DS-I Africa Project Spotlight:

Advancing discovery for developmental disorders – expanded analysis of the DDD-Africa

Are you aware of the innovative ways DS-I Africa utiizes data science (DS) to advance the discovery of developmental disorders? This month's newsflash highlights an exciting DS-I Africa initiative applying data science on clinical information, genetic data, and DNA resources to investigate developmental disorders.

Developmental disorders (DD) represent a spectrum of often severe disabilities that are present from birth or early childhood. The Deciphering Developmental Disorders in Africa study (DDD-Africa) was started to describe and define the causes of DD in Africa, and this resource holds the potential for much more discovery, using data science- and omics techniques.

The overall goal of the DDD-Africa Project is to advance our knowledge, we propose to use the clinical information, genetic data, and DNA resources from the DDD-Africa study to increase diagnostic yield and make new discoveries about the causes of DD in African patients.

The DDD-Africa Project led by Prof. Zane Lombard seeks to ensure that the findings will lead to population-relevant and scalable solutions for Africa, fast-tracking genomics efforts for global health.benefit other ethnicities regarding disease etiology and potential therapeutic strategies.

More details about DDD-Africa Project: View Project Page

Upcoming DS-I Africa Events

*new Data Science for Health in Africa Virtual Networking Exchange

Are you interested in knowing more about the DS-I Africa projects? Join the much-anticipated DS-I Africa Networking Exchange set to take place on July 31st @ 2pm CAT

Event highlights include:

1. A showcase of cutting-edge research done by DS-I Africa projects

2. Interact with presenters, meet with potential partners and collaborate with DS-I Africa projects

Registration: https://redcap.h3abionet.org/redcap/surveys/?s=LXMPR4X4FXFAK8W9

Venue: Virtual

Date: July 31st 2024

Time: 2pm CAT -5pm CAT

For more information: https://dsi-africa.org/dsi-5th-virtual-networking-exchange

*new Webinar: Engaging policymakers in health research

Are you passionate about using health research to make a real difference? Do you ever wonder how to turn that research into tangible policy change?

If so, you don't want to miss this exciting webinar: **Engaging Policymakers in Health Research**, organized by the DS-I Africa Partnerships and Outreach Working Group.

This webinar is open to the public or anyone interested.

In this webinar, you'll:

- Discover effective strategies for communicating research findings to policymakers
- Learn from experts with experience in bridging the research-policy gap.
- Gain valuable insights on how to advocate for evidence-based health policies.
- Connect with like-minded professionals and share your experiences.

Whether you're a researcher, healthcare worker, advocate, or someone who cares about improving health outcomes, this webinar is for you!

Date: Monday, August 19 @ 3 pm CAT

Registration: https://redcap.h3abionet.org/redcap/surveys/?s=WY3TWRHDD7X7EN8R

More details: https://dsi-africa.org/engaging-policy-makers-in-health-research-ii

*updated DS-I Africa Activity Calendar

You can now access the DS-I Africa Consortium Activity Calendar here. In this calendar, you will find major cross-consortium activities.

*updated eLwazi-ODSP Data Jamboree

Date: 26-30 August 2024

*updated 4th DS-I Africa Consortium Meeting

Registration for the 4th DS-I Africa Consortium Meeting is open and interested members can register.

Meeting Overview (subject to change):

Saturday - Sunday	16th - 17th November	Data-thon/ Pre-Meeting Workshops
Monday	18th November	Pre- Meeting Workshops/ Working Groups
Tuesday	19th November	Working Groups / Opening
Wednesday	20th November	Plenary Sessions/ Working Groups
Thursday	21 November	Plenary Sessions/Closing/Departure
Friday	22 November	Closed Ad hoc Project Meetings - Pre-Arranged

More details: here

*updated DS-I Africa Working Group Sign-up

The DS-I Africa consortium currently has four working groups: (1) Training Working Group, (2) Data Governance Working Group, (3). Data Management Working Group, and (4)Partnerships and Outreach Working Group.
Kindly note that except for the Partnerships and Outreach Working, all other working groups are for consortium members only.

Sign up here to join the working groups and other mailing lists.

*new DS-I Africa Webinar/Meeting Recordings

4th virtual networking exchange
Engaging policy makers in health research
3rd DS-I Africa Consortium Meeting
Experiences with partnerships from IBM Research and DS-I Africa
FAIR Principles: How to make them work for you
Persistent Identifiers
NIH Data sharing policy

Funding Opportunities
*new Dissemination and Implementation Science for Cancer Prevention and Control in Low Resource Environments

NCI encourages applications that pursue innovative approaches to identifying, understanding, and developing strategies for overcoming barriers to the adoption, adaptation, integration, scale-up, and sustainability of evidence-based interventions, tools, policies, and guidelines in low-resource settings. The research projects on which these applications will be based should be focused on dissemination and implementation research for the primary and secondary prevention of cancer in LMICs and/or in populations facing conditions of vulnerability in HICs.

Deadline: October 5, 2024
More details: View article...

*updated Funding Opportunity to support the development of Point-of-Care Technologies in Nutrition, Infection, and Cancer for Global Health

Through this opportunity, PORTENT will provide funding to teams developing point of care diagnostic technologies based on our criteria (described in section 1.3) and those who need support for clinical validation, commercialization or regulatory expertise, manufacturing, training, or technology development skills to bring their product to market. Specifically, we aim to accelerate technologies that

- Are beyond the proof-of-concept stage and would benefit from clinical validation.
- Have been validated or even commercialized domestically but want to expand reach and have impact internationally.
- Have been developed/incubated by our international partners and show promise at addressing a market need locally or in the US.

More details: View article...

*updated Development of Innovative Informatics Methods and Algorithms for Cancer Research and Management (R21 Clinical Trial Optional)

Funding Opportunity RFA-CA-24-016 from the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts. The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to invite exploratory/developmental research grant applications (R21) for innovative informatics methods and algorithms to improve the acquisition, analysis, visualization, or interpretation of data across the cancer research continuum including cancer biology, cancer treatment and diagnosis, early cancer detection, risk assessment and prevention, cancer control and epidemiology, and/or cancer health disparities. As a component of the NCI's Informatics Technology for Cancer Research (ITCR) Program, the emphasis of this FOA is on supporting the development of novel informatics capabilities that involve a high degree of innovation that have the potential to accelerate or enhance research. To be successful, there must be a clear rationale for how the proposed informatics method or algorithm is novel and how it will benefit the cancer research field. Projects proposing the application of existing methods or algorithms where the novelty resides in the biological or clinical question being pursued are not responsive to this solicitation and will not be reviewed.

Expiration Date: November 16, 2024
More details: View article...

*updated Upcoming Deadlines for Fogarty Funding Opportunities

- Upcoming deadlines for all Fogarty funding opportunities

*updated Upcoming deadlines for funding opportunities in which Fogarty is a funding partner

- See all Fogarty funding collaborations

*updated Wellcome Trust Funding Opportunities

More funding calls here

Job/Fellowship Opportunities

Training/Workshops

*new Data Science for Africa: Short course 3 in health data science methods

The application for the 3rd health data science methods course, Deep Learning is now open. Please find the link in the attached advert.

Course	Course Dates	Application Due Date
Deep Learning and Database Systems	17th – 21st June 2024 (virtual) 24th -28th June 2024 (in-person, South Africa)	Friday, 17th May 2024 (17h00 SAST)
Climate Change, Food Systems, and Planetary Health	22nd July – 26th July 2024 (virtual) 29th July – 2nd August 2024 (in-person, South Africa)	Friday, 14th June 2024 (17h00 SAST)
Health Systems Strengthening	19th August – 23rd August 2024 (virtual) 26th – 30th August 2024 (in-person, South Africa)	Friday, 12th July 2024 (17h00 SAST)

Registration information: here
For further information and questions, please e-mail Mr Themba Manqele at the Centre for Rural Health (Manqelet@ukzn.ac.za).

*new DS-I Africa site for UW Project Management in Global Health

The DS-I Africa Coordinating Center announce that the DS-I Africa and H3Africa have been selected to host a classroom for the **online course**, **UW Policy Development and Advocacy for Global Health** presented by the Department of Global Health eLearning Program at the University of Washington.

Start date: The course starts on 30 September 2024 and ends on 8 December 2024.
IMPORTANT! Enrolment is voluntary. Our site can accommodate a max. of 50 participants so provided University of Washington's outlined course eligibility criteria are met, we will accept participants on a first-come and first-to-pay basis. The application closing date is 5 August 2024 Pacific Time no late applications accepted
Course fee
Only USD 20 per person. Payment is due 23 August 2024.
The site cost is USD 1750 for a max. 50 participants. Fees are subsidised by DS-I Africa/H3Africa Coordinating Centres and participant fees will be used to cover certificate courier costs. This fee is minimal - should you choose to enroll as an independent participant (not associated with a site) this course fee will start at USD 200.

Registration: https://redcap.h3abionet.org/redcap/surveys/?s=PA94MKJ34HDMN4RK

*updated Grant Writing Workshops for Researchers in West Africa

NIAID and the Government of Ghana are collaborating to convene a series of grant writing workshops for researchers in West Africa. The workshops aim to teach West African investigators best practices for writing and submitting grant proposals to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Phase I of the workshop will consist of three virtual training sessions in May 2024 which are open to everyone. Individuals who have attended Phase I are then eligible to apply to participate in Phase II and III, which include additional virtual trainings (Phase II) and a four-day, in-person workshop in Accra, Ghana in August 2024 (Phase III).

Registration: https://redcap.h3abionet.org/redcap/surveys/?s=RJXAE4PKTAN8TRCM

*updated Machine learning & AI Webinars

find out here

Interesting to read
NIAID/NIH Releases 2024 Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Research
More details: View article...

Grants Resources

Sample grant applications

- Sample exemplary grants https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/sample-applications
- Sample plans and forms https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/sample-applications#more
- Sample ELSI grants: https://www.genome.gov/27565190/elsi-sample-applications-and-summary-statements/

Web-based resources and tutorials:

- H3Africa web page: NIH Resources for Applicants and Grantees: https://h3africa.org/index.php/resource/funding/nih-funding-2/#1528183256311-ba3b0aa7-9874
- NIH All About Grants: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/about_grants.htm
- Information For Foreign Grants: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/foreign/index.htm
- NIH Grant Writing 101 (01/13 videocast): https://videocast.nih.gov/Summary.asp?File=17759&bhcp=1
- NIH grant review videos https://public.csr.nih.gov/NewsAndPolicy/PeerReviewVideos
- Glossary of NIH terms https://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm
- NIH acronym list https://grants.nih.gov/grants/acronym_list.htm
- Toolkit: How to write a fundable research proposal: https://globalhealthtrials.tghn.org/toolkits/research-proposal-writing/

NIH Informational Listserves:

- NIH Extramural Nexus: http://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/subscribe/
- NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/listserv.htm
- Fogarty International Center Funding News for global health researchers: http://www.fic.nih.gov/News/Pages/subscribe.aspx

Want to know more about DS-I Africa?

Check out our website, YouTube and twitter page

Subscribe to our monthly newsflash here

Contact the coordinating center at ds-i-africa.admin@uct.ac.za