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Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences: Research Development and Support

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Human Heredity and Health in Africa H3Africa Call for proposals

AESA AN INITIATIVE OF
AAS & NEPAD AGENCY



<http://aasciences.ac.ke/aesa/programmes/h3africa/funding-opportunities/>

Background

In 2012, the National Institute of Health (NIH), the Wellcome Trust, and the African Society of Human Genetics launched the Human Heredity and Health in Africa Initiative (H3Africa), recognising that African researchers and populations have been, and still are, substantially underrepresented in genomics and environmental research and disproportionately affected by some environmental exposures. H3Africa is designed to provide new opportunities for African scientists to lead research on the genetic and environmental contributors to health and diseases of importance to Africa through the use of genomics and other cutting-edge approaches. For further background on the origin and development of H3Africa, see the article "Research Capacity: Enabling the Genomic Revolution in Africa" *Science* (2014) 344: 1346-1348, and the H3Africa website. *Revolution in Africa* *Science* (2014) 344: 1346-1348, and the H3Africa website. In October 2016, the Wellcome Trust announced it is shifting the centre of gravity of its funding for African science from the UK to the African continent itself. Accordingly, the Wellcome Trust awarded the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) a grant to be managed and delivered through the Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA). AESA was launched in 2015 as an initiative of AAS and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency with the support of the Wellcome Trust, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). AESA's mission is to drive Africa's research and development agenda and build scientific capacity across the continent. H3Africa is organised as a research consortium that brings participants together in a highly collaborative and synergistic effort. The H3Africa Consortium includes all participants of research and infrastructure projects funded through H3Africa, as well as responsible Wellcome Trust and NIH staff.

Groups funded under this initiative will be expected to participate in the H3Africa Research Consortium and to collaborate effectively with each other to maximise the chances of overall success of the programme. Each funded applicant is expected to participate directly or via proxy in consortium working groups that establish rules, guidelines, and resources for the Consortium (<http://www.h3africa.org/>) Thus far the Collaborative Research Consortium has developed a number of overall policies and guidelines (<http://www.h3africa.org/consortium/documents>).

Purpose

The purpose of this call is to support collaborative projects that aim to conduct research within the remit of the Human Heredity and Health (H3Africa) Initiative.

What's Included

Awards can be up to a maximum of **£2.5 million**, but projects smaller in scope from emerging African scientists are encouraged. Projects can be **up to 4 years** in duration and can include the following:

- Support for staff
- Materials and consumables
- Equipment purchase and maintenance
- Community engagement
- Travel, training and network meetings.

<http://aasciences.ac.ke/aesa/en/policies/indirect-cost-guidelines/>

Eligibility

The lead institution of each successful H3Africa collaborative project must be based in Africa. Institutions may be required to provide the following additional information at the preliminary application stage, to enable us to assess their eligibility to receive funding:

- A statement of support from the head of the administering institution, explaining the mission of the institution and indicating how the proposal fits within the context of its strategic vision.
- Details of the main source(s) of funding and a description of the institution's legal status, and whether it is able to enter into legal agreements in its own name and on its own account.

Awards will be made to the lead institution. We expect the Principal Investigator to be based at the lead institution for the duration of the grant and to be responsible for leading the overall management of the grant.

Strong collaborations between institutional partners within African countries are encouraged, as are collaborations with institutional partners outside the African continent who are able to contribute additional skills, resources, supervision, and mentorship as required. Applications must be submitted in English.

Additional Opportunities for Funding and Collaboration with GSK

While applications submitted in response to this FOA may propose research in any disease or health area that falls within the broad areas of genetic and/or environmental contributors to disease or health research, there are also specific areas of interest to GlaxoSmithKline as part of the Africa NCD Open Lab initiative who are participating in this call. GSK funding will be restricted to projects led from within the following countries; Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania & Uganda. South-South partnerships are actively encouraged and countries outside of this list can be included as sub-sites. Proposals focusing on drug development and public health interventions are out of scope. Details about the conditions for GSK awards can be found:

<http://aasciences.ac.ke/aesa/en/h3-africa-calls/conditions-for-applicants-for-gsk-awards/>

Application Process and Deadlines

Stage 1 - Submission of preliminary application to AAS/AESA

Preliminary application forms should be submitted by **24th March 2017** through our Ishango Online Application Portal. The preliminary application will ask applicants to provide:

- A brief summary of their proposed project (200 words)
- The high-level aims and objectives of the network, the scientific questions/hypotheses it will address, and how they relate to the vision of H3Africa (750 words)
- The approaches that will be used to achieve the objectives, including high-level targets, expected outcomes and role of each co-applicant (750 words)
- An outline of the proposed management and governance arrangements for the network (300 words)
- A description of the strategy for community engagement and ethical challenges posed by this research and whether the applicants envisage any multidisciplinary research to inform best practice with respect to ethical, legal and social issues (500 words)
- An indication of the level of support requested by each institution in the network
- CVs of the principal applicant and all co-applicants
- A list of major collaborators and their institutions.

Invitations for full applications will be sent out by **26th April 2017**.

A webinar for potential applicants will be held on the **9th March 2017**, but if you have questions in advance of the webinar, please contact: H3Africa@aasciences.ac.ke.

Stage 2 - Full Application. If invited to submit a full application, applicants should complete and submit this online to AESA by 23:59 GMT on 14th July 2017.