



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

CRENC MD STUDENTSHIPS

Get Certified Training in Clinical Research and Bio-Statistics

2021/2022

The CRENC is now inviting applications from MD students, MDs and Medical Residents to undertake short collaborative projects with Prof. Anastase DZUDIE, as principal investigator and the CRENC research group, in clinical research.

These collaborative studentships would be expected to run for between 3 and 12 months, and this should include a period of CRENC Fellow in Training (FIT) for the MD student or candidate upon completion. The candidate would receive training in principles of clinical research and statistics. The candidate would be expected to make a scientific publication (abstract/poster, case report, research paper) as his/her contribution to this activity that would be in line with the end of the CRENC MD studentship.

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

Priority will be given to those interested in World Heart Federation Road maps related to tobacco control, blood pressure control and secondary prevention of cardiovascular diseases.

- Application guidelines are in attached Appendix 1.
- Application form is in attached Appendix 5.

Deadline

Applications are welcome from now and the studentships need to be completed by **30th April 2022 for University of Buea**, while **30th May for Universities of Bamenda, Douala, Bangangte and Yaounde**. Regarding medical residents, a more flexible timeline is allowed depending on year of specialization. Studentships will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis, provided applications meet required criteria. Also, there may be funding based on available grants per project. But most projects will be self-funded.

Please direct any questions to:

1. Blaise Barche, MD

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Program Coordinator

2. KUAGUIM KENFACK BELLE FORTUNE, 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 or Postdocs (MD) from all academic departments and research centres are eligible to apply.

1.2. The MD student must be currently registered with the University (i.e. up until the faculty sign-off of MD thesis).

1.3. The postdoc or post MD must have an attestation of completion of studies, demonstrate research interest (thesis defense, 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. 4 – 0 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), prior to submission.

1.6. It is anticipated that the majority of projects will be within 12-3 months duration.

1.7. All projects must be completed, and fully spent, by 30th March 2022 for UB and 30th April for the universities of Bamenda, Douala, Bangangte and Yaounde students.

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. Whilst students can undertake a CRENC MD Studentship at any point during their MD or medical residency, ideally it would take place either in the last or second to the last year of the PhD, or after submission of the first draft of the MD thesis in the 5th year. 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. It is imperative that the CRENC MD Studentship does not cause the whole of the project to extend beyond its 2-1-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's medical career interests, program or related objectives, and will therefore not constitute a Leave of Absence from the MD or medical residency.

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 longer term research collaborations with the candidate(s).
- Language proficiency (English is 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, ppt
- Previous Topic and Supervisors

- Place to stay in Douala (especially) or wherever 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 25th October 2021.

Application is a single-stage process.

2.2. All potential applications should be discussed with Barche Blaise /Kuaguim Fortune at the CRENC contacts above prior to submission.

2.3. All applications must be discussed with the student's supervisor, and approved by their department prior to 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 MD degree.

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 submit an application, please email a signed electronic copy of the completed application form to belfast.kenfack@gmail.com, copy (cc) to barcheblaise@gmail.com.

2.7. All applications will be considered by interview panel consisting of at least one other member of 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 to allow the reporting of outcomes. This will include making monthly progress reports available to assist with the development of case studies and providing a Final Report upon completion.

3.2. A CRENC MD Studentship Contract must be in place before the project commences.

3.3. All intellectual products including MD thesis write-up & defense, abstracts and research articles resulting from CRENC MD 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 sciences (biochemistry, microbiology, nursing etc.) who can bring unique skills and training to service of clinical 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 student who could give consideration for future recruitment, recommendation for master/PhD studies as well as medical specialty and fellowship both locally and internationally.

b. The University will benefit from greater quality of research implemented and disseminated. Thus, potentially increasing the impact of academic research and the development of a better-integrated local community centered on a 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 innovation pathway from concept through to implementation & dissemination of 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 medical graduates and postgraduates with a 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 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 and	Mandatory
Step 3	Start your GCP training (certified) and twitter training	Mandatory and unwillingness to train may terminate your MOU
Step 4	You develop a research proposal with CRENC assistance	Mandatory
Step 5	Implementation of your protocol // training in basic statistical analysis	Mandatory
Step 6	Data analysis and interpretation	Mandatory
Step 7	Writing up of your master / 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.	Main publication is mandatory for the student Authorship defined only at the end of the writing, prior to submission.

Appendix 4: Non-exhaustive research areas for studentships available in 2021-2022

Hypertension	Prof Anastase Dzudie
Heart failure	Prof Anastase Dzudie
Acute cardiovascular conditions	Prof Anastase Dzudie / Prof Yacouba Mapoure
Atrial fibrillation	Prof Anastase Dzudie / Prof Yacouba Mapoure
DVT/PE	Prof Anastase Dzudie
Biomarkers of cardiovascular diseases	Prof Dzudie / Dr Marcel Azabji
Headache	Prof. Callixte Kuate
HIV and Cardiovascular diseases	Prof. Anastase Dzudie

Appendix 5: Application Form

Submit your application in a Microsoft word document as in the table below. Download the application form template from our website ([click here to get application form](#)). Please attach student's CV, highlighting relevant posters, prizes or publications. Please attach letter of support from external partner (If applicable)

Name of Student		
Registration Number		
Department		
University		
Medical Specialty & year of study		
MD Thesis Start Date		
Anticipated or Actual Submission Date of MD 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 e.g. Knowledge Exchange, employability, potential for future collaboration. Candidate should include details of relevance to MD and personal development objectives as a medical student/resident		
Previous MD thesis Supervisor (if applicable)	Date	Signature
		Name