

May 23, 2022

## **Call for applications for funded Ph.D. Scholarship to address research gaps in HIV/AIDS-related malignancies in Tanzania**

### **Background**

The Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) is calling for potential applicants to apply for a Ph.D. scholarship focusing on research to address research gaps in HIV-related malignancies in Tanzania.

Recently, Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) and Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-New Orleans (LSUHSC-NO) have won a 5-year funded D43 training program to be funded by the National Institute of Health (USA). The program titled “Tanzania AIDS Malignancies Research and Training Program (TAMTRP)” is run by senior researchers from ORCI and LSUHSC-NO; and a mentoring team from ORCI, MUHAS, and LSUHSC-NO.

The D43 TAMTRP program will provide full training support to Ph.D. students who will be registered at MUHAS Tanzania or LSU Health – New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, and supervised by experts from both LSUHSC-NO, ORCI, and MUHAS. The support aims to strengthen research capacity and produce evidence that will help to inform national policies and strategies against the HIV/AIDS malignancies in the country.

### **Eligibility criteria:**

1. Aptitude and intent to become a future leader in AIDS malignancy research and training.
2. Applicants must hold a Master’s degree in a relevant health field (Clinical, Social Sciences, and other health-related fields).
3. Be fluent in both spoken and written English language
4. The applicant must demonstrate basic experience in health-related research using basic level quantitative or qualitative methods.
5. Committed to the full-time study program in Tanzania or in the US and willing to work with a mentoring team in order to finish the Ph.D. program within 4-5 years.
6. Committed to returning to Tanzania after completing training in the U.S. to contribute to the local research capacity.

The program seeks applicants with strong interests in AIDS malignancies, who can work independently, are highly motivated, able to work with others, and ready to be mentored, and have excellent written and verbal communication skills. Further, the program seeks individuals who are ready to be leaders in HIV/AIDS malignancy research, which entails mentoring others, teaching junior students and faculties, and taking part in ongoing research.

**Priority will be given to ORCI employees.**

**Applications:** The application for this Ph.D. program will follow MUHAS and LSUHSC-NO admission guidelines for graduate students respectively. However, to be shortlisted for the scholarship, candidates must submit the following documents:

1. Application cover letter
2. Biosketch (containing academic and employment history, teaching/professional work, awards, publications/contribution to science)
3. A maximum of 1-page personal statement
4. A 1-page proposed research concept note with a clear statement of the problem, research gaps, objectives, and a brief methods section. The concept note should focus on HIV/AIDS malignancy research, particularly in areas of **viral oncology or cancer epidemiology**.
5. Two letters of recommendation from current or former training supervisors.

**Assessment plan for applicants:** There will be a two-tier assessment: 1) Document review of all applicants and shortlisting those who fulfilled the minimum criteria. Only the shortlisted candidates will undergo oral interviews for final selection and agreement for the scholarship 2) The selected scholar will be directed to the MUHAS or LSUHSC-NO Ph.D. application process for registration per MUHAS or LSUHSC-NO guidelines respectively.

**Submission process:**

The application should be submitted to Dr. Salum Lidenge (Program Administrator); [sjlidenge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sjlidenge@yahoo.co.uk) and a copy to Dr. Julius Mwaiselage (Program Principal Investigator); [jmwaiselage@yahoo.com](mailto:jmwaiselage@yahoo.com) before Friday, June 3, 2022.