

POST-DOCTORAL WORKSHOP ON ACCELERATING VACCINE PRODUCTION IN AFRICA

17-18 January 2023
Kigali, Rwanda



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The University of Johannesburg through the DSI-NRF South African Research Chair in Industrial Development (SARChI-ID) together with the East African Community, Regional Centre of Excellence for Vaccines, Immunization and Health Supply Chain Management (EAC RCE-VIHSCM) are pleased to announce a Post-Doctoral Workshop on **Accelerating Vaccine Production in Africa**. The workshop, designed specifically to enhance research and transferable skills in vaccine production, is part of a prestigious international project titled 'Accelerating Vaccine Production in Africa: A Centres' of Excellence Initiative' seeking to foster extensive interactions between select African universities and reputed university counterparts in the USA and Europe.

Background

Recent disruptions in the availability of pharmaceutical products due to the Covid-19 pandemic have focused thinking on a regional approach for African countries in overcoming the challenges of building domestic capacity for manufacturing vaccines and other healthcare products. Furthermore, producing vaccines for routine vaccination of vaccine-preventable diseases (such as Yellow fever, Measles, Meningitis, Poliomyelitis, and so on) alone will require additional manufacturing capacity by African countries as the current population of approximately 1.42 billion people on the continent is projected to reach about 2,1 billion by 2040 (United Nations - World Population Prospects, 2022). However, less than 1% of the vaccines required on the continent are presently manufactured by African pharma firms, and the capacity to do so is limited to fill-and-finish operations. This poses a significant future health security risk for the region should a new global outbreak of disease occur.

Bearing this in mind, the project on *Accelerating Vaccine Production in Africa: A Centres' of Excellence Initiative (AVPA)* funded by the German International Agency (GIZ) focuses on ways to strengthen capabilities for production and innovation in the vaccine sector in Africa ([website](#)). This training workshop, one of the activities conceptualized under the project, aims to specifically enhance research and transferable skills in the area of vaccine production and innovation from an interdisciplinary perspective.

The workshop will be conducted in English with a set of global and regional experts interacting with post-doctoral scholars on various topics of relevance in this area. Selected applicants are expected to participate in the entire workshop and will be invited to apply for travel support from the organizers.

Conveners

1. Prof. Padmashree Gehl Sampath
Project Lead and Visiting Professor, South African Chair for Industrial Development, University of Johannesburg, South Africa; Director, Global Access in Action Program, Harvard University
2. Dr. Stephen Karengera
Director, East African Community, Regional Centre of Excellence for Vaccines, Immunization and Health Supply Chain Management EAC RCE-VIHSCM, University of Rwanda – Kigali.

Application guidelines

To be considered for participation in this training workshop:

- Applicants must have completed their PhD within the past five years.
- Applicants must complete the application form online ([here](#)).
- Applicants should be fully available in person for the period of the workshop.
- Applicants should have a background in vaccine science, epidemiology, health sciences, pharmacy and pharmacology or a background in development studies, law, innovation management, public health, and international development economics *with a clear focus on pharmaceutical and vaccine production*.
- Applicants residing in the project countries of South Africa, Rwanda, Senegal, and Ghana are specifically encouraged to apply along with postdocs researching and working in the East African Community.

Important dates

- Application opens on **Wednesday, November 16, 2022**
- Application closes on **Wednesday, December 14, 2022 (23:59 SAST)**
- Notification of acceptance by **Thursday, December 22, 2022**
- Submission of travel support application form by **Wednesday, December 30, 2022** (*selected candidates will be informed of the process separately along with the notice of acceptance*)

For more information on the project, or any administrative inquiries, please contact: avpa.info@gmail.com