Organization:
FIND India, the global alliance for diagnostics seeks to ensure equitable access to reliable diagnosis around the world. We connect countries and communities, funders, decision-makers, healthcare providers, and developers to spur diagnostic innovation and make testing an integral part of sustainable, resilient health systems. We are working to save 1 million lives through accessible, quality diagnosis, and save US$1 billion in healthcare costs to patients and health systems. We are co-convenor of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator diagnostics pillar and a WHO Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Strengthening and Diagnostic Technology Evaluation.

For more information, please visit www.finddx.org

Project Background
The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic continues to ravage the World and India in 2021 and is a great threat to global public health. As of 16 August 2021, 205 million cases and >4.3 million deaths have been confirmed globally. In India, ~32 million confirmed cases have been reported so far with a rapid increase in the number of new cases during the “second wave” in the last few months. Daily cases touched highs of >300K, the highest in the World, during the last wave with delays noticed in every part of the care continuum including massive delays in testing. The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic highlights huge gaps in the testing capacity - a key element for timely isolation of infected persons and prevention of infection propagation in the community. Current testing challenges include sub-optimal capacity and utilization of the COVID-19 testing network, scarcity of efficient models for enhancing lab capacity, inefficiencies within laboratories to facilitate the rapid turnaround of quality tests, lack of coordination between public and private sectors to amplify and optimize India’s laboratory capacity and shortage of trained manpower at the COVID-19 labs. This makes delays in diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infections a critical point of failure in the COVID-19 strategic preparedness and response plan.

Objective and Primary Outcome:
Against the background and rationale stated above, FIND as SR to JHPIEGO, will use various technical assistance approaches to implement activities identified under the project. The project will deploy a learning laboratory approach in 3 intervention states and further propagate learnings and best practices to the remaining states covered by USAID’s Reaching Impact, Saturation, and Epidemic Control (RISE) project.

Project goal:
Laboratory strengthening, under the USAID-RISE project, commenced with capacity building, QMS, and other initiatives directed toward the RT-PCR labs. The USAID RISE project now proposes to provide technical assistance towards the creation and enhancement of state-level sequencing capacity via the provision of portable, low-cost sequencers at government laboratories (present in RISE hubs) and capacity building to operationalize the same.

The sequencing sites will be established in identified ICMR approved public sector RT-PCR labs that are conducting COVID-19 testing. The sites will be identified based on the availability of minimal essential infrastructure and staff. They will be supported by providing NGS equipment. The laboratory staff identified will be provided with complete training on wet and dry laboratory aspects of COVID-19 sequencing principles and protocols. These 12
Laboratories will be provided adequate support to become a part of the central consortium-INSACOG.

As a part of the proposed work, one of the key areas is the preparation of protocols on NGS principles and procedures, SOPs, laboratory layouts/models, use of bioinformatic tools for data analysis, and the trainer manual.

**Location:** Anywhere in India

**Key Responsibilities:**
1. Help design and execute data analytics plans to fulfill the needs of WGS/next-generation sequencing (NGS) data received from WGS sites in India
2. Conduct training at the RISE sites on computational tools, pipelines to process and analysis of raw sequenced data
3. Writing bioinformatics protocols for the manual, preparation of SOPs and presentations related to the trainings
4. Use bioinformatics tools and apply best practice statistical and/or computational methods to the analysis of large-scale genomic data sets and communicate results with basic, translational, and clinical researchers as and when required
5. Support in manuscript preparations and report writing for the trainings and workshops conducted.
6. Troubleshoot issues related to data analysis tools and software
7. Provide support in quality control of WGS/metagenomic data
8. Work independently and collaboratively with wet-lab scientists on multiple genomics projects, helping reveal clinically meaningful insights that can generate hypotheses
9. Other jobs assigned by the Reporting manager

**Skills and experience required:**
- A Ph.D. in bioinformatics, computational biology, human microbiota, microbial ecology or equivalent experience in computational bioinformatics and/or biostatistics within an NGS setting (data assemblage, analysis, and annotation) with one year of experience, Master’s Degree in Bioinformatics, Biomedical Informatics, Computational Biology, Statistics, Biostatistics, Statistical Genetics, Biology with strong quantitative training and 3 years experience of WGS data analysis, or bachelor’s degree in Bioinformatics with at least five years of experience of WGS data analysis. Background with TB and Covid sequencing genomics and experience with NGS is preferred.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and ready to travel
- Strong interest in contributing to translational research
- Understanding of microbiology, molecular biology, infectious diseases including TB and covid genomics is strongly desired
- Experience performing statistical and/or bioinformatics analyses for clinically annotated patients’ cohorts is plus
- Knowledge of Python/ Perl and DBMS & R for statistical analysis, command-line Linux, shell scripting, HPC/cloud computing
- Experience with genomic analyses, pathway and multi-omic analysis, differential expression analyses, and/or visualization tools a plus
- Prior experience with the integration of diverse data types is a plus
- Familiarity with query databases and dashboards is a plus
- Ability to prioritize and balance competing demands
- Professional, energetic, resilient, and passionate
Nature of Appointment:
The nature of the appointment will be consultancy for 3 months. During this period, the consultant shall be assigned 10 trainings- 4 days per training.

Payment procedure:
The Consultant shall be paid after completion of each training

Deadline to send your application: 20 April 2022
Please mail a motivation letter, a detailed resume, last-drawn details, present location notice period and three references to HR-IN@finddx.org.

(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.