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**External Publication of Job Posting**

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**Job Posting Title**

HEAD OF DIVISION, LABORATORY SYSTEMS – AFRICA CDC

**Start Date**

15.08.2017

**End Date**

15.09.2017

**Reference Code**

HDLCDC03

**Job Title**

HEAD OF DIVISION, LABORATORY SYSTEMS – AFRICA CDC

**Organization**

The African Union, established as a unique Pan African continental body, is charged with spearheading Africa's rapid integration and sustainable development by promoting unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among the peoples of Africa and African States as well as developing a new partnership worldwide. Its Headquarters is located in Addis Ababa, capital city of Ethiopia.

The Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) was officially launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on January 31, 2017. The Africa CDC is Africa's first continent-wide public health agency and envisions a safer, healthier, integrated and stronger Africa, where Member States are capable of effectively responding to outbreaks of infectious diseases and other public health threats. The agency mission is to strengthen Africa's public health institutions' capabilities to detect and respond quickly and effectively to disease outbreaks and other health burdens through an integrated network of continent-wide preparedness and response, surveillance, laboratory, and research programs.

Towards meeting its' mission, the Africa CDC will work with African Union member States, WHO, and partners in the five geographic sub-regions of Africa to strengthen their capacity in five strategic priority areas: (1) public health surveillance and disease intelligence; (2) public health emergency preparedness and response; (3) public health laboratory systems and networks; (4) public health information and technology systems; and (5) public health research and public health institutes.

In seeking to achieve this objective, the African Union intends to strengthen its capacity to deliver by, among others, the reinforcement of its organizational structure and expertise. The Commission of the African Union invites applicants who are national and citizens of Member States for a position of Head of Division, Laboratory Systems for the Africa CDC.

**Department**

POST:

Job title: Head, Laboratory Systems  
Grade: P5  
Department: Africa CDC  
Supervisor: Director of Africa CDC  
Duty Station: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Number of Positions: 1

### ***Project***

Job Purpose:

The Head, Laboratory Systems reports to the Director, Africa CDC and is responsible for leading and coordinating the agency public health laboratory systems and related networks, The Director oversees a Unit composed of multi-disciplinary teams charged with carrying out specific technical areas of work in developing, implementing and maintaining and evaluating the systems and tools employed by the Unit to carry out the clinical and public health laboratory objectives outlined in the agency strategic plan. Using myriad approaches to building laboratory capacities of national systems and individual human technical resources, the Director works with and through the Regional Collaborating Centres (RCC), Member States, National Public Health Institutes and other public health partners to lead and coordinate efforts to strengthen and expand existing national and regional laboratory systems and networks.

### ***Tasks***

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provides leadership and oversight of the agency laboratory reference and research activities and provides reference diagnostic laboratory support to RCC's, national laboratories and other collaborating public health laboratories.
- Develops and implements strategic technical plans for development and enhancement of infectious laboratories throughout the agency.
- Oversee and coordinate efforts to assist countries in developing national laboratory strategic plans and policies that also addresses dangerous pathogens.
- Develops, implements and evaluates program and projects and provides consultation and expert scientific advice in support of laboratory research and development activities in agency programs to improve laboratory capacity in responding to diseases of public health importance.
- Lead efforts to improve systems (quality, standards, and biosafety), and networks with linkage to disease surveillance and clinical care (public and private sector). Provides advices on scientific quality assurance programs, such as project peer review procedures, human subject protocols, assures research projects are closed out in compliance with agency procedures and monitors other agency procedures related to ensuring quality science in research activities.
- Promote and guide research and other laboratory investigations on new or improved tools and technologies for the definition, diagnosis, prevention, research, and control.
- Develop the capacity of Africa CDC Regional Collaborating Centres and country National Laboratory networks to implement modern advance molecular technologies, including multiplex detection assays and other complex diagnostic procedures and tools.
- Develop and manage strain banks as repositories for diagnostic and vaccine development for emerging and re-emerging pathogens.
- Advance basic science laboratory research to develop and evaluate vaccine constructs.
- Promote and support innovative laboratory practice to enhance patient care and treatment and strengthen disease surveillance at national and community levels.
- Provides long-range plans, directs and evaluates the agency's research and professional programs for

the development of scientific personnel, developing policy for strengthening staff and scientific expertise and for facilitating collaborative activities within the agency, across RCC's and their constituent organizations.

- Represents the agency on committees, task forces, working groups, in the area of laboratory science. Oversees the process of translating program needs into research projects and of translating new research findings into programmatic changes.

Establishes partnerships with individuals and institutions and maintains communication with organizations in the public and private sector such as professional associations, universities, research organizations and multi-lateral technical organizations.

Performs other duties as required.

## **Requirements**

### 1. Educational Qualification and Work Experience Required:

University Master's Degree in public health laboratory science and health-services research, health outcomes research, epidemiology and surveillance or related field with 12 years of practical experiences in public health laboratory research, and health sciences and outcomes research, and managing laboratory programs in any setting, including a governmental agency, academic institution research organization of which 7 years of experiences at managerial level.

A Ph.D. in relevant field is an added advantage.

OR

University Bachelor's Degree in public health laboratory science and health-services research, health outcomes research, epidemiology and surveillance or related field with 15 years of practical experiences in public health laboratory research, and health sciences and outcomes research, and managing laboratory programs in any setting, including a governmental agency, academic institution research organization of which 5 years of experiences at managerial level.

### 2. Required Skills and Competencies:

Scientific, technical and managerial expertise and leadership in the development and enhancement of laboratory programs focused on diseases of public health importance

Expert knowledge of the principles, concepts, methods and techniques of the infectious diseases public health field to analyze, evaluate and provide expert advice and consultation in planning, developing and enhancing scientific laboratories.

Knowledge of the principles, methods, applications and state of the art scientific technology to provide direction and guidance on critical and complex laboratory planning issues.

Expert knowledge of laboratory science and state of the art requirements, practices, techniques, methodology, equipment and biosafety requirements for Biosafety Level I - IV laboratories.

Ability to identify and quantify requirements to support public health initiatives.

Comprehensive knowledge of strategic planning and evaluation processes.

Comprehensive knowledge of budgeting regulations, guidelines and processes.

Record of high-quality, peer-reviewed laboratory science, basic science, epidemiology and/or outcomes research publications is required

Good computer skills, including office administration, research and statistical software applications.

Ability to manage complex operations and teams; ability to apply effective leadership and interpersonal skills through use of strategic thinking, team and project leadership, decision-making skills and personnel development – including proven skills in supervision, team building, and motivating and developing people.

Good diplomatic, representational and interpersonal skills and Delegation skills  
Ability to effectively communicate both orally and by writing, program goals, and objectives, including scientific justification of research and programs and specific requirements.  
Proven ability to work collaboratively and lead effectively in a multicultural and cross-functional team environment.  
High level of autonomy at work, yet with profound team-spirit  
Adaptive, Patient, resilient and flexible and Pro-active and solutions oriented

4.. Language Requirement:

Proficiency in one of the African Union working languages (Arabic, English, French and Portuguese) is required. Knowledge of one or more of the other AU working languages would be an added advantage.

5.. Tenure of Appointment:

The appointment will be a fixed term contract for a period of One (1) years, of which the first Three (3) months shall be considered as a probationary period. Thereafter, the contract may be renewed for a similar period subject to funding availability, satisfactory performance, and agreed deliverables.

6. Equal Opportunities:

The African Union Commission is an equal opportunities employer. Qualified women are encouraged to apply.

7. Remuneration:

The indicative annual salary attached to the position is a lump sum of US\$110,107.14(P5) inclusive of all allowances for internationally recruited staff, and US\$ 98,501.89 inclusive of all allowances for locally recruited staff.

How to Apply:

All applications must reach the African Union Commission not later than 15th September 2017 through the AU Commission's website <http://www.aucareers.org>.

Applications are pre-screened by the system according to the published requirements of the job opening on the basis of the information provided in the application. In relation to the requirements of the job opening, applicants must provide complete and accurate information pertaining to their qualifications, including their education, work experience, and language skills. Each applicant must bear in mind that submission of incomplete or inaccurate applications may render that applicant ineligible for consideration for the job opening. Initial screening and evaluation of applications will be conducted on the basis of the information submitted. Applications cannot be amended following submission. Candidates under serious consideration for selection will be subject to a reference-checking process to verify the information provided in the application.

Directorate of Administration and Human Resources  
Management, African Union Commission  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Contract Type**

Fixed Term Contract

***Employment Fraction***

Full-time

***Branch***

Headquarters