



## AFRICAN HIV, INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND GLOBAL HEALTH IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AFRI-HIGH-IRI) HUB

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## INAUGURAL COHORT OF IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE TRAINEES IN HIV AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### PROGRAM LEADERSHIP:

- **Mosa Moshabela, MD, PhD**  
Director: University of KwaZulu-Natal hub
- **Hikabasa Halwiindi, MD, PhD**  
Director: University of Zambia hub
- **Elvin Geng, MD, PhD**  
Director: Washington University St Louis hub
- **Ross Brownson, PhD**  
Co-director: Washington University St Louis hub

### TIMELINES TO NOTE:

1. **Applications open: 16th September 2024. Please find link to the application form: [Afri-HIGH IRI Google App form](#)**
2. **Information Sessions:** Zoom sessions on 8th October 2024 for interested individuals
3. **Website Details:** <https://sites.wustl.edu/highiri/> for more programme information
4. **Application Deadline: 31st October 2024.**
5. **Outcome Notification: 28th November 2024.**
6. **Travel Arrangements: December 2024.**
7. **Training Institute: In-person training in Zambia early 2025**

### GOAL OF AFRI-HIGH IRI

Afri-HIGH IRI seeks to foster a vibrant, equitable, global network of scientists, researchers, programme implementers, and policymakers to advance the development and deployment of implementation science to improve the health of populations in Low-and-middle income countries. The programme seeks to grow the global scientific community engaged in dissemi-

nation and implementation research addressing HIV, infectious diseases, and related conditions so that we can find novel solutions to some of the most pressing problems facing the population within Africa.

Because implementation research is a relatively new field, investigators seeking to grow in this area may not have a critical mass of mentorship or peer support in their home institutions. Afri-HIGH IRI seeks to fill this gap.

### BENEFITS OF THE AFRI-HIGH IRI FELLOWSHIP

The Afri-HIGH IRI Fellowship offers three key benefits:

- **Training:** One week of intensive training in each of the two years. This will provide rigorous, up-to-date concepts in implementation research, equipping trainees with knowledge directly applicable to research projects and grant applications.
- **Mentoring:** Fellows will develop mentoring relationships with Afri-HIGH IRI faculty, enhancing their professional network and receiving expert guidance to complement existing mentoring resources.
- **Networking, Partnerships and Collaborations:** Participation will foster long-lasting relationships that support professional growth and development beyond the time of programme enrollment.

## CORE FACULTY

 <p>Elvin Geng, Washington University St. Louis, United States</p>	 <p>Mosa Moshabela, University of Cape Town and University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa</p>	 <p>Hikabasa Halwiindi, University of Zambia, Zambia</p>	 <p>Whitney Irie, Boston College's School of Social Work, United States</p>	 <p>Thomas Odeny, Kenya and Washington University St. Louis</p>
 <p>Ross Brownson, Washington University St. Louis, United States</p>	 <p>Wilbroad Mutale, University of Zambia, Zambia</p>	 <p>Elizabeth Bukusi, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Kenya</p>	 <p>Radhika Sundararajan, Weill Cornell Medicine, United States</p>	 <p>Carolyn Audet, Vanderbilt University, United States</p>
 <p>Eleanor Magongo, Ministry of Health, Uganda</p>	 <p>Anne Sales, University of Missouri, United States</p>	 <p>Aaloke Mody, Washington University St. Louis, United States</p>	 <p>Michael Herce, Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), Zambia</p>	

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Residence in Africa; and
- Interest in Implementation Science Research in HIV, Infectious Diseases and related conditions; or
- Demonstrated commitment to implementation research as part of their career development; or
- Willing to be an effective champion for implementation research in the applied scientific field of infectious diseases;
- Early- or mid-career academic scholars including Lecturers, Senior Lecturers, Associate Professors, Faculty, Researchers; or

Programme implementers in the Governmental agencies or Departments such as the Ministry of Health, Social Development, Education, etc., and the non-governmental sector in HIV and Infectious Diseases programmes and management.

### ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

- 6 awards in each hub at UKZN and UNZA respectively.
- Duration: Two years
- Fellows will be accepted from all regions in Africa but assigned to the nearest hub in their region for the duration of the fellowship
- This programme does not offer a salary or seed funding to trainees. Fellows will receive training and mentoring in Implementation Science, build a community of practice, and establish a valuable global network.
- Fellows are expected to attend a one-week in-person intensive training each year. Year 1 will be held early 2025 in Lusaka, Zambia. Travel and accommodation will be covered for the training.
- Mentoring – fellows will be expected to attend regular mentor meetings with assigned faculty (at least twice a year) and regular pod meetings with at least two other fellow trainees.

**Please note:** *This is not a doctoral or post-doctoral fellowship programme and it does not confer an appointment or position with the hub universities.*

### EXPECTATIONS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP

- Completion of the in-person intensive training in years 1 and 2. The travel and accommodation for the training will be covered by the fellowship.
- Participation in mentorship pod meetings with fellow trainees.
- Attendance at biannual meetings with the assigned faculty mentor.
- Conducting a before-and-after self-rated competency assessment.
- Submission of quarterly progress reports to the hub team.
- Submission of a grant proposal or a manuscript from the implementation science project that you are currently involved in, or will be embarking on during your fellowship.
- Commitment to mentoring emerging implementation scientists in your institution upon completion of the fellowship.

We look forward to your applications and your contribution to advancing implementation science in HIV and infectious diseases.

**For more information,** please contact Dr. Nisha Nadesan-Reddy, UKZN ([Nadesanreddy@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Nadesanreddy@ukzn.ac.za)) or Dr. Perfect Shankalala, UNZA ([shankalalaperfect@gmail.com](mailto:shankalalaperfect@gmail.com)), or visit our website, <https://sites.wustl.edu/highiri/>.

**Funding support:** Viiv Healthcare and the Centre for Dissemination and Implementation (CDI), WUSTL

### APPLICATION PACKAGE:

- All application materials must be submitted by **Friday, 31st October 2024, 17h00 SAST**
- All information provided is confidential

**Please note: Incomplete applications will not be considered**

NO.	DOCUMENT	SUBMITTED (Y/N)
1.	Completed application form: <a href="#">Click here</a>	
2.	<b>Personal motivation</b> on wanting to be an Afri-HIGH-IRI fellow and advancement of career development (short- and long-term goals) in implementation science ( <b>maximum 1 page</b> )	
3.	<b>Recent biosketch/CV</b> (maximum 5 pages) <i>Please include: All qualifications, Employment History, Duration and description of the responsibilities of your current work contract, A list of publications if applicable, any current research projects if applicable, Any support for training or research received. Upload a pdf file: Surname_Firstname_2024_CVUp-to-date CV (maximum three pages)</i>	
4.	An Individual Development Plan (IDP) (maximum 2 pages). The IDP is a tool designed to help you to implement a career plan. Please upload a pdf file named: Surname_Firstname_2024_IDP.  The IDP document should include the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Background: Provide a brief overview of your relevant past professional and/or research experience and coursework in implementation science.</li> <li>● Career Goals: Clearly state your short-term and long-term career goals related to implementation science.</li> <li>● How this program would advance professional development and research: Explain how participating in this fellowship program will contribute to your professional growth and enhance your research skills in implementation science.</li> <li>● Proposed outcomes and corresponding timelines: Outline specific professional objectives you aim to achieve during the fellowship and include realistic timelines for accomplishing these professional development goals.</li> </ul>	
5.	<b>Description of your proposed research interest or program implementation challenge that you intend to pursue related to HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases or global health</b> (maximum 3 pages in pdf format only). <i>Your proposed research document should include the following sections: Project title, Rationale, Proposed aims, Potential impact of the proposed project on the health system, Plans for translation and dissemination, and Bibliography. The file should be labelled as: Surname_FirstName_2024_Research interest</i>	
6.	<b>Mentoring Plan</b> (maximum ¼ page): Please briefly describe your mentor/s from your home institution, their role on your mentoring team, and plans for mentoring interactions during your fellowship	
7.	Letter of Recommendation from your Line Manager for the Afri-HIGH IRI training program (one page). <i>You can address the recommendation letters to the "Afri-HIGH IRI Review Committee." Please upload a pdf document: Surname_Firstname_2024_LOS_1</i>	
8.	<b>Letter of Recommendation 2:</b> We advise that this letter come from a mentor or supervisor who can speak to your potential as an implementation researcher related to infectious diseases as well as the ways in which you can benefit from this program (one page). <i>Please upload a pdf format: Surname_FirstName_2024_LOS_</i>	