

# Fogarty-IeDEA

## Mentorship Program

### Fogarty-IeDEA Mentorship Program (FIMP) - 2023 Recruitment Cycle Request for Applications

**Introduction:** The International Epidemiology Databases to Evaluate AIDS (IeDEA) is an international research consortium established in 2006 by the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to provide a rich resource for globally diverse HIV/AIDS data. The consortium collects HIV-related data from seven international regional data centers, including four in Africa, and one each in the Asia-Pacific region, the Central/South America/Caribbean region, and North America. To date, the consortium collects data representing over 2 million adults and 200,000 children and adolescents living with and at risk for HIV. These data are an excellent resource for training new investigators.

In collaboration with the Fogarty International Center (FIC), six IeDEA regions working in low- and middle-income countries have created training opportunities under the Fogarty IeDEA Mentorship Program (FIMP). Within each region, two 24-month mentee slots will be open to current and recent FIC D43 trainees, and IeDEA-affiliated investigators, for a total of 12 positions globally.

**Description of the Program:** The FIMP is designed to help trainees develop skills in study design, data management, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of research involving large HIV clinical databases generated within IeDEA. As part of the FIMP, for the duration of the training program from January 2024 to December 2025, mentees will:

- Have access to IeDEA regional data for analyses that are conducted under the supervision of their respective IeDEA regions.
- Participate in intensive mentoring sessions with scientists affiliated with a Regional Data Center (RDC).
  - During the first year's intensive mentoring sessions (onsite and/or virtual), mentees will initiate their project and receive one-on-one mentoring from implementation scientists/epidemiologists, data managers, biostatisticians, and other analysts, as appropriate to their project.
  - During the latter part of the first year and during the second year's intensive mentoring sessions (onsite and/or virtual) the focus will be on manuscript development.
- Receive at least biweekly mentoring through the duration of the program via e-mail, and video and teleconferencing.
- Receive support to attend at least one local or regional scientific meeting (virtual or in person)
- Receive the data management and analytic support through the RDC needed to produce one abstract, one submitted manuscript, and potentially a second draft manuscript during the mentoring period.

Salary support during this period will not be available through this mechanism.

#### **Per Candidate Anticipated Program Deliverables:**

- One submitted meeting abstract
- One submitted manuscript
- Potential for one additional draft manuscript

## Participating leDEA Regions:

- **Asia-Pacific**
  - Location of programs contributing data: Cambodia, China including Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam
  - Data Center Location: Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
  - Contact for D43 PIs:
    - Annette Sohn [annette.sohn@treatasia.org](mailto:annette.sohn@treatasia.org)
  - Contacts for applicants:
    - Dhanushi Rupasinghe [drupasinghe@kirby.unsw.edu.au](mailto:drupasinghe@kirby.unsw.edu.au)
    - Awachana Jiamsakul [Ajiamsakul@kirby.unsw.edu.au](mailto:Ajiamsakul@kirby.unsw.edu.au)
- **Caribbean Central and South America (CCASAnet)**
  - Location of programs contributing data: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Peru
  - Data Center Location: Vanderbilt University, Nashville US
  - Contact for D43 PIs:
    - Jessica Castilho [jessica.castilho@vumc.org](mailto:jessica.castilho@vumc.org)
  - Contact for applicants:
    - Hilary Vansell [hilary.vansell@vumc.org](mailto:hilary.vansell@vumc.org)
- **Central Africa**
  - Location of programs contributing data: Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo (RoC), Rwanda
  - Data Center Location: Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York US; City University of New York, New York US
  - Contact for D43 PIs:
    - Marcel Yotebieng [myotebieng@gmail.com](mailto:myotebieng@gmail.com)
  - Contact for applicants:
    - Adebola Adedimeji [adebola.adedimeji@gmail.com](mailto:adebola.adedimeji@gmail.com)
- **East Africa**
  - Location of programs contributing data: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda
  - Data Center Location: Indiana University, Indianapolis, US
  - Contact for D43 PIs:
    - Kara Wools-Kaloustian [kwools@iu.edu](mailto:kwools@iu.edu)
  - Contact for Applicants:
    - Kara Wools-Kaloustian [kwools@iu.edu](mailto:kwools@iu.edu)
    - Aggrey Semeere [asemeere@idi.co.ug](mailto:asemeere@idi.co.ug)
- **Southern Africa**
  - Location of programs contributing data: Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe
  - Data Center Location: University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa; University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland
  - Contact for D43 PIs:
    - Mary-Ann Davies [mary-ann.davies@uct.ac.za](mailto:mary-ann.davies@uct.ac.za)
  - Contact for applicants:
    - Renee de Waal [renee.dewaal@uct.ac.za](mailto:renee.dewaal@uct.ac.za)
- **West Africa**
  - Location of programs contributing data: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo
  - Data Center Location: University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France
  - Contact for D43 PIs:
    - Ighovwerha Ofotokun [iofotok@emory.edu](mailto:iofotok@emory.edu)
  - Contact for applicants:
    - Didier Ekouevi [didier.ekouevi@gmail.com](mailto:didier.ekouevi@gmail.com)

**Applicant Qualifications:**

- Minimum of a Masters degree in public health, epidemiology, biostatistics, or a related biomedical or computational field
- Prior experience in the area of HIV
- A current or former D43 trainee in a country in the leDEA geographic regions or an leDEA-affiliated regional investigator
  - Current and former trainees in FIC D43s will be prioritized
- A basic understanding of and skills in epidemiology, data management and analysis
- Citizen of a low- or middle-income country

**Application Requirements:**

- Concept Sheet (standardized template)
- Curriculum Vitae or US NIH standard biosketch with personal statement narratives
- Mentor assessment of skills – If you are a D43 Trainee or former Trainee, a mentor from your D43 program should complete this form. If you are an leDEA-affiliated investigator, this form can be completed by the designated site or RDC investigator
- A letter of support from the mentee's institution/program committing to salary/stipend support and to a release from training or work for mentoring sessions and project development time (virtual +/- in-person), as well as for a one-week scientific meeting during the mentoring period (virtual or in-person)
- Either 1-3 PDFs of accepted abstracts, presented posters, and accepted or published manuscripts from the past five years, OR a personal statement including a discussion of the candidate's career goals (1-page limit)

**Applicant Review Process:**

The RDCs will independently review applications. Finalists will be interviewed by members of the RDC via telephone or videoconference. Mentors of finalists will be contacted by the RDC to discuss integration of the FIMP training with ongoing training and mentoring.

**Timelines:**

Monday, July 10 – Applications Open

<https://redcap.vanderbilt.edu/surveys/?s=DFHP8A8XXN3RNLFY>

Week of July 31 – Orientation Webinars

- Tuesday, August 1, 9 pm ET
- Thursday, August 3, 9 am ET
- Friday, August 4, 9 am ET
- Zoom link (same link, ID, and passcode for all webinars):
  - <https://jh.zoom.us/j/91712520430?pwd=eVhXUIBKdmsrOUY1S01JNXdwUWoydz09>
  - Meeting ID: 917 1252 0430
  - Passcode: 164143
  - Join by phone (available numbers here): <https://jh.zoom.us/j/91712520430>

Monday, October 23 – Applications due

Friday, December 8 – Announcement of the next class

January 2024 – Beginning of the program

**Links:**

leDEA Website: <https://www.iedea.org>

Application: <https://redcap.vanderbilt.edu/surveys/?s=DFHP8A8XXN3RNLFY>

leDEA Data Exchange Standard: [www.iedeades.org](http://www.iedeades.org)

Contacts:

- Fogarty International Center: Dr. Geetha Bansal [geetha.bansal@nih.gov](mailto:geetha.bansal@nih.gov)
- Overall Fogarty leDEA Program: Dr. Adebola Adedimeji [adebola.adedimeji@gmail.com](mailto:adebola.adedimeji@gmail.com)
- Technical Assistance with the Application: Hilary Vansell [hilary.vansell@vumc.org](mailto:hilary.vansell@vumc.org)

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

What is covered by the FIMP program?

- Access to regional leDEA data; housing, per diem and travel to participate in in-person mentoring activities at the RDCs, as appropriate; remote mentoring; data management and analytics support; housing, per diem and travel to one local or regional meeting, as appropriate.
- Salary is not supported by this program.

Who develops the research question for the concept required by the application?

- The initial research question should be developed by the applicant and their D43 mentor. In the case of an leDEA investigator, the question should be developed by the applicant and the designated site or RDC investigator.

What data are available to address the question?

- The available data are outlined in the leDEA Data Exchange Standard (see website link above). As data are pulled from clinical programs, some data elements have a significant quantity of missing values. Regions may have enhanced datasets with additional data beyond that described in the leDEA Data Exchange Standard. Please contact the leDEA region to which you are applying for additional information about their available data.

Who supervises the mentee?

- Current D43 mentees will continue to be primarily supported by their D43 mentor. The leDEA RDC will provide supervision related to the leDEA-related analyses. D43 and leDEA mentors will work closely together.
- Supervision of past D43 mentees and mentorship of leDEA-affiliated investigators will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Does my project need IRB approval?

- Each leDEA region has IRB approval from all participating programs and institutions to conduct retrospective analyses on their data. A separate IRB approval will not be required for your project unless you are collecting prospective data that are not already being collected by the region.
- Data transfer agreements may be required by the leDEA regions.

Can I have access to the data collection forms?

- leDEA regions house routinely collected data in their databases as such each clinic/program utilizes different forms to collect their data so it is not possible to provide the candidates with all of the data collection forms utilized. The leDEA Data Exchange Standard Document provides information on the variables collected within the leDEA regions and is the best source for information for concept development.

