



## AFRICAN MALARIA NETWORK TRUST

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### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

#### **Fifth AMANET Workshop on Advanced Health Research Ethics for investigators**

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22 - 26 March 2010, Lusaka, Zambia

#### **Background/Rationale**

The high disease burden of African countries, the emergence of new diseases, and efforts to address the 10/90 gap, have led to an unprecedented increase in health research activities in Africa. In light of the generally poor health delivery systems, the lower levels of education, and poverty of communities and governments, it has become imperative that Health Research Ethics (HRE) in Africa be strengthened in order to minimise the risk of unethical research being conducted on the poor populations.

Historically, research participants and research institutions have been exposed to abuse and are inadequately prepared to handle complexities that characterize justice and beneficence desirable for research involving human participants and communities. This is ever so important in the less developed world where regulatory systems are either very weak or non-existent in majority of cases.

The African Malaria Network Trust, AMANET, has been organizing a series of workshops on Advanced Health Research Ethics (HRE) with funding from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Advanced HRE workshops are primarily for health investigators and secondarily for Ethics Committee members, policy makers and other stakeholders involved in health research. Since the workshops will be at an advanced level, basic HRE training will be a pre-requisite. The upcoming workshop will be the 5<sup>th</sup> and last one in the series, and will be organized in collaboration with the Tropical Diseases Research Centre (TDRC), Ndola, Zambia.

**Precedence:**

AMANET continues to champion the need for training in biomedical research ethics to various stakeholders of research in Africa. With regard to health research ethics for investigators or for members of ethics review committees, the following workshops have been organized by AMANET:

1. The upcoming workshop will be the fifth and last workshop in a series of five workshops on Advanced Health Research Ethics for investigators. Four of the five workshops were held in Tanzania (June 2008; February 2009), Cameroon (May 2009) and Kenya (October 2009).
2. Workshops on Ethics in Health Research in Africa were held in Kenya (Kisumu, 2001), Ethiopia (Addis Ababa, 2001), South Africa (2002, Pretoria), Gabon, (Libreville, 2002), Sudan (Khartoum, 2003), Cameroon (Yaoundé, 2003), Ethiopia (September 2007), Ghana (February 2008) Senegal (in French, April 2008), Uganda (August 2008), Cameroon (in French, November 2008) and Tanzania (Dar es Salaam, 2005, 2006 and 2007)
3. Workshop on Standard Operating Procedures for Ethics Review of Health Research in Africa, 17-21 February 2003, Entebbe, Uganda;
4. Workshop on Advanced Ethics in Biomedical Research that Involves Human Subjects, 1-3 December 2004, Zanzibar, Tanzania; and
5. Workshop on Protection of Human Research Participants: Writing of Standard Operating Procedures for Ethics Review Committees in Eastern Africa: 29-31 August 2005, Dar es salaam, Tanzania.

Reports on the above activities are available in the various issues of the AMANET Newsletter available online at: [www.amanet-trust.org](http://www.amanet-trust.org).

**Workshop Pedagogical Methods**

The workshop will apply participatory approaches including overviews, case studies, discussion groups, panellists, and participants presentations and other interactive and adult teaching/learning methods. To broaden discussions special panels for some of the topics will be convened. Lecture type presentations will be followed by question and answer sessions. Experienced facilitators have been carefully selected from within Africa.

**Workshop Participants (Selection)**

Senior investigators and research project Principal Investigators (PIs) are encouraged to apply. Junior investigators who have successfully completed basic Health Research Ethics (HRE) and/or Advanced HRE courses available on the AMANET web site are also eligible. Participation in the AMANET online HRE Discussion Forum will be considered in the selection process. The online Discussion Forum can be accessed via the AMANET website; some of the case studies discussed online will be used during the workshop. The target candidates are health researchers, but few places may be available for applicants outside these criteria. Interested candidates who meet the selection criteria should submit their applications by 15 April 2009. Candidates who applied for the previous workshop but were not selected should let us know if they wish to be considered for the upcoming workshop, and are free to submit any additional information they may wish to be considered in the final selection process.

## **Workshop Objectives**

This workshop aims firstly to flag topical ethical issues that are relevant to health research in developing country settings, and secondly to explore various schools of thought with the aim of coming up with well thought out positions and/or recommendations. Examples and case studies pertinent to Africa will be used. The following are the highlights of the topics to be covered:

- *Applying Ethical principles in Health Research and Ethical review process*
- *Health Research Ethics Comes to Africa*
- *Responsibilities in Health Research*
- *Ethical issues in research design and recruitment of research participants.*
- *Research with vulnerable persons and groups*
- *Legal and social issues in Health Research Ethics*
- *Ethical Issues in international collaborative health research*
- *Models and practicalities of community consultation*
- *Ethical issues surrounding the 10/90 gap*
- *Ethical issues in traditional medical practice and “research”*
- *Professional Ethics*
- *Animal Research Ethics*

## **Workshop Outcomes**

By the end of the five day workshop:

1. Participants will be brought up to date with topical ethical issues around current research practices;
2. Participants will be able to address ethical issues at the design stage of health research and be able to enhance the protection of the welfare of research participants when implementing health research protocols.

## **Language:**

The workshop will be conducted in English; there will be no translations to other languages.

## **Workshop Reports:**

Three participants will be nominated to be rapporteurs for the workshop. Proceedings will be recorded for publication in the AMANET newsletter and will be available for participants.

## **AMANET Scholarship**

Selected participants will be awarded scholarships by AMANET, which will cover costs for economy class airfares (where needed), visas, tuition and accommodation and meals.

## **Timelines:**

1. This call sent out on or before 31 January 2010
2. Applications should reach AMANET secretariat no later than 15 February 2010

3. Short listed candidates will be informed by 18 February 2010. Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.
4. Selected candidates will be informed by 12 March 2010

Applications (with brief CVs and one-half page justification) should be submitted **by email** to:

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