



Cecilia Mbae awarded 2014-15 Fogarty Mentorship Fellowship

Cecilia is a Research Officer at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and has been involved in a number of research projects in the area of neglected parasitic diseases for the past eight years. She recently completed her PhD at the Open University in UK, studying the genetic diversity of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* in HIV infected and uninfected children presenting with diarrhea at the outpatient clinics or admitted to the hospital from the urban informal settlements of Nairobi. She has also been a part time lecturer at the Kenya Methodist University in Nairobi for the past five years. She has been involved in supervising and mentoring several students and young upcoming scientists in the institute and at the university.

Fogarty Mentorship fellowships are awarded to alumni of Fogarty fellowships interested in capacity building within their own institutions by strengthening their mentorship skills. The fellowship is an opportunity to enhance the mentoring capabilities of entry to mid-level faculty members of HIV/AIDS research institutions in low and middle income countries (LMICs) through senior mentors/supervisors associated with the Fogarty Global Health Program for Fellows and Scholars.

Senior staff at KEMRI have identified mentoring as a critical need and top area of importance, yet mentorship in the institute remains ad-hoc. Cecilia's project aims to address this shortage through a number of capacity building avenues she will implement over the next year under the guidance of Professors Sam Kariuki and Elizabeth Bukusi. Her proposed activities include developing and conducting an assessment of the existing mentoring practices at the Centre for Microbiology Research, KEMRI; developing a Centre mentorship policy document guided by the needs assessment; developing training modules on mentoring based on real-life experiences; and providing mentorship skills-building workshops for master's students, doctoral students and junior staff members (mentees). GloCal congratulates Cecilia on this prestigious award and looks forward to reporting her accomplishments!