



Second round of grants to African scientists for research into neglected tropical diseases

Just under 1 million euros has recently been awarded to young African scientists in a second round of research fellowships under a unique initiative from European Foundations. The European Foundation Initiative for African Research into Neglected Tropical Diseases (EFINTD) is a partnership between 5 European Foundations: Volkswagen, Mérieux, Calouste Gulbenkian, Nuffield and Cariplo. EFINTD, now in its second year, is designed to strengthen African research capacity in Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), both in biomedicine and public health.

The competitive application process culminated in final selection during an International Conference in February 2010.

The conference, “Neglected Tropical Diseases: Hidden Successes, Emerging Opportunities”, took place at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon. With keynote speakers from international organizations and leading research institutions, training workshops and presentations from the first round Fellows, the conference offered a unique opportunity for junior and experienced researchers from North and South to exchange ideas and information. Applicants for the Fellowships presented their proposals during the plenary sessions and were then interviewed by an international scientific committee.

The Foundation representatives agreed to award a total amount of 851.000 Euros to the following projects and African researchers:

- *“Scaling up early detection and treatment to reduce buruli ulcer morbidity in the Asante Akim North District of Ghana”* – Anthony Ablordey
- *“Ecology of transmission of the deadly Lassa Virus from rodents to man across various flashpoints within Nigeria”* – Ayodeji Olayemi
- *“Female genital schistosomiasis and HIV - 1 Infection in Lower Moshi, Kilimanjaro (Tanzania)”* – Elia John Mmbaga
- *“Development of genetic markers for early detection and monitoring of Ivermectin resistance in Onchocerca volvulus and its implication for onchocerciasis control”* – Mike Osei-Atweneboana
- *“Comparative study of Rotavirus infection between HIV positive and negative children less than 5 years with acute and severe diarrhea”* – Nilsa de Deus
- *“Implementation of Community Directed Intervention (CDI) for Schistosomes and Soil Transmitted Helminthes (STH) in an urban setting: Western Kenya”* – Pauline Mwinzi
- *“Vector competence and filariasis transmission in Malawi”* – Themba Mzilahowa

According to the fellows, this initiative “is a beautiful initiative which will have a really significant impact on combating NTDs – with young brilliant African scientists in the frontlines”.

For more information on the initiative and the next call for proposals please visit <http://www.ntd-africa.net>



**European Foundation
Initiative for African
Research into
Neglected Tropical Diseases**