UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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UP ISMC
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE MALARIA CONTROL

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER (ECR) OPPORTUNITY

Research Links Climate Challenge Workshop sponsored by the British Council:

C²MA - Climate Change Malaria Action

Malaria is considered the most important and deadly mosquito-borne disease across the world, and killed 409 000 people (90% in Africa) in 2019. There is increasing concern that climate change will shift the distribution and burden of malaria, resulting in cessation or decline in progress of control programmes. It is becoming evident that there is a need to direct resources and efforts towards addressing malaria and the effects of climate change through the power of transdisciplinary collaboration and connection to identify innovative solutions to address the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Conference of Parties number 26 (COP26) priorities to be held in November in Glasgow, United Kingdom (UK). This British Council funded Researcher Links Climate Challenge Workshop, in collaboration with the University of Pretoria (UP), University of Liverpool (UoL), South African Weather Service (SAWS) and International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) Research Europe, will be virtually presented with mentors and participants from across multiple fields with focus on medical entomology, climate change and vector-borne disease models, encompassing an interdisciplinary approach.

The workshop will be virtually presented over **2.5 days: 19 – 21 July 2021**. It will include keynotes, career development, breakout sessions and three training sessions:

1. **Medical entomology and epidemiology.**
2. **Geo-spatial science for understanding of malaria transmission in time and space.**
3. **Climate data for disease modelling.**

Challenge Prize small projects:

Selected ECRs from the UK and SA will be encouraged to identify **small collaborative projects for application to receive one of four £6000 Challenge Prizes towards their use supervised by their own institutions, and up to £5000 towards their relevant project**; applications to be received no later than 14 days of the workshop completion. These small projects will be mentored by senior mentors across the relevant fields to guide ECRs to complete activities before 31 March 2022.

Applicant requirements:

- Preference is given to applicants that hold a PhD (ECR up to equivalent of 10 years post PhD will be accepted).
- Those registered for a relevant PhD within or close to the fields below may also apply but should hold a relevant Master's degree.
- Relevant experience must be proven in any two, or ideally three, of the following fields: geography, epidemiology, zoonotic disease, socioeconomics, medical entomology, climatology, hydrology, mathematical modelling, or biostatistics.
- Employed within a UK or SA academic, public or private institution.
- Proficient in the English language.
- Access to a stable internet network connection and computer for the duration.

Application process:

- **Please see the website for details, provisional running order and application form**: C²MA - Climate Change Malaria Action (https://sites.google.com/view/climatechangemalariaaction/home)
- **Complete the** C²MA application form**. Linked on the website** **Deadline: 11 June 2021**
- Applicants will be required to upload a one page cover letter and two page CV detailing relevant experience (heading will be given). Along with additional certification.
- Selection will be a continuous process until deadline, or all places filled. Please submit your application as soon as possible.
- Application queries can be directed to Dr Megan Riddin (megan.riddin@up.ac.za).

Funded by

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C²MA WORKSHOP BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES:

"Investigating the effects of climate change on malaria for urgent action to combat climate change with reference to COP26 priorities."

The British Council funded Researcher Links Climate Challenge Workshops are aimed at harnessing the power of people globally, particularly early career researchers (ECRs), and those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Addressing the challenges of climate change to mosquito-borne disease presence, incidence and control is critical for promoting global sustainable development. The C²MA Challenge workshop will bring together a UK/SA country bilateral cohort of ECRs to take part in a virtual interdisciplinary workshop for training and discussion of innovative interdisciplinary research ideas.

Workshop objectives:

1. Climate factors used in disease modelling towards public health and socioeconomic benefit in the malaria burden using the region of the Limpopo River Basin as a study example.
2. Collaboration between the UK and SA to identify climate change and public health research priorities towards the informing and influencing of partner national country policy towards vector borne disease threats.
3. Capacity development towards continual addressing of the COP26 priority of adaptation and resilience and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), by young researchers in both the UK and SA.
4. Networking of ECRs for future funding opportunities.
5. Awards on a competitive basis of research prizes and project expenses.

The workshop will equip researchers with knowledge and skills to investigate the impact of climate change on malaria for pre-emptive response towards successful control and elimination. A **short icebreaker** session will be held about two weeks before the workshop to allow participants to get to know each other and their respective fields, to identify collaborative opportunities. **ECRs will be encouraged to design and submit collaborative and interdisciplinary small projects within two weeks of workshop completion for £6000 Challenge Prizes**. Up to four projects will be selected based on feasibility (infrastructure, budget and timeframe) and relevance to addressing climate change objectives. The projects supported and mentored will aim to investigate, design and implement initiatives for efficient response to climate change effects, educate and empower communities, and ensure public health and socioeconomic benefit in low to middle income countries, which would be Official Development Assistance (ODA) relevant.

C²MA Principal Investigators:

1. **Professor Andrew Morse (UoL, UK)** – Professor of Climate Impacts: School of Environmental Sciences, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK.
2. **Professor Christiaan de Jager (UP, SA)** – Dean: Faculty of Health Sciences; Director: University of Pretoria Institute for Sustainable Malaria Control (UP ISMC); Professor of Environmental Health: School of Health Systems and Public Health. University of Pretoria, SA.

C²MA Mentors:

1. **Dr Cyril Caminade (UoL, UK**) – Tenure Track Fellow - University of Liverpool Institute for Infection; Veterinary and Ecological Sciences, Liverpool, UK
2. **Dr Anne Jones (IBM, UK)** – Research Staff Member and Global Research Lead for Climate Impact Modelling at IBM Research; Honorary Research Fellow: University of Liverpool, UK.
3. **Dr Abiodun Adeola (SAWS, SA)** – Lead Scientist: Climate Change and Variability; South African Weather Services (SAWS), SA.
4. **Dr Megan Riddin (UP, SA)** – Senior Researcher and Vector Control Cluster Chairperson; University of Pretoria Institute for Sustainable Malaria Control (UP ISMC), SA.

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