



Fall 2023

Fogarty Global Health Training Program

A Consortium of Harvard University, Boston University, Northwestern University, and University of New Mexico

HBNU FOGARTY GLOBAL HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAM

Fall 2023 Newsletter

About the HBNU Fogarty Global Health Program

The HBNU Fogarty Global Health Training Program provides mentored research opportunities designed to train and prepare a new cadre of health professionals in the United States (U.S.) and low and middle-income countries (LMICs) for careers in research, health services, and academia. The Program aims to enhance the trainees' ability to independently plan, implement, and assess innovative clinical or operations research addressing major global health challenges. Fellows in the Program spend one year at one of HBNU's collaborating research sites across Africa, Asia, and South America. For more information, please visit [the HBNU website](#).

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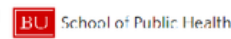
The Application for the 2024-2025 Cohort is Now Open

The 2024-2025 application for the HBNU Fogarty Global Health Training Program is now open. The program provides year-long mentored global health research fellowships for doctoral and post-doctoral candidates from the U.S. and low-and-middle income countries. Trainees in the program participate in a one-year fellowship at one of HBNU's sites in Africa, Asia, and South America. Research training areas include: HIV/AIDS, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition, Mental Health, Noncommunicable Disease including Cardiovascular Health, and other priority areas aligned with NIH's institutes and centers. The deadline to apply is **November 1st, 2023**. Interested candidates can learn more about the fellowship and begin their application on our [website](#).



Fogarty Global Health Training Program

Harvard University Boston University Northwestern University University of New Mexico



Key Information

- Fellowship opportunities are available at 21 sites in 14 countries in Africa, Asia, and South America.
- The fellowship includes research funding and a stipend, depending on the type of award.
- Appointments begin July 1st, 2024.
- The fellowship starts with a week-long orientation on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

Eligible Applicants

- **U.S. Pre-Doctoral candidates** currently enrolled in doctoral programs in medicine, biomedical sciences, public health, engineering, nutrition, pharmacy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, nursing, etc.
- **U.S. or LMIC Post-Doctoral candidates** with an advanced doctoral degree in medicine, biomedical sciences, public health, engineering, nutrition, pharmacy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, nursing, etc.
 - LMIC fellows will have the opportunity to spend up to 3-months at their HBNU-affiliated US institution as part of their fellowship.
 - *Note:* LMIC candidates must be citizens of one of HBNU's collaborating LMICs.
 - **U.S. Post-Doctoral candidates** completing residency or a clinical fellowship program are also eligible to apply.

HBNU Fogarty Global Health Training Program

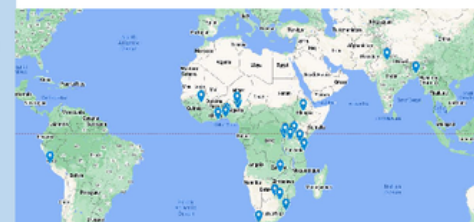
2024-2025 Fellowship Year

The Fogarty Global Health Training Program provides one-year mentored research fellowship opportunities in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) for pre- and post-doctoral candidates from the U.S. and LMICs. This program is sponsored by the Fogarty International Center (FIC) and several collaborating Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The program supports research in areas of interest, including: HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, mental health, maternal and child health and nutrition, and more.

Applications for the 2024-2025 fellowship year are open from August 1 – November 1, 2023.

Apply online at <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/global-health-research-partnership/apply/research-partnership/>



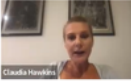
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Info Session Webinar

The HBNU Fogarty Global Health Training Program held its information session webinar on Monday, September 11th, 2023. During the session, HBNU PIs provided an overview of the program and application process. In addition, two recent alumni described their fellowship experiences and shared more about their individual research projects. Attendees asked questions about the fellowship, resulting in an engaging discussion. A link to the recording can be found [here](#).

Application Process



1. Choose a research area. HBNU supports fellowships in focus areas including but not limited to:
 1. Medium/high priority HIV/AIDS, as [defined by NIH](#)
 2. Maternal and child health and nutrition
 3. Non-communicable disease
 4. Mental health

Note: HBNU will consider research projects in other areas that align with [NIH's Institutes and Centers](#).
2. Choose a LMIC research site. Select the [training site](#) best suited to your research project and based on the mentor(s) whose research areas most closely align with yours.

Note: LMIC fellows must be affiliated with the HBNU research site, or be able to become affiliated
3. Secure the support of your mentors. Identify and contact a mentor from a U.S. HBNU institution and a LMIC research site mentor with expertise in your research focus area. The HBNU website lists [U.S. mentors](#) and [LMIC mentors](#). Applicants must submit a letter of support from each mentor with their fellowship application.
4. Prepare your research proposal and submit your application [online](#).

2023 Fogarty Global Health Program Orientation Recap

The Global Health Program for Fellows and Scholars/LAUNCH in-person orientation and training took place the week of July 10th, 2023 at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. As we began the 2023-2024 Fogarty year, the Fogarty community, including this year's trainees, mentors, PIs and alumni were able to join together in-person (and virtually) for the first time since 2019.

During this week-long orientation, our HBNU trainees were able to join valuable sessions, including fireside chats with former Fogarty International Center Director, Dr. Roger Glass, and a keynote presentation by Dr. Anthony Fauci. Our HBNU trainees also listened to presentations on a wide range of topics, such as Gender and Global Health, Mentorship and Cultural Considerations, and Decolonizing Global Health.



2023-2024 (Y7) cohort, HBNU PIs, and staff outside the National Library of Medicine at NIH orientation

Introducing the 2023-2024 Cohort

Ghana

Akua Forson, PhD



Dr. Forson is spending her fellowship year at University of Ghana in Accra, Ghana under the mentorship of Prof. Yaw Asare Afrane, Dr. Ivy Hurwitz, and Dr. Douglas J. Perkins. Her research focuses on determining and exploiting the microbial assemblages of Anopheles mosquitoes breeding habitats for vector control.

Dr. Forson is a Senior Lecturer at University of Ghana. Her long-term career goals are to achieve excellence in health research in Africa through undertaking research that can be translated into policy within the next 10 years. She aims to do this by publication of high-quality research in the topics of medical entomology and public health, and training of postgraduate students. Her research career is focused on epidemiology and vector-borne diseases through the use of cutting-edge scientific research that addresses global challenges facing developing countries.

Leah Ratner, MS, MD, DTM&H



Dr. Ratner is spending her fellowship year at the University of Ghana, in Accra, Ghana, under the mentorship of Dr. John Adabie Appiah, Dr. Rebecca Elaine Cagnina, and Dr. Ama Fenny, and Mr. Evans Otioku. Her research focuses on context-driven education and sepsis bundles for improved identification and management of pediatric sepsis in Ghana.

Dr. Ratner is an Attending Physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Boston Children's Hospital, and a Clinical Instructor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Ratner hopes to continue to refine her research activities to focus on equity-based research for cystic fibrosis in Africa as well as other contextually-derived solutions for pulmonary and critical care diseases in similar contexts. She is passionate about decolonized practices in this space and hopes to continue working on collaborative and integrated care practices with culturally and contextually derived solutions for adolescents and young adults with chronic diseases.

Kenya

Edwin Kanda, MS, PhD



Dr. Kanda is spending his fellowship year at Maseno University and School of Medicine, in Kisumu, Kenya under the mentorship of Dr. Douglas J. Perkins, and Dr. Evans Raballah. His research focuses on the purification systems for water and wastewater for the removal of antibiotics using locally available materials in Western Kenya.

Dr. Kanda is an early career researcher at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. He is passionate about water, sanitation, hygiene, and its relationship to public health. He is a civil engineer by training and his postgraduate studies revolved around water and environmental engineering. His research interests are focused on emerging contaminants of environmental concern such as pharmaceuticals and personal care products.

Sabella Kiprono, PhD



Dr. Kiprono is spending her fellowship year at Maseno University and School of Medicine, in Kisumu, Kenya under the mentorship of Dr. Collins Ouma, Dr. Douglas J. Perkins, and Dr. Evans Raballah. Her research focuses on the use of encapsulated probiotics for the delivery of bioactive antioxidants from kale (*brassica oleracea L. var acephala*).

Dr. Kiprono is a Lecturer in the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. Her goal as a global health researcher is to improve health outcomes around the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Kiprono's career aspiration is to be a professional scientist in global health. Global health has been her interest since childhood when she enrolled in a B.Ed (Science) program, majoring in Biology and Chemistry. This study ignited her interest in how microorganisms cause diseases and it has driven her passion to study and conduct research in Microbiology.

Mali

Aboubacar Alassane Oumar, PharmD, MSc, PhD



Dr. Oumar is spending his fellowship year at University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako (USTTB) in Bamako, Mali under the mentorship of Dr. Bassirou Diarra, Dr. Mamoudou Maiga, and Dr. Brookie Best. His research focuses on evaluation of Dolutegravir (DTG) concentrations in breast milk and infant's plasma in Mali.

Dr. Oumar is an Assistant Professor at USTTB. His research interests are in the areas of clinical pharmacology, pharmacovigilance, pharmacoepidemiology, pharmacokinetics. Since 2019, Dr. Oumar has joined the Laboratory of the university Hospital of Kati where he is conducting the evaluation of COVID-19 vaccine-related adverse events and the dynamics of anti-SARSCOV2 antibodies. In other research, he is working on the evaluation of the adverse events during antimalarial seasonal prevention. In addition, he worked as pharmacist investigator at the University Clinical Research Center (UCRC) for the dolutegravir and darunavir evaluation in adults failing therapy clinical trial.

Nigeria

Elizabeth Abe, PhD



Dr. Abe is spending her fellowship year at University of Ibadan, University College Hospital in Ibadan, Nigeria under the mentorship of Dr. Claudia Hawkins and Dr. Adesola Ogunniyi. Her research focuses on comparative analysis of oral microbiome, salivary antimicrobial proteins, and cytokines between HIV-infected and uninfected adults in Southwest Nigeria.

Dr. Abe is a Lecturer at the University of Ibadan. She was awarded a Masters degree in Dental Surgery in 2014. She had her residency training at the University College Hospital, Ibadan; she was awarded a fellowship in Oral Medicine in June 2021 by the West African College of Surgeons. Currently, she is running her PhD program (Oral Medicine) at the University of Ibadan. She joined the department of Oral Pathology as an associate lecturer in July 2021 and later gained full employment as a Lecturer I in January, 2023.

Tolulope Afolaranmi, MBBS, MSc



Dr. Afolaranmi is spending his fellowship year at University of Jos and Jos University teaching Hospital in Jos, Nigeria under the mentorship of Dr. Ayuba I Zoakah and Dr. Phyllis J Kanki. His research focuses on use of photovoice intervention for stigma reduction among HIV infected young men who have sex with men in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria.

Dr. Afolaranmi is an Associate Professor in community medicine at University of Jos and Jos University Teaching Hospital. His goal is to become an established collaborative researcher with the ability to tackle public health problems in Nigeria and beyond, but more importantly among the MSM population. Additionally, he aims to become equipped with the skills and knowledge to build capacity locally in his institution and beyond through effective mentoring and knowledge sharing. He is passionate about making positive change which has stimulated his involvement in research on a range of issues spanning HIV, patient-centered care, and improving health systems, with particular attention to the social determinants of health outcomes and behaviors for over a decade.

Yewande Babalola, MBBS



Dr. Babalola is spending her fellowship year at University of Ibadan/University College Hospital in Ibadan, Nigeria under the mentorship of Prof Adesola Ogunniyi, Dr. Holly Rawizza, Prof Adeyinka Ashaye, Prof Tunji Oluleye, and Prof Bolutife Olusanya. Her research focuses on visual function, vision-related quality of life and Human Immunodeficiency Virus related neuroretinal disorder (HIV-NRD) in an African subpopulation in Ibadan, Nigeria.

Dr. Babalola is an ophthalmologist and vitreoretinal surgeon. She is focused on becoming a seasoned researcher in the retina and vitreous subspecialty with emphasis on communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases with regards to global health. The interrelation of genetics, peculiar characteristics, risk factors and presentation of these diseases in her population is key to understanding these diseases. As a lecturer at the University of Ibadan and a consultant ophthalmologist and vitreoretinal surgeon at the University College Hospital she strives to be an attentive teacher and researcher leaving positive footprints in research and providing excellent care to retinal patients.

Nanna Cosmas, MSc, PhD



Dr. Cosmas is spending her fellowship year at University of Jos in Jos, Nigeria under the mentorship of Prof. Jonah Musa and Dr. Chad Achenbach. Her research focuses on persistent high-risk HPV infection, sexually transmitted infections and E6/E7 mRNA expression among HIV positive women with pre-cervical cancer in Jos, Nigeria.

Dr. Cosmas is a lecturer in medical microbiology at University of Jos. Her goals are to become a mentor with high integrity in teaching and sustainable collaborative research, as well as an independent investigator studying the prevention of HPV infection and cervical cancer by examining interactions between HPV, STIs, and the genital microbiome in cervical cancer progression among high-risk populations in Nigeria. She is greatly influenced by the need to acquire new research skills that will prepare her to take up the role of a mentor to the students in her department and the wider university community.

Sushmita Sridhar, PhD



Dr. Sridhar is spending her fellowship year at Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru under the mentorship of Dr. Pablo Tsukayama and Dr. Daryl Domman. Her research focuses on prevalence of antimicrobial resistance genes in sewage water from Peruvian urban centers.

Dr. Sridhar is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of New Mexico. She is interested in using genomics for pathogen surveillance in low-resource settings to ultimately help lower the burden of infectious disease. She intends to continue her work in the area of surveillance and capacity building to reduce the threat of drug resistant bacteria in high-risk settings. She is passionate about bacteria and understanding what makes them “tick” and how that comes into play (and conflict) with human hosts. To that end, she has spent her scientific career studying host-bacteria interactions, drug resistant bacteria, and more recently, the genomic epidemiology that underlies where and how drug-resistant bacteria pose as emerging threats.

Yina Quique Buitrago, MS, PhD



Dr. Quique Buitrago is spending her fellowship year at Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru and Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, Colombia under the mentorship of Dr. Patricia Garcia, Dr. Leora Cherney, Dr. Igor Korolnik, Dr. Maria Pesantes, Dr. Jaime Miranda and Dr. Oscar Aguilar. Her research focuses on aphasia rehabilitation in Peru and Colombia: usual care, barriers, and facilitators of best-practice.

Dr. Quique Buitrago is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Northwestern University. Her programmatic research has focused on 1) developing culturally- and linguistically-specific aphasia interventions; and 2) improving the efficacy and accessibility of aphasia treatments. She is a clinician-scientist committed to improving rehabilitation outcomes and healthcare services for stroke survivors with aphasia. She is especially interested in developing culturally-sensitive and language-specific interventions for Spanish speakers with aphasia.

South Africa

Erinn Cameron, MA, PhD



Dr. Cameron is spending her fellowship year at the University of Cape Town, in Cape Town, South Africa under the mentorship of Dr. Ashraf Kagee, Dr. Jennifer Crawford, Dr. David Henderson, and Dr. Lora Sabin. Her research focuses on climate change and the mental health of pregnant women living with HIV in Western Cape, South Africa.

Dr. Cameron’s goals include establishing a strong publication record, building a network of collaboration and professional relationships, securing funding for research, and continuing to develop expertise in the area of climate change, mental health, and HIV. Dr. Cameon hopes to write a K grant during the fellowship year so that she can continue to develop and broaden her research skills. Dr. Cameron’s journey as a first-generation university student has contributed to her strength, resiliency, and ability to think on her feet in diverse settings. Professional service and leadership have been integral to her professional development and she is grateful to her mentors thus far.

Judie Magura, MSc, PhD



Dr. Magura is spending her fellowship year at Africa Health Research Institute in Durban, South Africa under the mentorship of Prof Thumbi Ndung'u, Dr. Phyllis J Kanki, and Dr. Elise Landais. Her research focuses on characterization of the naïve B-cell repertoire and antigen specific B-cell precursors in a South African population to predict the success of germline-targeting HIV immunogens.

Dr. Magura is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI). Her career goals are to gain the relevant training needed to expand her scientific expertise and build productive scientific relationships with prominent scientists through structured and targeted mentorship. She aspires to grow toward independently asking and answering critical human immunology questions globally relevant for advancing the development of effective HIV-1 vaccines, particularly in Africa, and expanding this expertise to other infectious diseases.

Ramadhani Chambuso, MD, MPH, MSc, PhD



Dr. Chambuso is spending his fellowship year at University of Cape Town in Cape Town, South Africa under the mentorship of Dr. Raj Ramesar, Dr. Douglas Perkins, Dr. Xavier Llor, and Dr. Rosa Xicola. His research focuses on developing a scoring model with artificial intelligence for Lynch Syndrome screening and cascade testing.

Dr. Chambuso is a Research Scientist and Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Cape Town and his long-term career goal is to contribute to the development of innovative and non-invasive methods for detecting and preventing early-onset/hereditary/familial colorectal cancers. He is interested in using multi-omics panel of blood-based novel immunogenomic biomarkers, transcriptomics of circulating non-coding miRNAs, machine learning models, bioinformatics tools, Artificial Intelligence, and big data from available public databases such as the cBioPortal. His career path has been influenced by his interest in global health research, particularly in developing innovative screening methods for hereditary predisposition to cancer worldwide, such as Lynch syndrome.

Uganda

Catherine Atuhaire, MPH, PhD



Dr. Atuhaire is spending her fellowship year at Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Mbarara, Uganda under the mentorship of Dr. Vikram Patel and Dr. Samuel Maling. Her research focuses on perceived maternal social support and postpartum depression among women in public health facilities in South Western Uganda.

Dr. Atuhaire is a lecturer at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) with over 10 years teaching and research experience. Her research will focus on implementing a cohort project that seeks to explain maternal social support and postpartum depression in the Ugandan context. Through this fellowship, she hopes to obtain preliminary data to design an intervention that will reduce and/or mitigate the burden of maternal mental health and its complications in Uganda and SSA at large. Her long-term research goals involve becoming an independent researcher and an expert in postpartum depression in the field of maternal mental health.

Felix Bongomin, MBChB, MSc, MMed



Dr. Bongomin is spending his fellowship year at Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Mbarara, Uganda under the mentorship of Dr. Conrad Muzoora and Dr. Davidson Hamer. His research focuses on undiagnosed pulmonary aspergillosis as a fatal complication of advanced HIV disease in northern Uganda: an autopsy-based study.

Dr. Bongomin is a Lecturer at Gulu University Medical School, Uganda. His career goal is to become a prominent physician scientist specializing in translational clinical infectious diseases, leveraging his expertise as a medical doctor with training in internal medicine, and contribute to the advancement of medical knowledge and patient care in Uganda. Throughout his career, he has been influenced by his passion for infectious diseases and his training as a medical doctor specializing in internal medicine. He is driven by a desire to make a meaningful impact in the field of translational infectious diseases.

Zambia

Jonathan Gwasupika, MBChB, MSc



Dr. Gwasupika is spending his fellowship year at University of Zambia School of Public Health in Ndola, Zambia under the mentorship of Dr. Choolwe N Jacobs and Dr. Davidson Hamer. His research focuses on the outcome of HIV infected children admitted with sepsis at Arthur Davison Children Hospital in Ndola, Zambia.

Dr. Gwasupika is a Scientific officer at the Tropical Diseases Research Centre. He has been involved in a number of clinical trials and observational studies as a co-investigator or sub-investigator and currently as a coordinating investigator in an on-going multicentre observational study on the epidemiology of severe and non-severe malaria in children. He has research interests in infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV with a particular interest in antimicrobial resistance. His goal is to become a proficient researcher and academic, as well as to understand and undertake different research designs.

Megan Latoya Bartrum, MA, MS



Ms. Bartrum is spending her fellowship year at University of Zambia School of Public Health & Right to Care in Lusaka, Zambia under the mentorship of Dr. Ethan Zulu and Dr. Julie M. Herlihy. Her research focuses on the Brain Boost project: motherhood, care, and neurodevelopment in peri-urban Zambia.

Ms. Bartrum is a Doctoral Candidate at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She is an anthropologist and population health scientist with a focus on poverty and health disparities. She wishes to serve in a global health organization as a scientist specializing in neurological support. She is passionate about social & environmental determinants of infectious diseases, vulnerable & emerging populations, and equity as global public health practice.



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