



INDEPTH Network

Better Health Information for Better Health Policy

Introducing a new concept for young scientists

INDEPTH Resident Research Fellows (IRRF) Competition 2014-2015

Introduction

One of INDEPTH's long standing commitments is the training of, and strengthening of research capacities of the next generation of (young) scientists from its member centers (in low-and-middle income countries) and thereby increasing scientific productivity of the respective members as well as that of the Network in general. While in our previous efforts we have endeavored to give special attention to young scientists¹, there is still the need to have more targeted efforts towards increasingly nurturing a generation of young scientists to ensure the sustainability of the member centers.

As part of our continuing efforts, we are pleased to announce a new concept geared towards improving the Network's scientific productivity as well as strengthen the capacity of INDEPTH member centers to publish their research; by providing an enabling environment for carefully selected INDEPTH young scientists to produce/complete a multi-center paper for publication. Indeed, young researchers at member centers have access to HDSS data offering enormous potential to launch their careers as independent investigators without requiring excessive grant funding. In addition, the growing data on INDEPTHStats and INDEPTH Data Repository offers unique opportunities (more than before) for tackling some of the key challenges in identifying novel multi-centre research questions, developing multi-centre research protocols and drafting compelling multi-centre manuscripts to major journals for publication.

The INDEPTH Resident Research Fellows (IRRF)

We are introducing a new concept tentatively known as the INDEPTH Resident Research Fellows (IRRF) Competition for Young Scientists. The main idea is to host at least one carefully selected INDEPTH young scientist every year at the INDEPTH Secretariat for an intensive research period of one month where they can devote time to work on and complete a multi-centre paper for which s/he is first author.

Each year we will award at least two Resident Research Fellowships to deserving young scientists, whose applications are endorsed by their respective centre leaders. These fellows are expected to spend a month each at the Secretariat in Accra to either:

¹ Young scientists as broadly defined (for INDEPTH capacity strengthening efforts) are researchers aged 35 or less currently preparing for, or recent graduates with either MSc. or PhD who have taken up a career with one of our member centers. The individuals must not have more than 5 years of post qualification experience in the field.

1. Complete a multi-centre paper (based on project data) for which s/he is first author; and/or;
2. Pursue the analysis and writing of a multi-centre paper based on data from the INDEPTH Data Repository (or INDEPTHStats).

Conditions and expectations for the IRRF

- It is clearly expected that the paper must be completed and submitted during the fellowship period (one month) or at least be READY for submission by the end of the residency.
- The young scientists MUST be the first author
- The co-author(s) must indicate willingness (and commitment) to support the applicant during the preparatory period as well as during residency period in Accra.
- A concept must be submitted which shows the datasets to be used and whether access to the required datasets has been secured (or the list and structure of variables needed if assistance is required to secure additional data from other member centers).
- The young scientist and lead author must identify senior mentor(s) as co-author(s) either from home institution or elsewhere who will support him/her during the entire process. The senior mentor or co-author(s) must be who are fairly accessible to him/her.
- It is not necessary for the mentor(s)/co-author(s) to travel.

The Fellowship

The INDEPTH Resident Research Fellowships will cover

- Return economy class travel (air ticket) to and from home center/country
- In-country travel (where necessary)
- Visa application (**not procurement of passports**)
- **Travel insurance must be covered by home institution**
- Hotel accommodation
- Living allowance of \$2,000 for the month

Applications and selection process:

We plan to support the first fellows' visit between **May to July 2015**.

- The Secretariat will receive applications for 2014 up to 25 November. All applications will be peer-reviewed by a committee of the SAC and the award announced.
- The application must be on the INDEPTH templates in **Microsoft Word**, and must be completed in Calibri font, size 11, and should be single-spaced. Incomplete applications and/or applications that do not meet formatting requirements will not be reviewed. (For template check: http://www.indepth-network.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=180)
- Eligible project must involves analysis of data from at least three HDSSs
- Policy oriented research paper are also encouraged

Applications should consist of the following:

- Applicant's recent cv

- Qualification and current position as well as years/length of service at respective HDSS
- Support letter from center leader (and eventually commitment from mentor(s)/co-author(s))
- Letter of motivation along with the proposed research to be undertaken
- The project concept should specify the data sources, and centers covered, tentative dates and timelines/timetable showing the residency period will be spent, potential collaborators and possible in-country travel (where needed) and justification

Complete applications should be forwarded to: beatrice.yeboah@indepth-network.org with copy to felicia.manu@indepthnetwork.org

Proposed activities and timelines:

It should be noted that the residency period (one month) is expected to be an intensive uninterrupted analysis and writing phase, including regular contact with the mentor(s)/co-author(s) as necessary. Hence it is expected to be the peak preceded by a preparatory phase including but not limited to the conceptualization of the paper, planning stage, preliminary work on data management/cleaning and analysis.

First Selection and residency

<i>Proposed activity</i>	<i>Timelines/deadlines</i>
Deadline for submission for the first residency in 2015	Nov 25, 2014
Review selection and announcement of fellow(s)	Dec 1-20, 2014
Pre-residency preparation (including identification and confirming mentor(s), development of concept, securing the necessary dataset as well as data preparation	Jan-May 2015
Proposed first residency period	June-July 2015
Post-residency activities (submission to journal, review and responding to reviewers' comments)	August-Sept 2015

Second Selection and residency

<i>Proposed activity</i>	<i>Timelines/deadlines</i>
Deadline for submission for the second residency in 2015	April 25, 2015
Review selection and announcement of fellow(s)	May 2015
Pre-residency preparation (including identification and confirming mentor(s), development of concept, securing the necessary dataset as well as data preparation	June-Oct 2015
Proposed first residency period	Nov-Dec 2015
Post-residency activities (submission to journal, review and responding to reviewers' comments)	Jan-Mar 2016