



Clinical Research
Education Networking
and Consultancy

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Pursuit of Excellence in Research via
Commitment, Innovation and Collaboration

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CALL FOR APPLICATION

RESEARCH STUDENTSHIP

Get Training in Medical Research and Bio-Statistics

2022 / 2023

The CRENC is now inviting applications from MD students, Medical Residents, Masters Students and PhD students, to undertake collaborative medical research projects with Prof. Anastase DZUDIE; MD, PhD, FESC, HDR, as principal investigator and the CRENC research group.

These collaborative studentships would be expected to run for between 3 and 12 months for Master and MD students and 2-4 years for PhD students, and this should include a period of CRENC Fellow in Training (FIT) for the student or candidate upon completion. The candidate would receive training in principles of medical research and biostatistics. The candidate would be expected to make a scientific publication (abstract/poster, case report, research paper) as his/her contribution to this activity at the end of the CRENC Research Studentship.

The collaborative project and placement could be undertaken at any time during the student's programme or immediately afterwards as long as the student/candidate continues to be registered with the University or affiliated with a hospital or research centre.

Priority will be given to those interested in detection, treatment, control and prevention of cardiovascular diseases and HIV/AIDS.

- Application guidelines are in attached Appendix 1.
- The application form is available as an online link ([click here to fill form](#)).

Deadline

Applications are welcome from now until 30th December 2022. Studentships will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis, provided applications meet the required criteria. There may be funding based on available grants per project, but most projects will be self-funded.

Please direct any questions to:

1. EBASONE PETER VANES, MD

Email; ebasone.kewir@crenc.org,

Tel: 674403292

Program Coordinator

2. BANCHE BLAISE Forgwa, MD

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3. Access our website at www.crenc.org and organizations' email at info@crenc.org.

Appendix 1: Application Guidelines

1. Eligibility and Assessment Criteria

- 1.1. MD students, Medical residents, Masters students and PhD students from all academic departments and research centers are eligible to apply.
- 1.2. The MD, Masters and PhD students must be currently registered with a University (i.e. up until the faculty sign-off of thesis).
- 1.3. Postdoc or post-MD candidates must have an attestation of completion of studies demonstrate research interest (thesis defence, abstract presentation – oral or poster) or track of research article(s).
- 1.4. The postdoc or post-MD may be in early clinician phase i.e. 0 - 4 years post-graduation, early, mid or late phase for medical residency.
- 1.5. Applications must be discussed with and approved by student's supervisor and Head of Department (or authorized person acting on behalf e.g. PGR tutor), before submission.
- 1.6. It is anticipated that the majority of projects will be within 3-12 months duration for Master and MD students and 2-4 years for PhD students.
- 1.7. All projects must be completed timely.
- 1.8. A portion of the placement should be spent with the PI (Prof. Anastase DZUDIE) (to be appropriate to the opportunity, and assessed on a case by case basis).
- 1.9. While students can undertake a Research Studentship at any point during their MD, Medical residency, Masters or PhD, ideally it would take place either in the last or second to the last year or after submission of the first draft of the MD thesis in the 5th year, in the case of MD students. Timings, responsibilities and impact of undertaking a CRENC Studentship must be discussed and agreed with the student's research coordinator, responsible departmental adviser or supervisor. The CRENC Studentship mustn't cause the entire project to extend beyond its 1-2-year term, or impact in an otherwise negative way on previously agreed milestones.
- 1.7. It is expected that the placement project will be connected to the student' career interests, program or related objectives.
- 1.8. Applications will be judged and prioritized against the following criteria:
 - Motivation & commitment of the applicant to the project.

- Ability and willingness to move out of comfort zone
- The potential to develop long term research collaborations with the candidate(s).
- Language proficiency (English is the preferred language).
- Ability to collaborate with others in a team
- Information technology capabilities: ownership of laptop, internet access, above-average knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
- Previous topic and supervisors.
- A place to stay in Douala (especially) or wherever the research project is conducted.
- Availability and average time allocated for research.

2. Application Process

- 2.1. This is a rolling call; applications can be submitted at any point until 30th December 2020. Application is a single-stage process.
- 2.2. All potential applications should be discussed with Ebasone Peter/Barche Blaise at the CRENC contacts above before submission.
- 2.3. All applications must be discussed with the student's supervisor and approved by their department before submission.
- 2.4. Applications should contain a statement of support from the student's supervisor, outlining the student's suitability for the placement, the benefits to be gained for the student, and a confirmation that the placement is achievable without impacting negatively on the student's degree or diploma.
- 2.5. Applications should be accompanied by a letter of motivation from all interested candidates. The letter should indicate the candidate's willingness to enter into a collaborative agreement with CRENC and stipulate the financial commitment to be made by them.
- 2.6. To apply, please complete the online form available [here](#).
- 2.7. All applications will be considered by interview panels consisting of at least one other member of the CRENC Executive & management team.

3. Funding and Conditions

- 3.1. By accepting the award, the applicants agree to engage with CRENC to monitor the progress of the project and to report outcomes. This will include making monthly progress reports available, assisting with the development of case studies and providing a final report upon completion.

- 3.2. A CRENC Research Studentship Contract must be in place before the project commences.
- 3.3. All intellectual products including thesis write-up & defence, abstracts and research articles resulting from CRENC Research Studentships are copyright to the CRENC. The CRENC reserves all authorship rights to such, although the candidate will be duly acknowledged.
- 3.4. The CRENC reserves the right to recover/withhold the research project where there is evidence that a candidate is failing to adhere to the agreed application. Similarly, funds may be recovered where these have not been spent in accordance with the application, unless a change has been agreed in writing.
- 3.5. At the moment, the CRENC does not provide stipends for any project. All expenses related to the research project will be incurred by the candidate. All candidates are thus, informed that their projects will be self-funded unless specified otherwise.

Appendix 2: Background

By definition then, it is not only medical students/residents in medicine who will be eligible to enter this programme, but also students from the basic and health sciences (Public Health, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Nursing etc.) who can bring unique skills and training to service of medical research especially with respect to non-communicable diseases.

Benefits:

This scheme is relatively low cost to implement, yet offers substantial benefits for the University, individual students, and ultimately the CRENC:

- a. The project will itself be of significant benefit, providing new knowledge and insight for the candidate that may form the basis for further innovation and exploration. The candidate will form or further develop their careers with an academic (research) focus with obvious benefits in terms of access to expertise and facilities, and they will form a close working relationship with a talented research group. Students could be considered for future recruitment, a recommendation for Masters/PhD studies as well as Medical Specialty and Fellowship both locally and internationally.
- b. The University will benefit from a greater quality of research implemented and disseminated. Thus, potentially increasing the impact of academic research and the development of a better-integrated local community centred on key individual strength and collaborative effort in the regions and country as a whole.
- c. Postgraduate students will benefit from the experience of working closely with a research group and /or other external partners, gaining a better understanding of the world outside of hospital but in academia, research and increasing their employability. Understanding of the innovative pathway from concept through to implementation & dissemination of a research project will be of

particular value to Medicine graduates who are considering a career in research. Moreover, a greater understanding of the many factors that influence decision-making in research will be invaluable for students, as will the tailored training they will receive on this programme.

d. The CRENC will benefit by developing a generation of graduates and postgraduates with greater awareness and knowledge of the research world and other potential employers, increasing opportunities for employment, innovation, intellectual and economic growth. Greater retention of talent within the region will also provide significant opportunities for future growth in the medium- and long-term membership

Appendix 3: Summary of main steps in your Research training programme

Steps	Descriptions	Remarks
Step 1	Interview	Mandatory
Step 2	You sign the MOU and you are awarded a research question	Mandatory
Step 3	Start your GCP training (certified)	Mandatory and unwillingness to train may terminate your MOU
Step 4	You develop a research protocol with CRENC assistance	Mandatory
Step 5	Implementation of your protocol // training in basic biostatistical analysis	Mandatory
Step 6	Data analysis and interpretation	Mandatory
Step 7	Writing up of your thesis	Mandatory
Step 8	Defence	Mandatory

Step 9	At least one publication (main) from your research work (when applicable). Usually, more than 1 publication may arise from a research project.	<p>The main publication is mandatory for the student</p> <p>Authorship defined only at the end of the writing, before submission.</p>
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Appendix 4: **Non-exhaustive research areas for studentships available in 2020-2021**

Main research area	Professors / Main PIs
Hypertension epidemiology, multitherapy, control and outcomes	Prof Anastase Dzudie
Heart failure	Prof Anastase Dzudie / Dr Nkoke Elvis
Acute cardio/neurovascular conditions	Prof Anastase Dzudie / Prof Yacouba Mapoure / Prof Callixte Kuate
Atrial fibrillation	Prof Anastase Dzudie / Dr Mouliom Sidick
Biomarkers of cardiovascular diseases	Prof Dzudie / Dr Marcel Azabji
Headache	Prof. Callixte Kuate
HIV and Cardiovascular diseases	Prof. Anastase Dzudie / Prof Andre Pascal Kengne / Prof Marcel Yotebieng
Sports cardiology – physical activity	Prof Anastase Dzudie / Dr Marcel Azabji

Appendix 5: Application Form

Submit your application by filling the form in the application link as on the table below. The application form is available online ([click here to complete the application form](#)). Please attach a student’s CV, highlighting relevant posters, prizes or publications. Also attach a letter of support from an external partner (If applicable).

Name of Student	
Department / University	
Specialty & year of study	
Thesis Start Date	
Anticipated or Actual Submission Date of Thesis to Faculty	
IT Capacities	
Language Proficiencies	
Proposed Start Date	
Proposed End Date	
Student’s Statement of Motivation (500 words – Please explain how the proposed collaboration will fulfil the requirements of the scheme eg Knowledge Exchange, employability, the potential for future collaboration. Candidate should include details of relevance to their degree and personal development objectives as a student/resident.	
Previous thesis Supervisor (if applicable)	

I hereby certify that the information provided is accurate and verifiable.

Date / /2022	Name and Signature
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