Recruitment for APHL International Influenza Consultants
July 2016

APHL is seeking qualified individuals to serve as APHL consultants for international influenza laboratory capacity assessments. This exciting opportunity can provide a chance to visit other countries while sharing your public health expertise. To date APHL has traveled consultants to more than 60 countries!

What is an influenza laboratory capacity assessment?
APHL and CDC have partnered to offer voluntary laboratory capacity assessments to international influenza laboratories spanning the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS). During the week-long assessments, APHL consultants observe laboratory operations and capture information using a standardized assessment tool. The results are used to guide laboratories in capacity building, enhancing influenza surveillance and achieving, or maintaining, a National Influenza Center (NIC) designation. CDC Project Officers frequently travel with APHL consultants on assessments.

Who is qualified?
We aim to have a diverse pool of consultants in order to best meet the specific needs of each assessment request. Candidates should have significant influenza laboratory experience and laboratory management experience is preferable.

Foreign language skills, especially French, Spanish and Arabic, are desired but not required. Previous international travel experience is not required; in fact this is a good way to gain experience if it’s something you are interested in. Working in a variety of cultural settings and potentially resource limited countries mandate flexible personalities that are adaptable to change and as well as a desire to understand and connect with different cultures.

Technical consultant required skills:
- 1-2 years supervisory laboratory experience
- Knowledge of influenza virology and epidemiology
- Advanced understanding of conventional influenza detection and subtyping methods (cell culture and HAI)
- Expertise in conducting CDC’s rRT-PCR assays, including ability to troubleshoot procedures and interpret results
- Knowledge of appropriate biosafety practices for working with clinical samples, performing virus isolation and PCR
- Teaching (bench level) experience
- Understanding of and experience in complying with GLP, QA/QC
- Experience in establishing new testing protocols and validating new methods.
- Good communication skills

What is the time commitment?
All new consultants must be available to attend a training on Wednesday, October 19 – Thursday, October 20, 2016 in Atlanta, GA. Travel expenses will be covered by APHL for this training.

There is no minimum requirement for trips per year. As CDC identifies assessment opportunities, APHL solicits the consultant pool for volunteers. Typically assessments are assigned as a first-come, first-served basis,
however specific language requirements or technical assistance needs may be taken into account for consultant selection.

Before each assessment, consultants are required to participate in a briefing teleconference with APHL and CDC. Laboratory assessments typically take 5 days to complete and additional days for travel are likely necessary. Upon completion of the assessment, consultants have one week to complete the electronic assessment tool and an additional week to write a final report. Templates and examples will be provided. Finally, consultants will participate in a debrief call with APHL and CDC and make final changes to the report based on APHL and CDC feedback. Prior to your first trip for APHL there will be additional one-time requirements for online training and documentation.

Do I get paid?
Absolutely! APHL coordinates airfare (and typically lodging) directly and will reimburse consultants for visa fees, required vaccinations, international mobile plans, and per diem at rates set by the US State Department. Additionally, APHL pays a consultant fee at a daily rate.

Where can I find out more?
Please see the links below to see an example of the assessment tool, Lab Matters articles and relevant journal publications. Contact Melissa Warren (melissa.warren@aphl.org) with additional questions.

- **International Influenza Laboratory Capacity Review**
  The current version of the assessment tool used by APHL consultants

- **Capacity building in national influenza laboratories - use of laboratory assessments to drive progress**

- **Measuring laboratory-based influenza surveillance capacity: development of the 'International Influenza Laboratory Capacity Review' Tool.**

- **The Value of International Laboratory Capacity Reassessments**
  *Lab Matters, Spring 2016*

- **Influenza Testing in the Maldives**
  *Lab Matters, Spring 2014*

How do I apply?
Please send your CV and a brief (300 word max) description of the following to Melissa Warren (melissa.warren@aphl.org) by August 5, 2016:

- Name, Current Position
- Qualifications/Skills:
- Languages Spoken:
- What made this opportunity pique your interest?
- How would your experience and background make you a good fit as a consultant?
- Have you discussed this potential opportunity with your supervisor?

*Please note: APHL consultants are individuals and do not represent their employer in an official capacity. While we do not need supervisory approval, we encourage early discussions in the spirit of transparency and to avoid any major potential conflicts.*

Submissions will be reviewed by APHL and CDC. Consultant selections will be made based on the number of applications received, relevant experience and demonstration of ability to work in international settings.