Dear TEPHINET Community,

We are pleased to announce the opportunity to submit Letters of Intent (LOIs) for the Abbott Pandemic Defense Coalition Field Epidemiology Training Program Fellowship (APDC FETP Fellowship). This opportunity furthers the mission of the FETP enterprise in collaboration with the APDC, a first-of-its-kind global scientific and public health partnership dedicated to the early detection of, and rapid response to, future pandemic threats. By connecting global centers of excellence in surveillance, laboratory testing, genetic sequencing and public health research, this collaborative fellowship initiative offers a continuous learning opportunity to epidemiologists globally through our small grants program, as well as ensure scientific knowledge exchange amongst our network through the establishment of Communities of Practice, participation in regional and global scientific conferences and support to scientific production, publication, and dissemination. The goals of this initiative are to:

- Improve and sustain in-country and regional surveillance and diagnostic laboratory capacity that supports early detection of, and rapid response to, future pandemic threats
- Expand technical professional development opportunities to FETP trainees and graduates with a focus on bridging epidemiology and laboratory science
- Increase and strengthen collaboration among global FETPs, regional laboratory networks, academic, research and public health institutions
- Strengthen epidemiology and diagnostic laboratory capacity in supported countries
The APDC FETP Fellowship small grants are awarded for a maximum of US$10,000 and are funded through the generous support of Abbott.

All projects proposed for the 2021-2022 cycle of the APDC FETP Fellowship must be initiated and completed during the period of January 15th, 2022 to August 31st, 2022.

Applicants are restricted to submitting one LOI. Multiple entries will result in disqualification.

**When to apply?**

- LOIs are due by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on October 31, 2021**. All individuals interested in submitting a project proposal for funding under this small grants program must first submit an LOI.


**Have questions about the fellowship and/or how to apply?**

TEPHINET and the Abbott Pandemic Defense Coalition are hosting an informational webinar on Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. EDT (3:00 p.m. Central African Time [CAT] / 6:30 p.m. Indian Standard Time [IST]) for interested applicants. Please join us and get all of your questions answered before the deadline!

The webinar will take place at the following Zoom link: [https://emory.zoom.us/s/96369677671](https://emory.zoom.us/s/96369677671)

**Who can apply?**

- Current FETP residents/trainees (intermediate or advanced) who do not have another TEPHINET small grant in progress.
- Recent graduates within 2 years of their graduation can apply with the support of their FETP program director.
- The applicant (i.e. resident/trainee/graduate) must be the Principal Investigator (PI).
- The applicant MUST identify an in-country subject matter expert (SME) at their ministry of health (MOH), ministry of agriculture (MOA), APDC site, NPHI, academic institution, or public-private partnership who will serve as their in-

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1 All grant awards are contingent upon receipt of funding from associated donors. This announcement does not implicitly or explicitly guarantee awards for submitted LOIs.
country primary mentor for the duration of the grant-funded project. Abbott may assist in identifying and linking applicants to appropriate mentors. Applications that do not identify an in-country mentor will not be considered.

- The applicant **MUST** identify which institution and/or laboratory network(s) they will conduct their proposed project with, and ensure that their host country MOH and/or MOA is amenable to their participation in this program. APDC member institutions are recommended to serve in this capacity.

**Priority will be given to:**

Priority will be given to residents/trainees/graduates of FETP programs from countries with APDC sites. For further information regarding the APDC and sites and contact information in your country, please contact Francisco Averhoff, the Abbott APDC POC for this project, by email at: francisco.averhoff@abbott.com. However, you may also include appropriate institutions (Universities, MOH, NIH, other) as potential collaborators, in the absence of an APDC site. Competitive applications from any country will be considered.

**Proposed projects should focus on:**

Surveillance and pathogen discovery: Identification and/or monitoring of genetic diversity and evolution of endemic or emerging pathogens in-country. Where feasible, collaboration with facilities in neighboring countries may be considered. Potential activities include:

- Setup/establish surveillance systems for emerging and re-emerging pathogens where none exist in collaboration with the APDC site in-country
- Design and conduct serosurveys (e.g. cross-sectional or longitudinal) or case studies involving patients with illnesses of novel or unknown etiology
- Work with clinics, hospitals, or laboratories to establish specimen banks with databases for specimen and data collection
- Utilize existing specimen banks from clinics, hospitals, or laboratories to plan and coordinate selection of appropriate samples, assays, and/or shipment of specimens to Abbott/APDC sites
- Other studies/projects may be considered.

**Guidance that may inform projects:**

Please review the following resources for more information:

- [APDC overview](#)
- [APDC: How do we prevent the next pandemic?](#)
- [APDC: Sustainability](#)
Supporting Activities:

This small grants program may also include the following activities to further expand and foster sustainable impact of the APDC FETP Fellowship:

- Scientific Writing:
  - Training on writing and structuring field epidemiology investigations and relevant academic articles.
  - Journal club to foster interactions about current advancements and best practices in the fields of virus identification, surveillance, sample collection, testing, and data analytics.
- Conference travel to support dissemination of project findings and foster networking.
- Community of Practice to complement journal club.

The COVID-19 pandemic has renewed emphasis on infectious disease outbreaks and the critical need for pathogen(s) surveillance and accurate diagnosis in order to mobilize a rapid and robust public health response on a local, regional and international scale. TEPHINET encourages applicants to consider these impacts, identify gaps and areas for opportunity in national public health systems for their project proposals.