

Scientific Officer – Pandemic Preparedness

Position: 100% starting immediately

Location: Geneva - Switzerland, FIND headquarters

Contract duration: 24 months

Organization

FIND is an international non-profit organization based in Geneva, Switzerland, dedicated to R&D activities to expand and accelerate access to new diagnostic technologies, and to build global capacity for diagnostic testing for poverty-related diseases in low- and middle-income countries. FIND's vision is a world where diagnosis guides the way to health for all people. The FIND team is devoted to driving the development, clinical trialing, and early implementation of innovative diagnostic solutions that can have a high impact on patient care and disease control in low-resource settings.

Pandemic Preparedness Program Background

FIND's Outbreak Strategy aims to support technical and capacity building solutions to promote proactive preparedness ahead of the next epidemic. FIND has received initial funding from BMBF (German government) and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Initiative (CEPI) to support Lassa fever response in Nigeria through diagnostic development, laboratory capacity building, and sample archiving. Additional focus areas of interest include arboviruses with some preliminary funding recently awarded from Gavi to focus on Yellow Fever diagnostic development for Africa.

Responsibilities

The Scientific Officer (SO) will participate in the Emerging Threats Programme under the supervision of the Director of Emerging Threats at FIND. Specific activities will include, but not be limited to:

Implement current projects and expand the programme

- Implement and oversee the delivery of portions of currently funded project
- Assist with the development of plans and proposals to expand funding for other topic areas within Pandemic Preparedness including arboviruses (dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya, etc.)
- Work closely with partner institutions in-country to establish effective trial networks, sample archives and capacity building initiatives
- Work closely with funding agencies and serve as the key focal point for projects
- Partner with WHO to support in the definition of the critical diagnostics needs for Pandemic Preparedness
- Assist in ensuring the effective execution and management of the program, including progress/milestone monitoring, budgets, reporting and identification of critical success factors and key performance indicators for project evaluation.

Play a leadership role in the scientific team, be a key contributor amongst the FIND R&D and Access teams as well as external stakeholders involved in disease management, policy, and program implementation in resource-limited settings

- Work in a collaborative fashion with other FIND teams, its executive leadership, and its Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) by routinely sharing progress and outcomes to ensure early alignment within and outside of FIND.
- Work with FIND's Clinical Trial Unit and external investigators to design and conduct rigorous, high quality studies to generate sufficient data to guide country and international policy change, as required.

- Develop study protocols for laboratory studies that aim to establish evidence for targeted pathogens, including to support regulatory data packages
- Collaborate with the clinical trial team and external partners to support clinical trials/evaluations of diagnostic and develop relevant documentation
- Work closely with the Clinical Trials group to design effective, comprehensive trials to support the policy change required to drive uptake and adoption of outbreak diagnostics

Management and supervision

- Interact with team and partners on a regular basis to help them meet milestones
- Participate in regular internal cross-team project reviews together as appropriate (e.g., business development, communication, fundraising, etc.)

Enable review of projects

- Report to the Director of Emerging Threats on progress of individual projects and budgets on a regular basis and present interim reviews
- Assist with the preparation of materials to provide progress reports at interim and formal management reviews

Requirements:

- 3 years' experience in operational research (in-country), lab capacity building and evaluations related to diagnostics for use in resource-limited settings
- Advanced scientific degree (e.g., MSc or higher)
- Experience and track record in planning and conducting clinical studies
- Knowledge of GXP (GCP, GLP and GCLP) guidelines and practical application in the field
- Experience working with multiple agencies at the national and international levels involved in trials and evaluations to generate data, as well as those involved in setting guidance and policy
- Experience working in-country for emergency response and/or capacity building and/or field research activities
- Experience in the design, development, evaluation and/or implementation of diagnostics in resource limited settings with a specific focus on Pandemic Preparedness/Outbreak settings
- Strong knowledge of diagnostics regulatory requirements (WHO, FDA, CE-IVD mark)
- Demonstrated capacity to write successful grants
- Excellent interpersonal, written, and verbal communication skills
- A team-oriented approach
- Strong project management skills
- Fluent in English (verbal and written)
- Working knowledge of French, Portuguese, and/or Spanish would be an asset

To apply

Please send a motivation letter, a CV (maximum 2 pages) and three references to hr@finddx.org.

Deadline to send your application: **19th May 2019**

(But don't wait until the deadline! We will start screening right away and if we find the right person, we will stop searching.)

Please note that only applicants meeting the profile requirements will be personally contacted. Applications sent by recruitment agencies will not be considered.