

Proposal Development 'Bootcamp' Workshop for African Innovators Nairobi, Kenya, February 21-23, 2016

Introduction

The Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA) is a joint initiative of the African Academy of Sciences ([AAS](#)) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). This initiative is also established in partnership with three major funders, namely, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the Wellcome Trust and the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

AESA recently announced Grand Challenges Africa, a promising new effort to invest in local scientific capacity and shape the continent's R&D agenda. Initially, Grand Challenges Africa will focus on supporting the hundreds of existing Grand Challenges grantees funded by the BMGF, Grand Challenges Canada (GCC) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Ultimately, the programme will develop, launch and manage Africa-specific Grand Challenges targeted to the development challenges that may prevent African countries from reaching the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

To date the Grand Challenges partners have collectively made over 1,600 grants in 80 countries. AESA is interested in continuing to increase the quality of good applications that comes into its Grand Challenges pipeline of ideas.

Strategic and well-articulated grand challenges serve both to focus research efforts and to capture the imagination and engage the world's best researchers. Projects are selected based on public, transparent calls for proposals seeking the best ideas. Funders, investigators, and other stakeholders actively collaborate to accelerate progress and integrate advances to ensure these advances serve those most in need. Importantly, projects are selected not only for scientific excellence, but also for their likelihood to achieve the desired impact, and they are milestone driven and actively managed to that end. Lastly, investigators make global access commitments to ensure the fruits of their research are available to those most in need.

To this end, AESA is planning a proposal development 'Bootcamp' workshop in collaboration with the Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania.

Objectives and expected outcomes

The 3 day 'Bootcamp' is a unique opportunity for early-career African innovators and scientists 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.

Target Group:

1. Should be current or past Grand Challenges grantees (BMGF, GCC and USAID) from Africa.
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. Currently working within African organisations including universities, research institutions, industry, non-governmental organisations and the private sector in general including privately owned start-ups.
5. Should be ready to submit a well drafted grant proposal draft, 6 weeks in advance ahead of the boot camp session. **The Boot Camp sessions will not be used to generate ideas but rather to coach participants on how to package their proposals.**

Facilitators :

- Fredros Okumu – Ifakara Health Institute
- Samson Kiware – Ifakara Health Institute
- Sarah J Moore – Swiss Tropical School of Hygiene/ Ifakara Health Institute
- Alphonsus Neba – African Academy of Sciences
- Ken Simiyu – Grand Challenges Canada
- Bill and Melinda Gates Programme Officer
- Evelyn Gitau – African Academy of Sciences

Applications:

Applications are invited from interested scientists who may benefit from participation in this workshop. Please note applicants selected for the Bootcamp will also be sponsored

to attend the Grand Challenges Africa Community Meeting to be held from 24-26 February 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya.

To apply please follow the link to the AAS' [Ishango Grant Tracker](#).

Queries can be made directly to the African Academy of Sciences, Email: events@aasciences.ac.ke; Tel: +254 725 290 145.

The deadline for application is **7 January 2015 at 5pm East Africa Time**.