



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

FIRST CALL FOR CAPACITY STRENGTHENING FOR AFRICAN MALARIA RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND CONDUCT OF MALARIA VACCINE TRIALS

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The Current failure of efforts to contain malaria calls for research in other potential intervention tools. Currently there are many malaria vaccine candidate molecules at various stages in the development pipeline. Those that eventually reach clinical testing stages will require to be tested in malaria endemic African populations before licensure and deployment. Unfortunately, very few African-led institutions have the capacity and technical ability to undertake malaria vaccine trials. In recognition of these problems, the African Malaria Network Trust (AMANET) seeks to contribute to the speedy development of effective malaria vaccines by preparing African owned and led malaria research institutions for vaccine testing as well as identification and sponsorship of promising vaccine candidates. Over the next five years AMANET intends to support several centres to be able to conduct vaccine trials from phase-1 (safety) to phase3 multi-centre trials across various eco-epidemiological malaria settings. It is a matter of policy that AMANET will ONLY fund African owned and led research institutions in this regard.

We announce two opportunities for African research institutions wishing to participate in malaria vaccine development activities.

1. Capacity strengthening grant for malaria vaccine testing site preparedness.

This is a call intended to assist an African malaria research institution to develop capacity for conducting malaria vaccine trials at phases 1-3. This grant which may last 1-3 years should allow a research institution which is strategically placed but is incapacitated by infrastructural weaknesses, inadequate skilled personnel or lack of equipment, to undergo capacity development so as to upgrade it, while at the same time undertake wholesome characterization of its intended field site.

Interested institutions should submit a detailed two to three page letter of intent. The letter should outline a plan to meet the expected objectives. It is critically important to show how limiting weaknesses will be overcome through this grant i.e. limited human resources, poor infrastructure, functioning of ethical review bodies and care for research

participants. Applying institutions must clearly demonstrate national commitment to their development, preferably within the framework of the ministries of health in their country.

Only applications submitted by institutional heads/leaders will be considered.

2. Phase 1b malaria vaccine trial of the Glutamine Rich Protein (GLURP) malaria vaccine candidate

AMANET is preparing to sponsor a phase 1b trial of GLURP starting later this year. Applications are invited from African-led malaria research institutions wishing to conduct such a vaccine trial. This call is directed at sites that are at such a stage that they can conduct a malaria vaccine trial with little additional preparation. Such a centre should have most of the critical staff and the necessary infrastructure including a well-characterized testing field site already in place.

Institutions applying for this must submit a two to three page letter of intent detailing the capability of the centre to undertake a vaccine trial, highlight inadequacies that may require correcting and demonstrate how participants would be cared for and protected.

The application must also include appendices showing the following documents:

- Curriculum vitae of the Principal Investigator and of all other senior members of the project team;
- Summary information (one page) on their characterized field site;
- Documentation on the operations of the institutional or national ethics review committee;
- Letter of commitment from the head of the institution.

HOW TO APPLY

Completed applications with the above requirements must be sent by e mail and received at the AMANET secretariat by 30 April, 2004.

All applications must be directed to:

The Managing Trustee, AMANET,
Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology Building,
Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road,
P O Box 33207, Dar es Salaam,
Tanzania.

Tel: + 255-22-2700018, Fax: + 255-22-2700380.

E-mail: info@amanet-trust.org; wlkilama@amanet-trust.org

Website: www.amanet-trust.org

Short listed applicants will be requested to submit their detailed proposals by 30th May 2004