



Clinician Researcher Cancer Research Training Program

The Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) - Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) -University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Cancer Collaboration aims to reduce the cancer burden in Tanzania through research, education, and capacity building. The MUHAS-ORCI-UCSF Cancer Collaboration is leading the Cancer Research Training Program in Tanzania, with funding from the U.S. National Institutes of Health. The goal of this program is to train and mentor a cadre of motivated and passionate investigators in Tanzania who are capable of conceptualizing, achieving funding for, implementing, analyzing and publishing original research focused on cancer.

The program is seeking highly motivated cancer clinicians who are interested in expanding their research skills to be part of a cancer research training and mentorship program. This training and mentorship program is composed of a highly dynamic team with a vast experience in conducting cancer related research in various areas including; epidemiology, genetics, clinical management, outcomes and prevention. This training program will provide an introduction to clinical research methodology and establish mentorship teams for clinicians and early career investigators who aim to be independent researchers.

Program Description:

The program will consist of coursework in research methodology and structured mentoring by faculty from the UCSF Global Cancer Program and Tanzanian institutions. Selected scholars will each participate in the two-month *Designing Clinical Research* course (EPI 150.03) offered through the Training in Clinical Research Program at UCSF (tcr.ucsf.edu). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this course will be taught virtually in August-September 2021. The course is an introduction to the process of clinical research, defined broadly as patient-oriented, translational, epidemiologic, comparative effectiveness, behavioral, outcomes, or health services research. Scholars will be exposed to overarching concepts and essential vocabulary for designing and interpreting clinical research. This will be primarily accomplished by instructing scholars in the development of a research protocol that is intended to address a relevant research question related to cancer. The objectives for this course are for participants to:

- acquire skills for designing and interpreting clinical research;
- produce a complete clinical research protocol, including background, sampling, measurements, and data analysis; and
- help others in the class to develop these skills and protocols.

During the course, scholars will attend twice-weekly lectures on the following topics: epidemiology, development of a research question, measurement, study design, sample size, clinical trials, causality, qualitative methods, and statistics. Training attendees will also participate in twice-weekly small group discussions for review of the lecture topics and course readings and for discussion and feedback regarding individual protocol development. All scholars will be expected to complete training in the responsible conduct of research, will be intimately involved in the design and analysis of their research project, and will be exposed to primary data collection. Scholars based in Tanzania will also meet weekly, in person or virtually to discuss lecture topics and readings. Internet packages will be provided to ensure smooth connectivity while attending lectures and discussions.

Additionally, scholars will be paired with UCSF and Tanzanian mentors based upon specialty and overlapping interests. Mentors and mentees will participate in weekly mentoring meetings to review the protocols that are



being developed as part of the *Designing Clinical Research* course. The intention will be to foster longitudinal mentoring relationships for these scholars as they implement their research protocols over a two-year period.

The Cancer Research Training Program candidates will benefit from:

- Instruction in research methodology that is individualized to the learner and pertinent to cancer control continuum through the *Designing Clinical Research* course or similar coursework, based on candidate's individual interests;
- Development of a research project with a cancer focus based upon a priority need in East Africa;
- Provision of strong, interdisciplinary and longitudinal mentorship from MUHAS and UCSF institutions; and
- Guidance in career development to support short and long-term career goals and to promote a transition to independence.

Eligibility:

- Clinical degree (*MD, MMed, Nursing, or equivalent*)
- Aptitude and intent to become a future leader in cancer research
- A commitment to dedicate time and efforts in attending all coursework, seminars and mentor meetings
- Demonstrated fluency in both spoken and written English language
- Computer competency including proficiency in Microsoft word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Familiarity with data storage and analysis systems such as SPSS or/and STATA is an asset.

Selection Criteria:

- Strength of proposed research interests
- Commitment to practice research long-term
- Experience in a cancer-related field or research is preferred, but not required
- Clinical experience
- References from home institution faculty

Application Requirements: All interested scholars should submit the following information to globalcancer@ucsf.edu and Cc'd to tz.ucsfcancercollab@gmail.com by **May 15, 2021**

1. **Application cover letter.** This letter should include your name, position, institution, email, telephone number, and a short statement summarizing your intent to apply to the mentorship program. Applicants should summarize research interests in this letter.
2. **Updated Curriculum Vitae (CV) or NIH-format biosketch** (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)
3. **Two letters of recommendation.** These letters should include telephone numbers, addresses and e-mail addresses of the referees. One letter must be from your institutional leadership acknowledging approval for your participation in this program, including time away from clinical duties.
4. **Personal statement.** This statement should outline how this program aligns with your training and career thus far and how it will advance your long-term career goals. (1-page maximum).
5. **Research concept note.** During this program, each scholar will develop a research protocol. Please describe a proposed topic of research you would explore during this program. This concept note is not binding, as you may change interests during your studies but should outline your research interests.



Only cancer-related research will be considered for this program. This concept note should also include any specific skills or experiences you hope to gain from UCSF courses and/or faculty exposure (2 pages maximum).

Selection Process:

All applications must be submitted by **May 15, 2021**. Candidates will be short-listed based on their initial application, recommendation letters and strength of proposed cancer research. Candidates will be contacted to schedule interviews by **May 30, 2021** and selected candidates will be announced by **June 7, 2021**.

Questions:

Please contact the Global Cancer Program at globalcancer@ucsf.edu and/or tz.ucsfccancercollab@gmail.com to request further information.