



## PAPUA NEW GUINEA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

The **PNGIMR** is a statutory organization tasked with conducting medical research into the primary health problems facing the people of Papua New Guinea. It produces research of international quality that attracts global attention and funding from a variety of international agencies.

**STRIVE PNG** is a 4-year project currently in its last 18 months of delivery that aims to deliver critical expertise by bringing together a consortium from across Australia and Papua New Guinea (PNG) to build capacity for research implementation and develop policy options in PNG. The Project has two main goals: to generate evidence on the implementation of rapid-response models of genomics-informed surveillance strategies for malaria and other vector-borne diseases (VBDs) and to assess the feasibility, acceptability and cost implications of new policy options for health system strengthening. The project is supported by DFAT Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security to tackle a shared regional priority of promoting health security in the Indo-Pacific region.

### **POSITION VACANCIES**

The Project currently has the following vacancies to be filled by suitably qualified persons.

#### **1. Research Officer (Data and Technology Support) – Port Moresby based.**

The Research Officer (Data and Technology Support) will play a pivotal role in maintaining the quality, timeliness, organisation and management of surveillance data output of the newly established sentinel surveillance system for the Trilateral Malaria Project and STRIVE PNG project.

The person will be responsible for engaging and supporting data management from the three main project areas: febrile illness sentinel surveillance; molecular laboratory diagnostics, confirmation and typing; vector habitat surveillance and insecticide resistance testing. The role will require frequent liaising with STRIVE research officers and staff.

#### **Key data management responsibilities and tasks are:**

- Conduct data entry activities for febrile illness data coming from sentinel sites; data for Molecular Hub Testing activities; and data for vector surveillance and IR activities. Also assist with data analysis and dissemination of surveillance data reports to stakeholders.
- Conduct data quality assurance checks across all main data sources to ensure compliance with study SOPs and protocols, privacy and ethical requirements, regulatory requirements and accuracy of data.

- Data organisation. Document datasets and storage structure, troubleshoot data access and entry problems, extraction of raw data reports and data when requested.
- Providing basic technology support to research officers and nurses with the use of data collection apps and tools.

The suitable candidate should possess a minimum Grade 12 certificate or diploma in IT or a health related field; experience in management of databases and electronic data entry systems; proficient in MS Office (Access, Excel, Word etc.) and strong analytical and reporting skills.

## **2. Scientific Officer (Vector Surveillance) – Madang based.**

The Scientific Officer (Vector Surveillance) will be employed to support improved mosquito surveillance of both *Anopheles* and *Aedes* species in selected 'Sentinel Sites' in PNG. The successful candidate will work closely together with the STRIVE PNG Vector Surveillance Officer based at the National Department of Health (NDOH).

The role will involve leading the collection, analysis and reporting of vector data generated through the STRIVE PNG surveillance sites. It will encompass training of provincial vector surveillance officers and quality assurance of surveillance implementation in the sentinel sites.

### **Key responsibilities & tasks are:**

- Leading mosquito surveillance operations.
- Training and support of vector-surveillance staff based in the sentinel sites.
- Procurement and stock management of relevant consumables and equipment.
- Data recording, analysis and presentation.

The suitable candidate should possess a minimum undergraduate degree in a science or health related fields; experience in conducting mosquito surveillance, understanding of disease surveillance methodologies, vector borne disease transmission and control interventions, strong analytical and reporting skills, and excellent communications skills and ability to work effectively and collaboratively with others .

## **3. Vector Borne Disease Surveillance Officer – Port Moresby based.**

The Vector-borne Disease Surveillance Officer (VDSO) will be employed through the PNGIMR and seconded full time to the vector-borne disease control program of the National Department of Health. The role of the VDSO will be to improve the surveillance of vector-borne diseases across PNG. This will involve leading the collection, analysis and reporting of both vector and febrile illness data generated through STRIVE PNG surveillance sites and the National Health Information System (NHIS). The information generated through this surveillance will inform decision-making and policy development to deliver targeted interventions to contain vector-borne illnesses in targeted locations.

### **Key responsibilities & tasks are:**

- Leading and coordinating mosquito surveillance operations species.
- Providing support and capacity building to Provincial Health Officers to promote mosquito surveillance operations.
- To ensure that mosquito samples are carefully collected, processed, stored and data recorded in line with the relevant SOPs.

- Participate in the implementation and design of STRIVE PNG implementation research to test new strategies and systems for surveillance.
- Maintain regular coordination with key stakeholders for data harmonisation and flow between various sources.
- Provide ongoing technical advice on use of relevant data by adapting best strategies to target specific identified problems from reported data.
- Contribute to preparation of donor reports and STRIVE PNG progress reports.

The suitable candidate should possess a minimum diploma in a science or health related field; experience working in health research, conducting mosquito surveillance and understanding of disease surveillance methodologies; strong analytical and reporting skills in project monitoring and evaluation; and excellent communications skills and ability to work effectively and collaboratively with others.

A copy of the position description will be provided upon request. No accommodation and relocation costs provided for these positions. Only suitably qualified and experienced candidates should apply. Please forward all applications and current CV to:

**The Human Resources Manager  
PNG Institute of Medical Research  
P.O. Box 60  
GOROKA, EHP 441  
Papua New Guinea**

**Email: [recruitment@pngimr.org.pg](mailto:recruitment@pngimr.org.pg)**

Application closes on the **Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2021**. Only successful candidates will be contacted for interview.