

Popular scientific project description for project funded by Ekhagastiftelsen

Popular scientific project description is to be submitted within 2 months of project grant.

Application number:	2019-72
Project title:	Herbal Preparations from African Medicinal Plants for Adjunctive Treatment of Cerebral Malaria
Receiver of grant (name, address):	University of Huddersfield United Kingdom
Contact / project manager:	Olumayokun Olajide
Project start (yyyy-mm-dd): *	2020-01-01
Project end (yyyy-mm-dd): *	2021-12-31
By Ekhagastiftelsen granted sum:	730 000 SEK

Project description: (max 150 words)

Cerebral malaria (CM) is a severe form of malaria, and is responsible for majority of deaths in African children. In spite of effective antimalarial treatments, CM survivors usually develop long-term neurological conditions caused by damage to brain cells by hemozoin pigment produced by the malaria parasite. In this project we will carry out surveys among traditional healers to identify herbal preparations used frequently in treating CM in some African communities. Selected herbal preparations will be investigated for preventive effects on blood-brain barrier leakage, brain inflammation and nerve cell damage caused by hemozoin, using laboratory-grown human brain cells. This research on utilising alternative medicine in the adjunctive treatment of CM will be valuable in future efficacy and safety clinical trials with the herbal preparations. Furthermore, pharmacological data from this research will be included in the African Pharmacopoeia, which is a reference material for Traditional African Medicine (TAM) practitioners.

* Dates for project start and end should be the dates for which the grant is received (Not dates for total project if longer than period for which grant is received)