



**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY - SOUTHERN AFRICAN FOGARTY AIDS AND TB
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAMME
RESEARCH TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN HIV/AIDS AND
TUBERCULOSIS IN THE USA**

Call for Applications for Pre- and Post- Doctoral Traineeships in 2011

Southern Africa continues to bear a disproportionate burden of HIV and Tuberculosis. The need for new interventions to prevent sexual transmission of HIV, enhance delivery of known HIV prevention and treatment interventions and alter current HIV and TB epidemic trajectories remain key challenges.

The Columbia University-Southern African AIDS and TB International Training Programme (AITRP) funded by the Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, USA, now in its sixteenth year of existence, has been critical for building the TB and HIV science base in southern Africa to enhance responses to the HIV and TB epidemics. Previous trainees hold key leadership positions in cutting edge Institutes, Centres and Units throughout South Africa and include amongst others: CIPRA-SA, CAPRISA, Desmond Tutu TB Centre (Cape Town), National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Molecular Mycobacteriology Research Unit (Johannesburg), Institutes for Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine (Cape Town), Aurum Institute for Health Research, Clinical and Biomedical TB Research Unit (MRC), HIV Pathogenesis Programme (KwaZulu-Natal) and the Centre for Molecular and Cellular Biology (Stellenbosch). The program is administered locally at CAPRISA, University of KwaZulu-Natal.

This unique, competitive, prestigious and challenging training programme provides an excellent opportunity to promising mid-career scientists seeking to be independent scientists in the fields of basic science, epidemiology, social science, bioethics and public health ethics related to HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis. Both long and short-term training opportunities are provided.

Only citizens of South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia are eligible for these traineeships.

CATEGORY 1:

Post Doctoral Traineeships in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Social Sciences, Public Health and Research Ethics at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York

Columbia University is one of the top 10 listed universities in the world. With an award-winning faculty, cutting-edge research, exceptional interdisciplinary integration across departments both within Columbia University Medical Center and the University at-large, as well as close partnership with New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Mailman School of Public Health offers outstanding master's and doctoral training programs. The Departments of Epidemiology and Biostatistics are premier centres of epidemiological and biostatistical research pertaining to clinical trials, brain imaging, cancer, mental health, and more. Further information on the programmes at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University is available on the website: www.mailman.columbia.edu/epi/index.html

The target group for this category of traineeship is mid-level scientists with some research experience and who are keen to become independent scientists. Traineeships are offered in Epidemiology and Biostatistics as well as Social Sciences and/or Research Ethics and Public Health Ethics and covers return airfare from southern Africa to New York, a generous stipend, tuition fees, prescribed text books, and health insurance.

CATEGORY 1A:

Post-doctoral Traineeship in Epidemiology or Biostatistics at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

This category of traineeship is tenable for 12 months in the Department of Epidemiology or Biostatistics, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, to pursue a Master of Science in Epidemiology or Biostatistics.

Applicants must: ●have a professional medical, dental or veterinary degree or a PhD, MD or other equivalent doctoral degree ●have demonstrable research experience in HIV/AIDS or TB with at least one peer-reviewed publication ●be committed to return to southern Africa for a period at least equal to the training period in the USA ●meet the Columbia University Joseph Mailman School of Public Health entrance requirements, including the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) ●submit a completed proforma application.

CATEGORY 1B:

Post-doctoral Traineeship in Social Science or Public Health or Research Ethics at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

This category of traineeship is tenable for 18 months in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, to pursue a Masters in Public Health in Sociomedical Sciences or Bioethics. The Department of Sociomedical Sciences is distinguished by its focus on the social determinants of disease and health by examining the correlation between epidemiological trends and structural inequities in order to expose the fundamental social causes of public health events, including discrimination, stigma, and poverty. The Department of Sociomedical Sciences has excellent faculty including Ronald Bayer, Ph.D., Professor at the Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health.

Applicants must: ●have a professional social science degree or a PhD, or other equivalent doctoral degree ●have demonstrable research experience in HIV/AIDS or TB with at least one peer-reviewed publication ●be committed to return to southern Africa for a period at least equal to the training period in the USA ●meet the Columbia University Department of Sociomedical Sciences entrance requirements, including the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) ●submit a completed proforma application.

CATEGORY 2:

Short-Term Basic Science or Social Science Skills Training in HIV and TB in Laboratories and Institutions in the USA

The target group for this category of traineeship is scientists at Masters or doctoral level with some research experience and who are keen to acquire very specific skills in the USA over a period of 3-6 months. Traineeships are offered in Basic Sciences, Research Ethics and Social Sciences and covers return airfare from southern Africa to New York, a generous stipend, tuition fees, prescribed text books, and health insurance.

CATEGORY 2A:

Short-Term HIV and/or TB Basic Science Skills Training in HIV and TB Laboratories in the USA

This category of traineeship is tenable for 3-6 months. It is intended for Masters level or doctoral students who seek to acquire a specific HIV or TB laboratory skill or technique at any US laboratory. The applicant is responsible for identifying the US institution at which he/she would like to train and confirming all arrangements for training between their home and host institution. US laboratories that have previously hosted trainees include: the Public Health Research Institute (PHRI), University of Medicine and Dentistry (New Jersey), Center for AIDS Research, University of North Carolina; CHAVI, Duke University (North Carolina); Department of Medicine and Microbiology, University of Alabama School of Medicine (Atlanta); Emory Vaccine Center (Atlanta), Baylor Institute (Dallas); Frederick Cancer Research and Development Centre, National Cancer Institute, NIH (Bethesda); Department of Molecular Medicine, University of Texas; Brigham and Women's Hospital and Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard University (Boston); and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Boston).

Applicants must have: ●or be registered for a Masters or doctoral degree ●identified the laboratory skill/technique that needs to be acquired ●identified the laboratory in the USA at which he/she would like to train ●at least one poster or conference presentation ●home institution mentor/supervision support ●commitment to return to home institution.

Applications must be submitted on a proforma application form with a letter of support from the proposed mentor and host US institution at which training is sought, and from the local supervisor and home institution at which the applicant is currently based.

This traineeship covers return airfare from southern Africa to the USA, and a generous monthly stipend for the duration of the traineeship. Home institutions will be required to fund the trainee up front and will be timeously reimbursed for these costs.

CATEGORY 2B:

Short-Term HIV and/or TB Social Science and Public Health Ethics Training in the USA

This category of traineeship is tenable for 3-6 months. It is intended for Masters level or doctoral students who want to acquire a specific social science skill or technique at any US institution. The applicant is responsible for identifying the US institution at which he/she would like to train and confirming all arrangements for training between their home and host institution. US institutions that have previously hosted trainees include: The HIV Center (New York); Center for AIDS Research, Emory University (Atlanta); and Tulane University Center for Global Health Equity (New Orleans).

Applicants must have: ●or be registered for a Masters or doctoral degree ●identified the skill that needs to be acquired ●identified the institution in the USA at which he/she would like to train ●at least one poster or conference presentation ●home institution mentor/supervision support ●commitment to return to home institution.

Applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from the proposed mentor to confirm willingness to provide mentorship in the relevant discipline, school, department or research centre.

This traineeship covers return airfare from southern Africa to the USA, and a generous monthly stipend for the duration of the traineeship. Home institutions will be required to fund the trainee up front and will be reimbursed for these costs.

Proforma application forms for all categories of training are available on request from the Training Manager at caprisa@ukzn.ac.za or tel.: (031) 260 4555.

The closing date for receipt of applications is: 20 September 2010.