

BUSINESS UNIT: NICD
DISCIPLINE: CENTRE FOR EMERGING ZOO NOTIC AND PARASITIC DISEASES
LOCATION: SANDRINGHAM
POSITION: MEDICAL SCIENTIST
PAY GRADE: PRINCIPAL (MSP)
REFERENCE NUMBER: NICD0519/001-05

The successful candidate will be responsible for managing and leading diagnostic, surveillance, research and training functions of the Arbovirus Reference Laboratory within the Centre for Emerging Zoonotic and Parasitic Diseases (CEZPD) in collaboration with other diagnostic laboratories, epidemiologists, the Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response and the Emergency Operational Centre of the NICD. It will also support biosecurity, biosafety, and biosurveillance objectives of the CEZPD as well as maintain and further develop partnerships and collaborative networks within scientific communities, and particularly the One Health/Ecohealth Programs. In addition, this position will be responsible for fostering local, regional and international research and surveillance activities, assessing and utilizing opportunities for collaboration and funding, identifying gaps and making recommendations in the field of arbovirology.

Key Job Responsibilities

- Managerial and supervision responsibility of the Reference Arbovirus Laboratory (RAL) of the Centre for Emerging Zoonotic and Parasitic Diseases (CEZPD) to ensure compliance with the mandate of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD)
- Establish, implement and execute strategies and processes for accurate, adequate and cost-effective arboviral diagnosis, surveillance and research in order to benefit rapid diagnosis, patient management, and public health outbreak control measures
- Improve the design, biosafety and biosecurity functioning of the RAL CEZPD laboratories with an appropriate spectrum of laboratory tests for differential diagnosis, pathogen characterization and identification
- Development and validation of serological and molecular diagnostic assays, including rapid, point of care and pathogen discovery techniques
- Conducting surveillance and research into arboviral infections
- Institute, design and manage arbovirus research programmes to assess burden and impact of arboviral infections relevant to national public health programmes
- Provide expert virological advice and guidance for the Centre to ensure the proper management of arboviral infections/disease and outbreaks
- Provide expert virological advice to internal (NICD and NHLS) and external (Department of Health, Provincial Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, WHO) stakeholders
- Attend WHO, Technical Expert Working and Advisory Committees, regional and international meetings, assist with National Department of Health and WHO diagnostic, surveillance and training priorities
- Design, supervise, manage and analyse data from research projects within the Centre
- Lead a team of scientists to develop a research agenda related to arboviral diseases, publish and present virological research findings locally and internationally
- Provide teaching and training to students, registrars, scientists in order to increase institutional, national and regional arboviral diagnostic, surveillance and outbreak response capacities
- Be a member of expert committees related to advising, guiding and policy development by the Department of Health and other professionals on arboviral diseases
- Identify and utilize opportunities for collaboration and networking
- Writing up proposals and applying for external funding.

Minimum Requirements and Key Competency

■ PhD in relevant field ■ Registration with HPCSA as a Medical Scientist (microbiology, virology, or molecular microbiology) ■ At least 5 years' post-PhD experience in virology, including laboratory bench skills and experience with classical and molecular techniques, development/significant modifications, validation and implementation of viral technologies/diagnostic methods ■ At least 5 years managerial/supervisory experience in the laboratory, including different levels of biocontainment facilities ■ At least 5 years independent research and managing research groups with relevant knowledge of scientific methodologies, ■ Established publication, student supervisory and reviewer records ■ Membership of expert scientific/advisory committees ■ Knowledge of research grant applications, writing up research project proposals and evidence of successful funding applications ■ Recognition as internationally established scientist ■ Rating with a national or international organization and other evidence of scientific recognition (RG score, H-index) will be an advantage ■ Good communication (verbal and written) and interpersonal skills ■ Good presentation skills ■ Computer literacy ■ Management skills ■ Planning and organising skills ■ Analytical skills ■ Basic financial management skills.

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