Can addition of vector control lead to elimination of HAT? |
| Integrated surveillance for vector-borne diseases and vectors  | EpidemiologyEntomologyModellingParasitology | What is the potential for integrated xenomonitoring in the surveillance of multiple sympatric infections?How can geospatial tools be used to support rapid response to transmission events in order to prevent re-introduction? |
| Impact of vector symbionts on disease transmission and control | Entomology ParasitologyAnthropology | Role of symbionts in fitness and vectorial capacity of vectors (e.g. *Glossina*) and how it impacts disease transmission dynamicsAre Wolbachia-based control strategies appropriate for African contexts? |
| Integrated control of sleeping sickness onchocerciasis and loiasis | Entomology Modelling | Evaluation of impact of traps and targets for monitoring or control of multiple disease vectorsImproving decision making on selecting vector control and/or chemoprevention |