

COMMUNITY HEALTH RESEARCH AND PRACTICE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

This fellowship is being launched under the umbrella of the existing Academy of Family Physicians of India's (AFPI) Primary Health Care Fellowship programme.

The Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra, BR Hills (VGKK) and Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru (IPH Bengaluru) will adapt this programme to provide the fellow with knowledge, skills and practice to undertake community health research and practice in a tribal population setting in southern Karnataka.

FELLOWSHIP INVOLVES

COMMUNITY HEALTH PRACTICE

- Primary health and clinical care mentoring and supervision provided by AFPI Primary Health Care Fellowship mentors and community health specialist at VGKK
- Access to seminars, webinars, workshops in clinical care and updates, and clinical research through the AFPI network
- Mentorship in building practice

RESEARCH

- Opportunity to enrol into pre-doctoral or a part-time doctoral programme at IPH Bengaluru with supportive supervision by programme supervisor
- Opportunity to participate in interdisciplinary research project(s) at VGKK and IPH Bengaluru particularly implementation research and participatory action research
- Research mentoring early-career doctors in research on strengthening primary health care and social determinants of health (from established research mentors at IPH)
- Access to academic programmes, seminars and exposure to health policy and systems research at IPH including regular webinars, eLearning courses, various workshops and seminars/conferences if identified

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

- Learn about tribal health in India with a focus on Karnataka through the VGKK community health programme and engaging with local tribal communities
- Possible thematic areas for community health research and action include Haemoglobinopathies, mental health in primary health care, emerging infectious diseases (including zoonoses), community medicine and malnutrition
- Leadership and management skills through health centre and research management and supportive supervision.

MENTORS

- **Primary health care mentors:** Dr Ramakrishna Prasad, MD MPH, Dr Dwijavanthi Kumar, MD MPH, Dr Eric Wilson, MD MA, Dr Akshay S Dinesh, MBBS, FHM, Dr Swathi SB, MBBS, FHM. Dr BC Rao as senior advisor: the core leadership of the AFPI primary health care team.
- **Community health mentor and field supervisor:** Dr Tanya Seshadri, MD Community Medicine, Tribal Health Resource Centre, VGKK
- **Research supervisor:** Dr Prashanth N S, MBBS MPH PhD, Faculty and DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance Fellow, IPH Bengaluru

SELECTION CRITERIA

- CV focusing on your educational qualifications, experience in community health and/or research
- Motivation letter not exceeding 400 words on why you would like to apply for this fellowship focusing on your motivation to apply
- An online interview with a panel representing mentors from the partner organisations

REMUNERATION

50,000 rupees per month fellowship supported by VGKK. Any research or travel related expenses will be covered separately under appropriate project by VGKK and/or IPH Bengaluru

DURATION

Fellowship duration is one year (can register for a pre-doctoral programme at IPH within this year if interested). Please note if the candidate successfully registers for a PhD during the fellowship through IPH at a University partner then the fellowship tenure will be extended to a total of four years as a part-time PhD fellowship

WHO IS THIS FOR?

- A medical doctor (with or without specialist training) starting her/his public health career
- Those interested in tribal health and interested in working/studying various aspects of their health
- Those interested in a doctoral programme on tribal health and/or health inequities

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

MBBS plus MPH/MD Community Medicine/with 2 years of community health or research experience preferably

SITE FOR FELLOWSHIP

Fellow will be based at the VGKK campus (Vivekananda Tribal Health Centre and VGKK Tribal Health Resource Centre) in BR Hills, Chamarajanagar with monthly visits to IPH Bengaluru. The IPH Public Health Research Field Station in BR Hills will also support mentoring. The AFPI primary health care fellowship mentoring will be done through online interactions.

Partners

1. **Vivekananda Tribal Health Centre & Tribal Health Resource Centre, VGKK**, Chamarajanagar (www.vgkk.org)
2. **Health Equity Cluster at IPH Bengaluru** through its THETA project (Towards Health Equity and Transformative Action on tribal health project support by DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance) (<https://iphindia.org/health-equity> & <http://indiaalliance.org>)
3. **AFPI Primary health care fellowship programme team** AFPI along with its partner organisations Karuna Trust and Basic Health Services runs a one year fellowship program for primary health care practitioners in India. The core faculty of this team would facilitate clinical teaching learning sessions. (<http://www.afpionline.com>)

Application details

- Send in a copy of your CV along with a motivation letter not exceeding 400 words (*see details earlier*) in PDF format to thrc.vgkk@gmail.com and we will get in touch with you.
- Last date to send in applications is 25 June 2020
- After an initial screening for eligibility, online interviews will be scheduled between 26-30 June.
- Please note that the candidate selected will be expected to relocate to BR hills and start the fellowship by 1 Aug 2020. This can be negotiated for exceptional circumstances

For any further information or queries, please write in to thrc.vgkk@gmail.com.