

**Request for Applications:  
Part 2 of Principal Investigators (PI) Orientation Program for EMBLEM**

Follow-up activity to support Planning for Research Career Development Plan for Junior Investigators from EMBLEM collaborating sites in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania

**Background:**

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is conducting a case-control study of childhood Burkitt's lymphoma in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya, "Epidemiology of Burkitt's Lymphoma in East-African Children and Minors (EMBLEM). See EMBLEM website at <http://emblem.cancer.gov/>. The study is being implemented through a partnership with the [African Field Epidemiology Network \(AFENET\)](#), and AFENET is providing monitoring and logistical services. The study is being conducted in the [six sites in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania](#).

Beyond the specific aims of EMBLEM study, this research collaborative provides an excellent platform to support further research career development for more junior African researchers associated with this study. They can take advantage of the research experience and the data that are being collected in this study to begin to develop their own research questions. This would be a way for them to launch the research component of their career and to begin to prepare them to take more scientific and research administrative leadership responsibilities towards the role of a principal investigator.

In support of this research career development goal, the [Fogarty International Center](#) joined with NCI to develop a two-part Principal Investigators (PI) Orientation program to support the junior investigators. The first part was a half day [Principal Investigator \(PI\) Workshop](#) held on September 24, 2014, as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> EMBLEM Update and Scientific Meeting in Kisumu Kenya. The workshop provided workshop participants with practical information on meeting present day challenges to fulfill multiple responsibilities of a PI in an international environment, whilst at the same time gearing up to obtaining research funding support from five well-established African researchers.

This announcement solicits applications in the second part of the PI orientation program from EMBLEM-associated researchers who wish to consolidate knowledge gains from the PI Workshop. It will provide further support to EMBLEM-associated junior researchers by providing a two-week "hands-on" experience at an outstanding research center in Durban South Africa, [Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa](#) (CAPRISA). Applications for Part 2 should propose a team of paired investigators, composed of a senior investigator and a junior investigator, from an EMBLEM study site and who are interested in developing the research career for the junior team member. Supporting teams of senior and junior investigators will help to better ensure that the junior team member receives the institutional support needed to begin to develop research leadership as part of their career development within institutional and national frameworks. This opportunity will support travel and living expenses for the successful teams for two weeks at CAPRISA. Additional funding to implement the career development plans will not be provided through this opportunity, but the two week experience will include discussions of ways to find support to implement a career development plan.

**Program**

CAPRISA will provide a program to walk the teams through the A-Z for developing a research career path using their own examples and relating them to opportunities in EMBLEM. They have done this for several other groups in central and southern Africa, Middle East, and China. The "pair teams" would get a hands-on experience on all of the elements included in a more didactic workshop (week one) and

spend a second week in an area of their interests (clinical trials, lab, etc.) with CAPRISA staff. They will explore ways to tie into the NIH research and FIC training opportunities, how to build capacity strategically, and explore how other local opportunities can be used, based upon the very successful CAPRISA experience. One of the desired end results for the teams will be the development of concepts that can be expanded into an initial application for a funded opportunity as part of the junior team member's career development plan.

### **Eligibility**

Applications should be submitted by a team composed of a senior investigator (such as the Site PI) and a junior investigator (from research staff- typically of a postdoctoral level or junior researcher with at least master level training), both of whom should be from one of the six EMBLEM sites. Each EMBLEM site can submit more than one application if different investigators are paired. At least one of the proposed team members must have attended the PI Workshop.

### **Timeline:**

- FOA released Nov 14, 2014
- Applications due Jan 15, 2015
- Review- February 2015
- Awards announced March 1, 2015-
- CAPRISA Experiences – are expected to be arranged for a two week period in April-May 2015 or late July-early August 2015. The final dates will be determined once the awardees are selected.

### **Application instructions;**

Applicants are **strongly encouraged** to contact Jeanne McDermott at [Jeanne.mcdermott@nih.gov](mailto:Jeanne.mcdermott@nih.gov) with any questions.

Applications should be emailed **as one pdf file** to Jeanne McDermott at [Jeanne.mcdermott@nih.gov](mailto:Jeanne.mcdermott@nih.gov).

**Deadline for receipt is Thursday Jan 15<sup>th</sup> at 5PM EST (Bethesda Maryland Time).**

### **The application should include:**

- A statement from the junior investigator that describes the past training and research experiences (including participation in the PI workshop if applicable), rationale for applying to this opportunity, and a description of anticipated trajectory for research within their career development. (2 pages maximum)
- A statement from the senior investigator that includes a statement of participation in the PI workshop, if applicable, their interest in supporting the research career advancement of the junior investigator and the mentorship role the senior team member will take. (1 page maximum).
- At least one, but not more than two, concepts for research project(s) that will address a question(s) directly or indirectly relevant to the on-going EMBLEM study and relevant to the research interests of the junior researcher. The concept should include a rationale for addressing this issue and how it would advance research in Burkitt's lymphoma. Proposed research should use the EMBLEM study as a platform, and can include basic, epidemiologic, clinical, behavioral, social science, implementation, operations, health services, and health

systems research that is related in some way to the current Burkitt's lymphoma study. Research concepts that utilize data and/or specimens available either through EMBLEM or from other IRB approved activities on site which address questions directly or indirectly relevant to EMBLEM are encouraged. (2 page maximum for each proposal)

- A draft Research Career Development plan for the junior team member that could be refined after the CAPRISA experience. The draft plan should propose career development activities over a 2 year period. The rationale for these activities should be described and the applicant should demonstrate that they are realistic, within available resources, and relevant to the research interest of the junior investigator (as illustrated by the proposed research concepts. The senior team member should play a significant role as a mentor although additional mentors may be included as necessary and relevant. The rationale for the choice of additional mentors should be described. (2 page limit)
- A description of how the proposed set of activities, including mentored research and training activities, will build on the PI workshop, advance the early-career research faculty's research career, and how they are relevant to Burkitt's lymphoma. (1 page limit).
- Biosketches using an NIH biosketch form for each team member. See attached files.
  - [Blank NIC biosketch form](#)
  - [Sample biosketch form](#)
- Letters of support from:
  - The institution of the senior and junior team members that will allow them the two weeks to attend the CAPRISA experience and support for the subsequent activities included in the application.
  - Any additional mentors

#### **Review and Review Criteria:**

The applications will be reviewed for eligibility and responsiveness by FIC and NCI, and only those which are considered eligible and responsive will be reviewed for merit by a panel of reviewers organized by CAPRISA. The following review criteria will be used to identify the most interested and promising teams to benefit from this opportunity of a hands-on experience at CAPRISA.

#### Review criteria:

- Research concept(s) proposed addresses an important question to Burkitt's lymphoma and is at an appropriate level for the junior team member proposed.
- The draft career development plan includes activities that are relevant and of the appropriate nature to help advance the research career of the junior faculty.
- The proposed junior investigator is at the point in his or her career that will benefit from the CAPRISA experience.
- The likelihood that the CAPRISA experience will enhance the proposed career development plan to advance the research career of the junior investigator.
- The qualifications of and strength of the support from the senior team members, the other mentors and the institution(s) of the senior and junior investigators.

#### **Awards:**

Expect three teams to receive awards which will be based upon scientific merit.