

1 PhD student position available at Makerere University (Kampala, Uganda) – ESC6

PhD student position available to develop his/her thesis within the SUPPORT project (funded by EDCTP3): action '*Supporting the next generation of African researchers on preventing HIV pediatric mortality through a training network*', a highly multidisciplinary, international and competitive training program in pediatrics research.

RESEARCH PROJECT: EVALUATE THE USE OF AI DEVICES TO MONITOR EARLY SIGNS OF RESPIRATORY FAILURE TO REDUCE POST-DISCHARGE MORTALITY

RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Among the high proportion of children that died during a post-discharge period a big proportion die at home without consulting. Grunting is a sound related to severe pneumonia that can be present when the children get worse. The goal is to develop an application based on a telemedicine platform to automatically record children's respiratory sounds, with three objectives: first, to make it available to the doctor in real-time for direct clinical assessment; second, to train and automatically run an algorithm capable of detecting the pattern of grunting associated to respiratory failure; third, to estimate respiratory rate automatically from the audio. Our final goal is to develop a tool for remote monitoring of signs of respiratory distress associated with pneumonia, and eventually, with PDM.

WHAT WE OFFER

- A 36-month contract to undertake a PhD at Makerere University
- A competitive gross salary according to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie training network tables taking into account family status and mobility (gross salary including employer's social contribution and without family allowance: 2,284.80€/Month)
- The integration in a network composed of 14 European and African institutions specialized in pediatrics
- A 3-month secondment at Universidad Europea de Madrid (Madrid, Spain)
- An extensive multidisciplinary training in research and transferable skills
- The Access to state-of-the-art infrastructures

REQUIREMENTS

- Hold a bachelor degree in medicine and surgery (MChB) or equivalent, or a master degree in a relevant field (biotechnology, bioinformatics or a clinical discipline)
- Strong interest in information technology and artificial intelligence
- Proficiency in English (oral and written) is mandatory (an interview in English will be conducted during the recruitment process)
- Willingness to work for at least two years in a Sub-Saharan country after the PhD completion

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Be a citizen or resident of a Sub-Saharan country

Expected starting date: January 2025

Send your CV, a cover letter detailing your motivation to pursue a research career in pediatric infectious diseases in Sub-Saharan African, a recommendation letter and an additional contact for recommendation, to globalhealth.pediatrics.group@gmail.com before June 14th 2024. Please quote the **reference ESC 6** in the object of the email.