



Job Title: Postdoctoral Researcher – Respiratory Viruses
Location: Institut Pasteur du Cambodge
Program: Virology Unit, Human Seasonal and Zoonotic Respiratory Viruses, National Influenza Center and WHO H5 Reference Laboratory, WHO COVID-19 Global Referral Laboratory

Post-doctorate position located at Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC) – Virology Unit
2-years starting September, 2020*
(*pending international travel availability and according to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, position start could be from the home country of the candidate)

Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (Phnom Penh, Cambodia):

Established in 1953, Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC) is a non-for-profit research institution of public utility engaged by convention with the Royal Government of Cambodia under the patronage of the Ministry of Health. The three main missions of IPC are: (1) to conduct high quality, advanced research in health and biology; (2) to fully support public health activities in Cambodia and Southeast Asia as a whole; and, (3) to provide training and education in research and public health.

IPC is a member of the Institut Pasteur International Network (IPIN), a highly coordinated network with 32 member institutes spread across the globe facilitating collaboration and scientific exchange.

IPC researchers and visiting scientists frequently provide expertise to setup specific assays and collaborations globally. Facilities at IPC and within the IPIN enable access to state-of-the-art equipment needed for any proposed research or public health response.

The Virology Unit at IPC was established in 1996 and has been instrumental in public health responses in Cambodia, especially against respiratory viruses such as avian influenza. As such, IPC has served as the National Influenza Centre (NIC) for Cambodia since 2006 and was designated as a WHO H5 Reference Laboratory in October 2014 (H5RL), as part of the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS). In addition, The Virology Unit serves as a reference laboratory for a number of pathogens, and programs and procedures are in place to identify, diagnose, and sequence numerous other emerging and zoonotic pathogens, such as SARS-CoV-2. In response to the need for a biosafe and biosecure facility to handle dangerous and/or unknown samples during outbreaks, IPC opened Cambodia's only BSL-3 laboratory in 2008.

Since January 2020, IPC stands in the front line of the public health response supporting the Cambodian Ministry of Health and conducts operational and basic research aimed to strengthen the COVID-19 public health response in Cambodia and worldwide. In April 2020, IPC Virology Unit was named a WHO Global Referral Laboratory for COVID-19.

Job scope:

The candidate will work in the Virology Unit under Dr. Erik Karlsson, Deputy Head of Virology, Director of the NIC and H5RL, and closely with other Units (Epidemiology, Immunology, etc...) to conduct research focused mainly on human seasonal and zoonotic respiratory viruses (including avian influenza and SARS-CoV-2) at the human-animal interface. The job will encompass bench and operational research as well as fieldwork under a One Health approach.

Candidate profile:

We are looking for a hardworking, delivery-focused candidate with some experience in influenza, or other respiratory/emerging viruses who can demonstrate expertise working at the bench, publication and presentation skills, experience in obtaining funding, and can work closely with other virologists and who thrives on challenge in a dynamic environment. This position is an ideal fit for someone who wants to conduct world-class research and public health work at a grassroots level with immediate visible impact.

The profile of the Postdoctoral Researcher is preferably (but not limited to) an end-stage Ph.D. candidate or recently graduated Ph.D. in Virology, Molecular Biology, or Infectious Disease with a background in molecular biology, *in vitro* and *in vivo* research. Experience in some of the following: reverse genetics, bioinformatics/next generation sequencing, epidemiology, surveillance, working under BSL-3 level conditions, and One Health research will be an asset. Past experience working in less advanced countries and fieldwork also a major asset. Recently graduated veterinarians and medical students also encouraged to apply.

Major accountabilities:

Based on his/her scientific knowledge and his/her capabilities, the candidate will contribute to the respiratory virus program in the Virology Unit by:

- Conduct basic and operational research and surveillance on respiratory viruses at the animal-human interface in the Mekong Delta region
- Conduct *in vitro*, *in vivo*, and *in silico* studies on viral evolution, transmission, pathogenesis, coinfection, vaccination, and antiviral resistance
- Conduct fieldwork for surveillance and operational research programs in human and animal subjects
- Sharing his/her technical expertise with other virologists and technical staff in the Virology Unit to contribute to capacity building, education, training, and technology transfer to strengthen the abilities of the Virology Unit and other laboratories
- Support the Director of the National Influenza Center and WHO H5 Reference Laboratory to analyze data and prepare reports and information in a timely manner
- Contributing to the COVID-19 response team and the WHO COVID-19 Global Referral Laboratory in the Virology Unit at IPC for public health response and research projects
- Data analysis, preparing publications, attending and presenting at calls/workshops/conferences related to research activities
- Actively finding, preparing, and applying for funding opportunities

Position

- The position is based within the Virology Unit of the Institut Pasteur du Cambodge in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- The candidate will report to Dr. Erik KARLSSON, Deputy Head of Virology Unit
- Once the COVID-19 pandemic situation allows, the position might require duty trips in the region and worldwide.

Qualifications and skills

- Ph.D. (or closely expected Ph.D.), M.D. or D.V.M. with background/experience in virology or infectious disease from an accredited university hospital or a research institution
- Excellent English language skills (written and spoken), basic abilities in French and/or Khmer would be a significant advantage
- Committed, adaptable, and delivery-focused
- Ability to work in less advanced countries and dynamic environment
- Previous experience in South East Asia is an asset

Application: CV, letter of motivation, and contact information for 3 professional references to be sent before August 7th, 2020. Please send application material to:

Dr. Erik KARLSSON, Senior Research, Deputy Head of Virology Unit, Institut Pasteur du Cambodge - ekarlsson@pasteur-kh.org

Dr. Laurence BARIL, Director, Institut Pasteur du Cambodge – lbaril@pasteur-kh.org

Mr. Christophe MOUSSET, Administrative and Financial Director (in charge of HR for international contracts) – cmousset@pasteur-kh.org

Please feel free to contact us for further information if needed before submission of your application.