PhD Fellowships and Postdoctoral Positions Available to Study Malaria at Mahidol University

The joint Mahidol University (MU)-Penn State University (PSU) training program on malaria research is soliciting applications of motivated students, PhD scholars and junior faculty members who aim to develop a successful career in tropical diseases, to apply to the 6 PhD fellowships and 2 postdoctoral positions listed below. This research and training program, funded by the Fogarty International Center at the National Institutes of Health, USA, aims to provide both long- and short-term training to scientists from malaria endemic regions of Thailand and Myanmar, to help junior researchers establish and develop careers as malaria researchers. This training program focuses on malaria, especially vivax malaria.

Training mechanisms: PhD students and postdoctoral fellows will be hosted at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine at Mahidol University (www.tm.mahidol.ac.th). During the training period, trainees will also travel to the US Institution to attend short-term training courses in technologies, scientific meetings and workshops. Trainees can select various aspects of malaria research as their focus, including epidemiology and ecology, spatial and temporal dynamics, molecular methods of disease diagnostics, drug resistance surveillance and mechanisms, transmission blocking vaccines (TMB vaccines). Trainees will receive advanced training in spatial genetics, modeling and omics technologies such as genomics, proteomics, and metabolomics. Trainees will be guided by committees made of distinguished scholars from Thailand, US, and Myanmar. To boost the career development of the trainees, trainees will also have access to various training workshops in the following themes: statistics, modeling and spatial genetics, disease diagnostics, molecular and sero-epidemiology, drug resistance – assays and mechanisms, scientific presentations, manuscript and grant writing skills, bioethics, etc.

PhD fellowships: A total of 6 fellowships are available. PhD students will register and receive a PhD degree through Mahidol University. The program will cover student’s tuition fees, stipend, health insurance, traveling expenses to study sites, to attend international meetings and workshops, and to receive advanced training in the US.

Training period: <5 years.
Eligibility: Students who have received their Bachelor’s degree or Master’s degree in biological and medical sciences.

Application package should include:
Cover letter describing career goal and interests;
CV;
Transcripts of undergraduate and/MS studies
2-3 letters of recommendation

Postdoctoral Fellows: 2 fellowships are immediately available and two will be in 2016-2017. All
Postdoctoral fellows will be hosted at endemic area universities, allowing them to develop the skills necessary to become successful researchers in the region. Postdoctoral scholars will receive a fellowship (salary and medical insurance). The program will cover traveling expenses to study sites, to attend international meetings and workshops, and to receive advanced training in the US.

**Application package should include:**
- Cover letter describing career goal and interests;
- CV;
- 2-3 letters of recommendation

Training period: 2-3 years. Eligibility: PhD degrees in biological and medical sciences.

In addition, this program also aims to train junior faculty members at regional Universities of Thailand and Myanmar in their career development.

**Junior faculty members** will encouraged to apply for a seed grant ($10,000-20,000 in total) to initiate or boost their research career on malaria. The junior members will be mentored. One grant will be offered per year.

Training period: 2 years. Eligibility: Junior faculty members from any universities of Thailand and Myanmar (who have not been promoted to associate professor level), who aim to develop a research career on vivax malaria.

**Application package should include:**
- Cover letter describing how the seed fund is important to promote career development;
- CV;
- Short Research Project (Research Aim(s), Background and Significance, Experimental Designs, Budget)

Please send required documents to program directors listed below. For more information, please contact individual mentors or contact the program directors.

**Mentor team:**
- Ottar Bjørnstad (statistics, spatial modeling, PSU)
- Thanat Chookajorn (drug resistance, molecular biology, MU)
- Liwang Cui (drug resistance, epidemiology and molecular parasitology, PSU)
- Channe Gowda (pathogenesis and molecular parasitology, PSU)
- Mallika Imwong (molecular mechanisms, drug resistance, MU)
- Jaranit Kaewkungwal (GIS, database management, epidemiology, MU)
- Myat Phone Kyaw (Drug resistance, epidemiology, Dept. of Med. Res., Lower Myanmar)
- Nay Soe Muang (Epidemiology, University of Public Health, Myanmar)
- Andrew Read (drug resistance, evolution, PSU)
- Jetsumon Prachumsri (epidemiology, parasite-vector interactions, TMB- vaccine, MU)
- Pratap Singhasivanon (GIS, epidemiology, MU)
- Matthew Thomas (epidemiology, parasite-vector interactions, PSU)

Dr. Jetsumon (Sattabongkot) Prachumsri Deputy Dean for Research & Director of Mahidol Vivax Research Unit, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University Email: Jetsumon.pra@mahidol.edu

Dr. Liwang Cui Department of Entomology Penn State University Email: luc2@psu.edu