

**Center for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia,  
UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina**

**Sinazongwe Combination Prevention Evaluation (SCOPE) Study Summer Internship**

The **Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ)** is a UNC research affiliate that supports clinical and laboratory services in the public sector, conducts locally-relevant biomedical research, and conducts training public health programming and provision of clinical care. Established over a decade ago, CIDRZ is among the Zambian government's largest and most important health care service and research partners.

The SCOPE study is a joint endeavor of the Zambian Ministry of Health (MOH), the Southern Provincial Health Office (SPHO), the Sinazongwe District Health Management Team, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Zambia and Atlanta, the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP) New York, and CIDRZ to evaluate a combination HIV prevention intervention including health services scale up and the implementation of the DAPP Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE) program in Sinazongwe District, Southern Province, Zambia. Baseline data collection is scheduled for completion in May 2014 with data cleaning and analysis scheduled for May-September 2014.

**The intern will support data management, cleaning and initial analysis.** S/he will be incorporated into the study team for the duration of the attachment. S/he will work with the Study Coordinator, Data Manager and other study staff members to provide support on key study activities.

**Study Objectives:**

Primary Objective:

1. To estimate population-based HIV incidence rates among men and women ages 16-59 in Sinazongwe District before and following implementation of district wide integrated HIV prevention and treatment services (i.e., the TCE program) and a district wide scale up of clinical services.

Secondary Objectives:

2. To assess changes in population-based HIV prevalence among men and women ages 16-59 in Sinazongwe District following implementation of the TCE program and district wide service scale up
3. To evaluate the prevalence of malaria (*P. falciparum*) among men and women ages 16 – 59 in Sinazongwe District
4. To evaluate CD4 counts among HIV positive men and women ages 16-59 in Sinazongwe District before and after implementation of the TCE program and district wide service scale up and in comparison to ART eligibility criteria
5. To evaluate community viral load among HIV positive men and women ages 16-59 in Sinazongwe District before and after implementation of the TCE program and district wide service scale up
6. To assess changes in reported knowledge, attitudes and behaviors around HIV and HIV-related healthcare services among men and women ages 16-59 in Sinazongwe District following implementation of the TCE program and district wide service scale up

7. To assess changes in the use of HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), and Tuberculosis (TB) prevention, care and treatment services (including Voluntary Counseling and Testing [VCT], Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission [PMTCT], Antiretroviral Therapy [ART], and male circumcision [MC] services) in Sinazongwe District including high-risk populations following implementation of the TCE program and district wide service scale up as measured by facility records
8. To determine the knowledge and attitudes of facility-based health personnel around the HIV prevention, care, and treatment services in Sinazongwe District, including interactions with community-based agents and service availability in the district before and during the TCE program
9. To estimate the local false recent rate (FRR) for the LAg-Avidity Incidence Assay

### **Summary Methodology:**

The evaluation of the TCE program in Sinazongwe District will take place over a 4-year period.

Evaluation activities will include:

- **Community-based evaluation:** Two community-based, cross-sectional, household surveys, before and after the implementation of the integrated HIV program. The baseline community survey will take place before DAPP/TCE begins the integrated district wide project and the district scales up services. A follow-up survey will take place approximately three years after the first survey round.
- **Facility-based evaluation:** Using clinic-based record reviews and interviews with healthcare personnel, quantify health service utilization, assess clinic interaction with community volunteers, and elicit health care worker perspectives on HIV prevention, care and treatment programs before and during the implementation of the integrated prevention project, at baseline and approximately 18 and 36 months later.

### **Specific Responsibilities may include:**

- Database management
- Revision of analysis plans
- Data cleaning, initial statistical analysis
- Report writing
- Assistance with literature searches
- Assistance with revision of Standard Operating Procedures or other baseline survey completion tasks
- Support qualitative data cleaning and analysis (potential secondary task if good fit/time allows)
- Read and learn background information on study topics and protocol
- Work with study team in a pro-active, culturally sensitive way to accomplish necessary tasks

### **Expected Outcomes:**

By the end of the internship, the student will be expected to have gained the following:

- Gained understanding of evaluation methodology and analysis
- Gained understanding of survey procedures
- Gained practical hands-on experience with data management, cleaning and analysis

- Supported the study to accomplish key tasks during the attachment

**Desired Qualifications:**

- Experience with data management, entry and cleaning
- Experience with statistical analysis including descriptive measures of categorical and continuous data, logistic regression
- Interest and experience in qualitative data analysis preferred
- Experience with research and surveys preferred
- Experience working in southern Africa preferred
- Ability to multi-task and work in a changing and fast-paced environment
- Cultural sensitivity

**Eligibility and Benefits**

In order to be eligible, applicants must be currently enrolled in a masters or doctoral degree program with the Gillings School of Global Public Health, and continuing as a full-time graduate student in fall 2014. The internship will last 10-12 weeks between May and August 2014 (exact dates discussed with CIDRZ). Those chosen to participate in the SCOPE Study Summer Internship will receive a summer stipend of \$2,500 provided by the Office of Global Health/Gillings Global Gateway (OGH/GGG).

**Application Process**

All interested individual will need to complete and submit the application form including all required documentation to the Office of Global Health/Gillings Global Gateway. Required documents include:

- Completed [application](#)
- Resume or CV
- 2 recommendations: 1 from academic advisor/faculty member and 1 from former employer or professional recommendation
- Current *unofficial* transcript (must be provided directly to OGH/GGG, no e-mails)

Applications should be submitted by Wednesday, January 22, 2014 for consideration. OGH/GGG faculty and staff will review applications and forward them to CIDRZ. CIDRZ will review all applications and schedule Skype interviews with selected applicants. CIDRZ will notify awardees by late March.