

Call for expressions of interest in a position or consultancy developing vector control evidence and research capacity in Haiti.

COMBATING ZIKA
AND FUTURE THREATS
A GRAND CHALLENGE FOR DEVELOPMENT



The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MPHP) of the Republic of Haiti, The Ifakara Health Institute, University of Glasgow and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is undertaking a project entitled “Affordable, scalable, low-technology transfluthrin emanators for protecting against Zika transmission in low-income countries” with funding provided by the United States Agency for International Development through its Combating Zika and Future Threats initiative.

Existing repellent products only protect against mosquitoes for hours, days or weeks per application or dispensing dose, so they are too expensive and impractical for continuous, indefinite use [1, 2]. We recently developed a simple, affordable low-technology transfluthrin emanator that could be readily produced *en masse* and protects against *Culex*, *Mansonia* and *Anopheles* mosquitoes in Tanzania for months at a time [3, 4]. This new two-year project will now assess the efficacy of these low-tech devices against day-biting *Aedes* vectors of Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya viruses in the Republic of Haiti. Ideally, protection against crepuscular vectors of malaria and filariasis will also be assessed simultaneously.

We are therefore seeking a talented, enthusiastic and committed PhD graduate to provide full time resident technical, scientific and academic support to the MPHP, to both achieve the objectives of the project and develop the operational research capacity of their staff. Strong skills in entomology, data management, statistical analysis and writing peer-reviewed research publications, as well as an adaptable, collaborative and development-oriented working style are all essential. A working familiarity with French, and ideally Haitian Creole, are also desirable but not essential. While this opportunity may be advertised as a formal position at LSTM, we recognize that the best person for such a challenging undertaking may already have an established position they would prefer to maintain, so we would be happy to consider the possibility of subcontracting him or her as an employee of an additional institutional partner. Interested parties may contact Dr Gerry Killeen, the principal investigator of the study, for informal discussions as follows:

E-mail: Gerry.Killeen@lstmed.ac.uk Tel: +255-686-997697

1. Achee NL, Bangs MJ, Farlow R, Killeen GF, Lindsay S, Logan JG, Moore SJ, Rowland M, Sweeney K, Torr SJ, Zwiebel LJ, Grieco JP. Spatial repellents: from discovery and development to evidence-based validation. *Malar J.* 2012;11:164. doi: 10.1186/1475-2875-11-164.
2. Killeen GF. Characterizing, controlling and eliminating residual malaria transmission. *Malar J.* 2014;13:330. Epub 2014/08/26. doi: 10.1186/1475-2875-13-330. PubMed PMID: 25149656; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4159526.
3. Govella NJ, Ogoma SB, Paliga J, Chaki PP, Killeen G. Impregnating hessian strips with the volatile pyrethroid transfluthrin prevents outdoor exposure to vectors of malaria and lymphatic filariasis in urban Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. *Parasit Vectors.* 2015;8:322. Epub 2015/06/13. doi: 10.1186/s13071-015-0937-8. PubMed PMID: 26063216; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4465323.
4. Ogoma SB, Ngonyani H, Simfukwe ET, Mseka A, Moore J, Killeen GF. Spatial repellency of transfluthrin-treated hessian strips against laboratory-reared *Anopheles arabiensis* mosquitoes in a semi-field tunnel cage. *Parasit Vectors.* 2012;5:54. Epub 2012/03/22. doi: 10.1186/1756-3305-5-54. PubMed PMID: 22433128; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3338372.

This announcement is made possible through the generous support of the Combating Zika and Future Threats Grand Challenge through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It was prepared by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and does not necessarily reflect the views of Combating Zika and Future Threats.

