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RE: Application for EMORY HIV Research Training Program (Long Term Trainee)

I am currently a research scientist (Research Fellow I) working at Lead City University and delighted to apply for the Emory-Nigeria Research Training Program (ENRTP) long term trainee program having gone through the requirements. I have more than 8 years of progressive experience in maternal and child health and HIV research and hold a B.Sc in Microbiology & Community Health and M.Sc in Maternal & Child Health, with hopes to acquire a doctorate degree in epidemiology. I am currently working on malnutrition amongst HIV/TB co-infected and have been involved in significant research projects like the WHHRI study on women's health and HIV in Nigeria. Furthermore, I am passionate about advancing health system in Nigeria through evidence-based interventions, with focus on HIV/TB programs, maternal and newborn child health and non-communicable disease. The ENRTP research training program will be a good platform to enhance my research skills in providing scientific evidence for public health interventions, in grant writing and administration and enable me in applying for financial support for my research activities.

The ENRTP program will afford me the opportunity to fill the gaps I have in my learning (improved grant writing, data management) thereby developing and advancing my research career. The mentorship program will allow me to learn from other researchers, acquire relevant skills in my chosen field of research, improve my thought process, enhance my laboratory and research skills to be able to achieve my long-term goal of conducting internationally relevant research and contributing new information and findings in my research area- Maternal & child health.

My lead mentor for this research training program is Rosemary Madaki. She is a renowned Director of Research at the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) and a Professor of Medical Virology at Lead City University. As a research mentor, she has mentored many Junior Faculty in various fields of biomedical research. She is currently a Site PI and Co-Investigator of other NIH funded grants.

Currently I do not have any pending applications for NIH PHS mentored career development awards. If accepted into the program, I will i. adhere to the rules of the EN-RTP program and mentorship agreement, ii. Keep the administrators updated on publications and grant submissions/awards during and after completion of the program, and iii. Submit an external grant application before the completion of the EN-RTP program.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to commencing the research training program soon.

Yours Sincerely,

Rikkia Thomas

Rikkia Thomas (M.SC)

Rosemary Madaki

Rosemary Madaki, PhD