The West Africa-Michigan CHARTER II in GEOHealth (GEOHealth West Africa Network)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA AND PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

The West Africa-Michigan CHARTER II in GEOHealth through its U01 grant is seeking Postdoctoral Fellows to pursue academic careers in environmental and occupational health. We are seeking early-career scholars committed to interdisciplinary research that will inform key national occupational and environmental health priorities and policies in West and Central Africa (WCA). Applications from individuals with backgrounds in basic and applied sciences including public health and epidemiology, biostatistics, biomedical sciences, biology, chemistry, physics, civil and environmental engineering, agricultural sciences, biomedical engineering and pharmaceutical sciences are especially encouraged to apply.

About the GEOHealth II Project:
The West Africa-Michigan CHARTER II for GEOHealth; jointly funded by the US National Institutes of Health/Fogarty International Center (NIH/FIC) and Canada’s International Development Center (IDRC), is a hub of interdisciplinary research in environmental and occupational health (EOH). The key impact that the project seeks to achieve is to sustainably enhance capacity for world-class scientific research and research training which address and inform key national and regional occupational and environmental health priorities and policies and will be delivered mainly through leveraging numerous existing strengths among consortium partners, who include the University of Ghana (UG; lead of linked U01 grant), the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), the Ghanaian Ministry of Health/Ghana Health Service (MOH/GHS), and University of Michigan (UM) to create a dynamic regional hub in EOH. A critical element for a truly regional strategy is to strengthen partnerships across Francophone and Anglophone countries in West Africa region. This is being achieved by strategically linking with the existing West African francophone-based Community of Practice in Eco-Health for West and Central Africa (COPEH-WCA) through their Ecohealth Chair based at the University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC) in Benin (also involved are Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria and Sénégal), which is alsofunded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), as well as through linking with McGill University (North American partner in a bilingual environment with long-standing history of OEH practice in West Africa).

Desired skills and experience
The candidate should have a PhD in the field of Public Health, Environmental Chemistry, or other relevant disciplines. The successful applicant should have;

- A promising track record in a field of research that is relevant to the project, as demonstrated by relevant papers, publications, conference participations, PhD dissertation;
• Strong communication capabilities and proactive attitude;
• Ability to initiate and develop original scientific research projects;
• Experience with statistical techniques for analyzing spatial and temporal data is desirable; and
• Ability to work independently and at the same time be a team player.

We offer attractive package which includes competitive salary, support for additional skills acquisition and professional development, cost of conference participation, research costs and travels.

Successful candidates will be expected to:
• Develop and conduct laboratory tests that inform on activities of significance to environmental toxicology;
• Organize, plan and lead field research work for biological and environmental sample collection and analysis;
• Conduct in-depth, systematic evaluations of laboratory findings;
• The successful candidate will also be expected to work with and provide mentorship to Masters and PhD students, as well as aid in the development of the research program associated with the GEOHealth project;
• Lead one or two graduate seminar(s)/course(s) per semester;
• Maintain a database of results for the project research activities;
• Assist with data analysis and preparation of project reports;
• Lead and/or support grant writing proposals related to the broad themes of the GEOHealth project;
• Support the preparation of manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals and delivery at academic conferences.

Eligibility and Application Process
Candidates must have completed a PhD by the start date, and no earlier than 5 years before it. Competitive candidates will have a strong record of success in natural or social sciences, a demonstrated commitment to interdisciplinary work, a keen interest in connecting research to policy, and high potential to become global leaders in environmental and occupational health scientific research.

We accept applications on a rolling basis until all positions are filled and/or subject availability of funds and if you are interested, please submit your application. Applications comprise a cover letter, CV, personal statement of motivation and research proposal relevant to the project aims (http://www.geohealthwestafrica.org). Applications will be evaluated on scientific merit, potential for real-world impact, excellence of the applicant, fit with the project’s research themes, and feasibility.

Further Information
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