

**The Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AES) in collaboration with Ifakara Health Institute and Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé will hold a three-day (Oct 12 - 14) proposal development 'BootCamp' workshop in Ouagadougou.,Burkina Faso**

**GOAL:** The proposal development BootCamp aims to offer early-career African innovators and scientists an opportunity to receive intensive coaching on how to develop successful grant proposals.

**EXPECTED IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES:**

1. Completed grant proposals that can be submitted for review by respective funding bodies
2. A cohort of innovators and researchers with practical skills for effectively packaging their innovative ideas to seek funding and partnerships
3. A network of leading early-career innovators and researchers driven by peer-to-peer support structure Across Africa

**ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS**

1. Should be African innovators interested in addressing priority health needs of the continent.
2. May have a background in any field, but it is important that they are focused on addressing priority health challenges in African communities.
3. Should have already identified a specific subject of interest or a specific innovation to pursue.
4. Should be early-career researchers currently working within African organizations including universities, research institutions, industry, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in general including privately owned start-ups.
5. Should have a well drafted grant proposal already created, in advance ahead of the boot camp session. The Boot Camp sessions will not be used for idea generation, but rather to coach participants on how to package their proposals.

**TO APPLY:**

Send an email to [bootcamps@ihi.or.tz](mailto:bootcamps@ihi.or.tz) with the subject "Bootcamp - Oct 2017-Ouagadougou" with one page descriptions of your proposed idea, including

1. Brief description of the problem, in one paragraph
2. Brief description of the proposed solution, in one paragraph
3. Brief description of work already completed (if any), in one paragraph
4. Brief description of the scale-up strategy or next steps (if any), in one paragraph, and
5. Brief description of proposed or available partnerships (if any), in one paragraph

The submissions should be in English, but for non-English speakers, they can submit both a translated English version and their original version in their language, say French or Portuguese.

**DEADLINE:** The deadline for application is June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 16:00 EAT. Selected participants will be notified via email by Aug 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017

**IN ADDITION:**

1. Provide a cover letter for your application – indicate if you will or will not need financial support
2. Recommendation letters from trusted referees, in support of the applicants will be required to verify credentials, focus area, interests and institutional affiliation
3. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit abstracts of their works to the PAMCA conference which will take place right after the BootCamp (Oct 16-18) – more details can be found at <http://events.pamca.org/>

4. Non disclosure agreements will be made between all participants, organizers and facilitators to protect individual person's intellectual property rights – this will be signed during the Bootcamp.

#### **IF SELECTED:**

Additional information regarding the grant development Bootcamp will be sent to selected participants.

#### **BRIEF BACKGROUND**

The Boot Camp is an intensive grant development phase normally lasting three days during which participants and facilitators iterate through the following steps:

- 1) Intermittent brief presentations not lasting half an hour at a time on specific sections of grant proposals, say “How to write your problem statement”, “How to write your objectives”, “how to write the methods section”, “how to state your milestones”, “how to write the institutional capability statements” etc. The Facilitation are normally based on templates from various funding institutions
- 2) Actual writing by the participants takes at least two hours at a time, during which the facilitators and peers rotate around the room to provide direct one-to-one guidance on the process, focusing primarily on clarity and boldness,
- 3) Content expert discussions: arrangements are done to have content experts in the room or via web-link or Skype where possible to allow critical discussions on issues with the innovators on how to improve their ideas. The content experts' roles will however be limited to suggestions rather than decisions, and instead the innovators will be expected to make their own decisions after discussions with both the experts and lay audience,
- 4) Brief presentations by individual participants on their progress at each stage. These should last not more than 3 minutes, with 2 minutes discussions, and will be done twice a day,
- 5) Experience sharing: Previous grantees will share their experience in the writing and submission process either orally or via video. Facilitators from major funding bodies will provide input to maximize chances of success.
- 6) Mock reviews will be done by expert reviewers in the room to improve proposals.