

September 21, 2022

## **Call for applications for funded Ph.D. Scholarship in viral oncology research 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 **viral oncology 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 Fogarty International Center (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 LSU Health – New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, and supervised by experts from LSUHSC-NO, ORCI, and MUHAS. The support aims to strengthen **viral oncology 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 viral oncology 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 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 viral oncology and 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 LSUHSC-NO admission guidelines for graduate students. 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 viral-related cancers and HIV/AIDS malignancy research.
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 LSUHSC-NO Ph.D. application process for registration per LSUHSC-NO guidelines.

**Submission process:**

The application should be submitted to Dr. Salum Lidence (Program Administrator); [sjlidence@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sjlidence@yahoo.co.uk) and a copy to Dr. Julius Mwaiselage (Program Principal Investigator); [jmwaiselage@yahoo.com](mailto:jmwaiselage@yahoo.com) before Friday, October 07, 2022.