



Laboratory Volunteer (funded), King's Sierra Leone Partnership

Terms of Reference

Start Date: As soon as possible

Placement Duration: 6 months extendable to 2 years

Location: Freetown, Sierra Leone

Reporting to: Country Director & Research Lead

The Function

The King's Sierra Leone Partnership (KSLP) is a long-term capacity building partnership between King's Health Partners in London and key partner institutions in Sierra Leone. KSLP aims to help strengthen Sierra Leone's health system by improving training, clinical services, policy and research. Key partners include University of Sierra Leone Teaching Hospital Complex Connaught Hospital, the College of Medicine & Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS) and the Ministry of Health & Sanitation (MOHS).

During the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak, KSLP played a critical role in the response in Sierra Leone with the establishment and supervision of Holding Units for suspected cases of EVD, training of Health Care Workers and contributing in the Case Management pillar at the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC). As Sierra Leone moves in to the recovery phase, KSLP is helping support postgraduate medical training in Sierra Leone, based at the University of Sierra Leone Teaching Hospital Complex, of which Connaught Hospital is the principal site.

The Role

The successful candidate will be part of a team working on a Comic Relief funded grant to evaluate barriers to implementation of malaria guidelines and develop, implement and evaluate strategies to improve diagnosis and management of malaria and non-malarial fever. This will be done using a health systems and implementation science approach integrating work in the emergency department and inpatient wards, laboratory, pharmacy and the department of monitoring and evaluation and will include the introduction of basic electronic data collection and management tools. The project will be based at Connaught Hospital, but with the aim of learning lessons and developing implementation strategies that can be rolled-out to other hospitals in Sierra Leone. The team will work in conjunction with the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), Connaught Hospital Management and the Ministry of Health's Directorate of Hospitals and Laboratories with technical advisory input from senior academics at KCL. The laboratory volunteer will conduct process mapping of the use of malaria diagnostics for outpatients and inpatients and, in conjunction with the laboratory and clinical teams and NMCP, identify strategies to improve turnaround time for essential diagnostics. This will focus on the use of microscopy and rapid diagnostic tests with the potential to expand to microbiology and other areas crucial to the management of patients with malaria and non-malarial fever.

Person Specification

- **Qualifications:** Undergraduate degree in laboratory science (or other relevant field) with postgraduate degree desirable
- **Laboratory experience:** Experience working with parasitological tests for malaria (essential), microbiology (desirable) and molecular platforms (desirable). Essential to have experience working within a government-led laboratory in LMICs, with experience in Sierra Leone desirable.
- **Training:** Experience training and mentoring laboratory staff (essential) and clinicians on the use of diagnostics (desirable)
- **Project management:** Experience in conducting needs assessments and implementing and evaluating appropriate interventions. Experience developing and implementing SOPs for existing and future practice. Experience in improving supply chain sustainability desirable.
- **Research:** Essential to have some experience with quality improvement projects; desirable to have monitoring and evaluation and/or research experience including mentorship of staff or students.
- **Personal Characteristics:** Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work in a diverse team. Ability to manage a substantial and complex workload with excellent organisational skills. Adaptable to a changing work environment.

Support Provided to Volunteers

This is a 6-month unpaid voluntary position, with possible extension to two years, but the post holder will be provided with:

- Return flights to and from initial post, plus one paid leave flight to and from Freetown for every six months in post
- £500 monthly stipend for living expenses, paid in local currency
- Multi-entry visa, residency permit & professional registration
- Vaccinations & antimalarials
- Insurance
- Accommodation in a shared KSLP house

To Apply: Submit a cover letter (maximum 2 pages) and CV (maximum 4 pages) to volunteer@kslp.org.uk. Please include the role title in the subject line of the email. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.