**Call for participants to a trilateral workshop on:**

**Chronic viral hepatitis in Africa – Sharing the disease burden in Egypt, South Africa and the UK**

The British Council, the Newton Fund, the Musharrafa Foundation, the Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) and the South African National Research Foundation have launched an initiative to encourage trilateral research collaboration between ambitious young researchers from Egypt, South Africa and the UK.

Under the Researcher Links scheme, The National Liver Institute in Egypt (NLI), University of Cape Town in South Africa (UCT) and Imperial College London, UK, will be holding a workshop on the above theme in Cairo, Egypt from 10th to 13th October 2016. The workshop is being coordinated by Professors Imam Waked from NLI, Wendy Spearman from UCT and Simon Taylor-Robinson from Imperial, and will have contributions from other leading researchers: including Mark Sonderup (UCT), Robert Wilkinson (Imperial/UCT), Gamal Esmat (Cairo University) and Tumani Corrah (African Research Excellence Fund).

We are now inviting early career researchers (as defined in the Appendix under Eligibility) from Egypt, South Africa and the UK to apply to attend this workshop. Travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by the Researcher Links programme.

The completed application form should be emailed to Dr Peter Norsworthy (p.norsworthy@imperial.ac.uk; for UK applicants), Dr Asmaa Gomaa (aibrahim@liver-eg.org; for Egypt applicants) or Dr Yolande Harley (Yolande.harley@uct.ac.za; for South Africa applicants) before the **deadline of Monday 1 August 2016**.

**Appendix: Guidelines**

**Trilateral workshop title: Chronic viral hepatitis in Africa – Sharing the disease burden in Egypt, South Africa and the UK**

UK coordinator: Professor Simon Taylor-Robinson (Imperial College London)

South Africa coordinator: Professor Wendy Spearman (University of Cape Town)

Egypt coordinator: Professor Imam Waked (National Liver Institute)

Discipline: Hepatitis aetiology, diagnosis and management

**Dates and location:** 10th to 13th October 2016, Cairo

The British Council, the Newton Fund, the Musharrafa Foundation, the Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) and the South African National Research Foundation have launched an initiative to encourage international research collaboration between ambitious young researchers from the UK, South Africa and Egypt.

Via the ‘British Council Researcher Links’ programme, this provides opportunities for early career researchers to learn from each other and explore opportunities for building long-lasting research collaborations. As part of this programme, a call was issued in 2015 for leading researchers to propose themes for trilateral workshops to be held in one of these countries, which will bring together early career researchers to enhance and strengthen links for future collaboration, build research capacity in developing economies and enhance the researchers’ career opportunities.

Successful applicant organisations from Egypt, South Africa and the UK are now recruiting early career researchers and welcome applications to attend the above workshop.

The workshop will provide a unique opportunity for sharing research expertise and networking. Early career researchers will have the opportunity to present their research in the form of a short oral or poster presentation and discuss this with established researchers from the partner countries. There will be a focus on building up links for future collaborations and participants will be selected on the basis of their research potential and ability to build longer term links.

The funders will cover the costs related to participation in the workshop, including travel (both international and local), accommodation and meals. The British Council accepts no responsibility for any problems that may occur when the participants are in-country. The workshop will take place in English. Participants will need to have a sufficient standard of English to participate.

**Application and Deadline:**

The full application must be completed and submitted by email **by 1 August 2016** to:

* Dr Peter Norsworthy (p.norsworthy@imperial.ac.uk; for British applicants)
* Dr Asmaa Gomaa (aibrahim@liver-eg.org; for Egypt applicants)
* Dr Yolande Harley (Yolande.harley@uct.ac.za; for South Africa applicants)

**Eligibility Criteria:**

* Applications must be submitted using the application form
* Application must be submitted before the above deadline

Participants must be early career researchers, defined as holding a PhD (or having equivalent research experience – in Hepatitis research) and having a maximum of 10 years post-PhD research experience. They are equivalent to the ‘Recognised Researcher’ and sometimes ‘Experienced Researcher’ categories in the EU framework for researchers’ careers (R2 and R3 categories, Pages 8 and 10 of the EU document at <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/Towards_a_European_Framework_for_Research_Careers_final.pdf>. Leading Researchers (not eligible) as defined by the EU Framework for researchers careers are research group leaders who are internationally recognised in their field

* Participants must have a research or academic position (either a permanent post, research contract, or fellowship etc) at a recognised research institution either in the UK, Egypt or South Africa

**Quality Assessment:**

* Experience and relevance of the applicant’s research area to the workshop
* Motivation and contribution to the aims of the workshop
* Description of the long term impact expected through the participation in the workshop
* Ability to disseminate workshop’s outcomes

**Selection Procedure:**

* Eligibility check
* Quality assessment

**Notification of results:**

Applicants will be notified by email approximately 2 months prior to the workshop.

**Equal Opportunities:**

The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity in all its activities and this includes the avoidance of any bias in the assessment of applications due to gender, disability, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or religious belief. Participants’ selection undertaken by workshop organisers must not contravene this policy.

**DRAFT AGENDA**

**A workshop in:** **Chronic viral hepatitis in Africa – Sharing the disease burden in Egypt, South Africa and the UK**

**Venue TBC, Cairo, Egypt**

**10 to 13 October 2016**

**DAY 1**

MORNING

* Registration
* Welcome (Representative from medical research/higher education sector in Egypt)
* The British Council’s investment in tackling global challenges (Representative from British Council)
* UK introduction (Prof Simon Taylor-Robinson)
* SA introduction (Prof Wendy Spearman)
* Egypt introduction (Prof Imam Waked)
	+ To include how Egypt planned their extensive HCV rollout programme

*[Lunch]*

AFTERNOON

* Scientific session 1: Screening and diagnostics of Hepatitis B & C including point of care testing to increase detection of patients needing treatment
	+ Keynote: **Simon Taylor-Robinson**
	+ Early-career researcher presentations: 6 short presentations

*[Coffee break]*

* Networking session
	+ Small-group speed-networking sessions, each led by one of the 6 coordinators or mentors
* Day 1 wrap up: **Imam Waked, Robert Wilkinson**

EVENING

Welcome reception

**DAY 2**

MORNING

* Scientific session 2: Management of Hepatitis B & C
	+ Keynote: **Mark Sonderup**
	+ Early-career researcher presentations: 6 short presentations

*[Coffee break]*

* Scientific session 3: Challenges of retention in care
	+ Keynote: **Imam Waked**
	+ Early-career researcher presentations: 6 short presentations

 *[Lunch]*

AFTERNOON

* The health research landscape (including funding & collaborations) in the UK and Africa
	+ Focus on UK **(Dr Peter Norsworthy, Imperial)**
	+ Focus on SA **(Dr Yolande Harley, UCT)**
	+ Focus on Egypt **(Dr Asmaa Gomaa, NLI)**
	+ Interactive discussion

*[Coffee break]*

* Challenges and opportunities in forming international collaborations
	+ Representative from British Council in Cairo **(Michael Houlgate)**
	+ Case study of international collaboration – the PROLIFICA programme (5-year European Commission funded programme studying link between Hepatitis B virus and hepatocellular carcinoma), with discussion of possible expansion beyond West Africa **(Simon Taylor-Robinson)**
	+ Sharing experience regarding retention in care and the benefit of nurse-led clinics
* Day 2 wrap up: **Gamal Esmat, Wendy Spearman**

**DAY 3**

MORNING

* Scientific session 4: HIV co-infection in viral hepatitis
	+ Keynote: **Wendy Spearman**
	+ Early-career researcher presentations: 6 short presentations

*[Coffee break]*

* Scientific session 5: Hepatic complications of combined HIV-TB treatment
	+ Keynote: **Robert Wilkinson**
	+ Early-career researcher presentations: 5 short presentations

*[Lunch]*

AFTERNOON

* Scientific session 6: National & international guidelines & policies – what needs to change?
	+ Keynote: **Gamal Esmat**
	+ Early-career researcher presentations: 5 short presentations
* Implementing what has been learnt from research **(Imam Waked, Wendy Spearman)**
	+ Developing a model to train community doctors and nurses with up-to-date management and treatment of viral hepatitis (programmes to educate general practitioners, general internists and nurses to handle care and treatment of cases to absorb care from specialised centres)

 *[Coffee break]*

* Health research career development in the UK & Africa
	+ Perspective from representative of UKMRC-linked Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF) **(Professor Tumani Corrah)**
	+ Research capacity development in Africa: the example of CIDRI/SACORE **(Robert Wilkinson)**
	+ Panel Q&A session on health research career development in UK and Africa (panel: coordinators, mentors & AREF rep)
* Day 3 wrap up: **Simon Taylor-Robinson, Mark Sonderup**

EVENING

Workshop dinner

**DAY 4**

MORNING

* Research and clinical activity site visit
	+ Visit to the National Liver Institute (Menoufiya), including screening programme and ward-based work

*[Lunch]*

AFTERNOON

* Cultural site visit
	+ Visit to the Pyramids

END OF PROGRAMME