



RESEARCH ASSOCIATE POSITION IN GLOBAL HEALTH – COMMUNITY-BASED HIV CARE IN RURAL UGANDA

The Center for Global Health at Weill Cornell Medical College (WCM) invites applications for a 1-2 year research associate position offering unique opportunities to participate in global health research focused on HIV care in Uganda. The associate will be based at WCM as well as in Mbarara District, Uganda and will support international research activities in collaboration with Ugandan research and community partners. The associate will participate in scientific activities including study design and implementation, coordinating and overseeing field site activities. The associate will work closely with our Ugandan Project Manager to ensure study enrollment meets benchmarks, track follow-up visits, oversee collection of laboratory samples, and act as liaison with the laboratory team. The associate will ensure maintenance of all regulatory approvals in New York and Uganda, and participate in manuscript preparation, dissemination of results, and development of future research proposals.

The associate will work primarily on community-based research in Mbarara District, Uganda. This is a mixed-methods study to determine if support from informal community-based providers such as traditional healers can improve HIV care for people living with HIV in rural Uganda. Dr. Sundararajan and her team have collaborated with traditional healers in rural Uganda since 2017 and have supported people living with HIV. Her work has demonstrated that traditional healers are uniquely positioned to improve the uptake of HIV testing due to their ability to overcome barriers and individualize counseling. This present work, which will be initiated in Spring 2023, marks the start of a larger trial to compare the effects of traditional healer-enhanced care to the current clinic-only standard of care and evaluate the implementation of the intervention. In collaboration with local partners, our team will train traditional healers from to perform point-of-care HIV testing, provide counselling on HIV and the importance of HIV medication adherence, check-in regularly with the participants to ensure medication adherence, and help overcome challenges to remaining in HIV care. This study will involve both quantitative surveys as well as qualitative interviews of key stakeholders, including people living with HIV, traditional healers, clinicians, and government officials.

WCM Center for Global Health

Our center has leading research programs in the clinical epidemiology of infectious diseases, women's health, and cardiometabolic diseases in Tanzania, Haiti, India, and Brazil. The mission of our Center is to address health problems that transcend national boundaries through service, research and training. The Center for Global Health has been collaborating with Weill Bugando School of Medicine, located in Mwanza, Tanzania for the past 15 years, BJ Government Medical College in Pune, India for 12 years, and Mbarara University of Science and Technology and Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital in Mbarara, Uganda, for 4 years. All of the sites are associated with tertiary referral hospitals with large patient catchment areas. As part of the center, you will have the opportunity to engage with the faculty and other research assistants to learn more about the various projects in progress.

The research fellow will meet weekly with Dr. Sundararajan to update on study progression, discuss challenges and next steps, create an individual development plan, review progress, and guide analysis and writing of manuscripts and grants. Specific job-related tasks are:

Research Oversight

- Ensure data collected is high quality and accurate; "clean" databases and track recruitment goals, providing a monthly summary of data to the research team
- Actively participate in meetings with study PI and collaborators (US and Ugandan), and represent the PIs at meetings with stakeholders as appropriate
- Actively develop working relationships with study team members and collaborators in the field to effectively promote study progression and address challenges
- Develop an understanding of research administrative processes and nurture working relationships with grants office staff, bioethics review boards, and institutional leadership to further the goals of project(s).
- Act as a liaison for the studies to ensure that any communication, documents, or payments for the study are processed and distributed in a timely manner, IRB protocols are submitted, reviewed and approved, and staff contracts are kept up to date.

- Contribute to data reporting and research dissemination (e.g. abstracts, manuscripts, grant applications)
- Participate in national and international research conferences
- Attend research management and research training courses, as instructed by PI(s)
- Identify and communicate to the PI any threats and challenges to the study or its conduct

Research Activities

- Engage in research-methods training conducted by study team, including learning and studying SOPs
- Assist with research data collection, including maintenance of project tracking systems, data collection and data entry
- Actively pursue independent learning related to research topic and study implementation
- Develop skills in both quantitative and qualitative data analysis and the field of implementation science
- Follow and independently maintain an organized record of study progression and next steps

Requirements for this position include: Fluency in English, a minimum of an undergraduate degree (preferably in social science or global health), and willingness to be based in Mbarara, Uganda for total of 6-9 months each year (in three-month blocks). Prior research experience, especially in a low- and middle-income country is encouraged but not required.

Project Personnel are linked below:

[Radhika Sundararajan](#) (PI, Weill Cornell Medicine)

This one-year position with an additional renewable year will begin on or about 1st April 2023. Applications will remain open to candidates with U.S. citizenship or a visa to work in the U.S. until the position is filled. To apply, **please send a letter describing research interests and curriculum vitae to Arthi Vaidyanathan (arv4002@med.cornell.edu)** Please include “Research Associate in Global Health- Uganda Study” in the subject line.