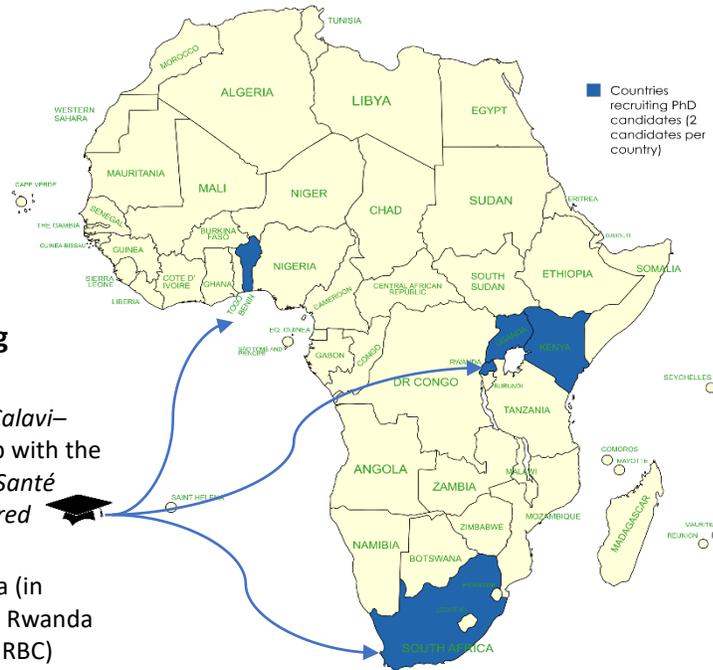


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Call for PhD Scholarship Applications**

**“Scaling Up Research in SSA Countries in Infectious Diseases: African-European Training Network in Integrated Health Informatics and Data Sciences – BRIDGE**



**PhD Degree awarding Universities:**

- *Université Abomey Calavi– Benin* (in partnership with the *Institut Régional de Santé Publique Comlan Alfred Quenum*)
- University of Rwanda (in partnership with the Rwanda Biomedical Center – RBC)
- University of Cape Town

**NETWORK Project”**

<b>Background</b>	<p><b>About the BRIDGE NETWORK Project</b></p> <p>Project details: <a href="https://doi.org/10.3030/101145734">https://doi.org/10.3030/101145734</a></p> <p>BRIDGE NETWORK is a consortium of 12 leading African and European institutions aiming to train the next generation of experts in integrated health informatics and data sciences applied to infectious diseases. Jointly funded by the European Union and the Global Health EDCTP3, the program is coordinated by Ghent University and aims to establish five Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Benin, and South Africa. These CoEs will serve as data hubs for cutting-edge research, world-class training in health data harmonization and analytics, and innovative solutions to tackle infectious diseases that continue to claim millions of lives across the African continent.</p> <p>The BRIDGE NETWORK Training Project will provide:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships training to 14 experts who will lead innovative research in data sciences bridged to health informatics and applied to infectious diseases.</li> <li>• Postgraduate Certifications awarding at least 20 certifications per participating country through a mix of online learning and practical field mentorship, and world-class collaboration by partnering with renowned worldwide institutions.</li> </ul>
<b>Application fields</b>	<b>Title:</b> Doctoral Scholarship in Integrated Data Sciences and Health Informatics (Research PhD) (Major: Infectious Diseases)
<b>Language of application</b>	All applications MUST be submitted in English.
<b>Degree awarding institutions:</b>	Applicants needs to choose up-front the University where they wish to get their PhD from, between the following degree awarding universities participating (or partnering with consortium members) in the BRIDGE NETWORK: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- University of Rwanda (in partnership with Rwanda Biomedical Center – RBC)</li> <li>- University of Cape Town (UCT) –South Africa</li> <li>- Université Abomey Calavi –Benin (in partnership with the Institut Régional de Santé Publique Comlan Alfred Quenum)</li> </ul>
<b>Target group:</b>	Graduates and postgraduates from Sub-Saharan Africa with a Master’s degree who want to pursue studies in a new innovative PhD program combining data science techniques and health informatics applied to the infectious diseases, and motivated to work and drive innovation and resilience in the region’s health systems in their home country and in sub-Saharan Africa in general.
<b>Number of scholarships:</b>	10 Doctorate candidates in total from 5 countries distributed as follows: 2 from Benin, 2 from Kenya, 2 from Rwanda, 2 from South-Africa, and 2 from Uganda.
<b>Eligibility criteria</b>	<p>To be eligible, applicants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Must never have been enrolled in another PhD program at the date of their recruitment</li> <li>2. Should be resident in one of the participating countries (Benin, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, or South Africa) at the moment of Application.</li> <li>3. Should commit to stay and work in the recruiting country during the project period, however training rotations or internships are allowed in BRIDGE NETWORK Countries.</li> <li>4. Must have a Master Degree in Data Sciences, Information Technology, or Health Sciences.</li> <li>5. Must fulfill the requirements of admission in the chosen PhD awarding university (either the University of Rwanda -UR, Abomey Calavi -Benin, or UCT-South Africa)</li> <li>6. Be not older than 45 years.</li> </ol> <p>Note: Women are highly encouraged to apply. In case of equal application file score, preference will be given to women.</p>

The application process contains two steps

- **First step:**

- Applicants must apply at the participating country to the BRIDGE NETWORK partners, namely:
  1. From Benin to Institut Régional de Santé Publique -IRSP, Benin (Contact: Prof Professeur Luc DJOGBENOU, PhD -Director General. E-mail: [ldjogbenou22002@yahoo.fr](mailto:ldjogbenou22002@yahoo.fr) & [irsp@irsp-ouidah.org](mailto:irsp@irsp-ouidah.org))
  2. From Kenya to Agha Khan University -Center for Child, Women and Reproductive Health (Contact: Prof Dr Marleen Temmerman, MD, PhD - Director. E-mail: [marleen.temmerman@aku.edu](mailto:marleen.temmerman@aku.edu))
  3. From Rwanda to Rwanda Biomedical Center -RBC (Contact: Prof Dr Claude Muvunyi Mambo, MD, PhD -Director General. E-mail: [claudio.muvunyi@rbc.gov.rw](mailto:claudio.muvunyi@rbc.gov.rw) )
  4. From South Africa to university of Cape Town -UCT (Contact: Prof Andrew Boulle, PhD. E-mail: [andrew.boulle@uct.ac.za](mailto:andrew.boulle@uct.ac.za))
  5. From Uganda to Uganda National Institute of Public Health (UNIPH), Ministry of Health. (Contact: Dr. Alex Riolexus, MD, PhD -Director. E-mail: [riolexus@uniph.go.ug](mailto:riolexus@uniph.go.ug))

- **Documents to provide while applying for this first step:**

- Motivation letter to the BRIDGE NETWORK Coordinator, specifying
  - The university chosen for awarding the PhD -Please read the degree awarding university regulations and PhD admission requirements upfront (mandatory)
  - The area of interest for your PhD research, ideally a high level topic title (with 10 lines maximum concept idea) in the area of infectious disease where you leverage combined health informatics skills and data sciences techniques (asset).
- Copies of academic degrees (from the baccalaureate)
- Certified copies of academic transcripts (from the baccalaureate). Please supply the official explanation of the grading system if used.
- Three letters of recommendation (from at least Associate Professors) from the institutions attended by the applicant
- Certified copy of the birth certificate
- Curriculum vitae including when applicable, a list of scientific publications and justify any trajectory gap in CV if any.

Application Deadline for the First step: **10<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

- **Second step:**

- BRIDGE NETWORK reserves the right of final pre-selection. Only the pre-selected candidates are asked to register themselves to the chosen university (with supporting letter from BRIDGE NETWORK).
- University Admission Application Deadline: 15th February 2025.

**Duration and  
Commencement**

PhD programme is generally up to three years (with possible 6 months extension, maximum and exceptionally twice) and is usually starting as soon as the admission is guaranteed.

**Contact**

**Prof Dr Claude Muvunyi Mambo, MD, PhD**

Rwanda Biomedical Center -RBC

Director General

BRIDGE NETWORK Project -Scientific Lead (Work Package -WP1, Lead)

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