

JOB DESCRIPTION 3

Job title	Laboratory scientist
Department	Neurosciences
Working hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed term (1 year), may be renewed subject to performance & funding availability
Principal Investigator	Dr. Joseph KAMTCHUM TATUENE
Research topic	Neuroepidemiology & Translational Sciences
Contact/inquiries	stephanie.jouego@ismcm.org

Project overview

You will plan and oversee the process of biospecimen collection, processing, and storage during Phase 2 of a Wellcome-funded study of Atherosclerosis and Stroke in Cameroon, Central Africa. You will provide pivotal expertise for the optimal implementation of a fully functional biobank for the study.

The study aims to clarify the epidemiology and pathobiology of stroke, atrial fibrillation, and cervical and intracranial atherosclerosis in the Cameroonian population. Over a 3-year period, it will enrol 500 patients with acute stroke and 500 population controls to clarify the relative contributions of atrial fibrillation and atherosclerosis to the risk of stroke and investigate how sociocultural and environmental factors affect stroke incidence and outcome. It will also establish a biobank to enable future discovery research.

You will be based at the Higher Institute for Scientific and Medical Research (www.ismcm.org) and work with a multidisciplinary research team including neurologists, cardiologists, radiologists, epidemiologists, biostatisticians, nurses, and laboratory scientists.

Responsibilities and duties

- 1) Plan, manage, and accomplish the daily tasks necessary to collect, process, and store all biospecimens for the study. This includes appropriate barcoding and labelling to ensure accurate retrieval in due course, and ad hoc preparation for planned downstream analyses as detailed in the study protocol.
- 2) Contribute to writing biospecimen collection/handling protocols, and standard operating procedure manuals.
- 3) Contribute to training and supervision of students, fellows, and research staff working for the study.
- 4) Conduct data analyses, present and discuss research results in laboratory meetings, seminars, local/international conferences and other similar settings.
- 5) Participate in the preparation of research articles.
- 6) Maintain good clinical practices, follow all health and safety protocols.
- 7) Assist with administrative duties as required by the Principal Investigator.
- 8) Abide by all rules and regulations governing ISM activities.

Selection criteria
1) Knowledge and skills

- Graduate degree in Biomedical Sciences, Laboratory Medicine, Clinical Chemistry (Minimum Master level or equivalent).
- Good understanding of research methods, laboratory regulations, and quality assurance processes.
- Excellent oral and communication skills in both Cameroon national languages (French and English)

2) Experience and personal characteristics

- Minimum 2 years of experience in handling biospecimen, data, and documentation for clinical care or research.
- High motivation, ability to plan and work independently, attention to details, and good interpersonal skills.

3) Other desirable characteristics

The following features will be an advantage:

- Experience in genetics, genomics, bioinformatics, or cloud computing.
- Recent practical involvement in a research project with publication(s).
- Training/experience with coding in R or STATA.
- Driving license.

About ISM

The Higher Institute for Scientific and Medical Research (ISM) is an award-winning institution with 20 years of expertise in population health research. Located at the heart of Yaounde, the capital city of Cameroon, ISM hosts a team of approximately 50 scientists and research support staff.

The founding Director is Prof. Joseph KAMGNO, MD, PhD, who also chairs the Department of Public Health at the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Yaounde I. He is the recipient of the 2022 Christophe & Rodolphe Mérieux prize acknowledging the excellence of his research and leadership in the field of infectious diseases in Africa.

ISM is a responsible employer and has policies in place to maintain a positive and inclusive research culture, safeguard employees' wellbeing, and ensure that nobody is unlawfully discriminated against, based on their personal/social characteristics.

ISM strives to provide favorable conditions to achieve optimal work-life balance as well as a wide range of professional and social benefits, including but not limited to:

- contribution to pensions,
- statutory sick, parental, or annual leaves,
- mentorship for career development,
- access to research training at discounted rates,
- support for publication and participation in conferences.

About the Supervisor/Principal Investigator

Dr. Joseph KAMTCHUM is a Neurologist with expertise in Neuroepidemiology, Neurovascular Ultrasound, and Translational Stroke Research. He is Fellow of the European Board of Neurology and a Member of the American Academy of Neurology. He is passionate about improving the quality of research and care for stroke and other neurological diseases in Cameroon, and more broadly in Africa. He is also genuinely interested in mentoring/training students and supporting health professionals to achieve a successful clinical or research career.

By working with him, you will acquire a wide range of skills related to:

- Clinical Neurology and Stroke Medicine,
- Research study design,
- Science communication including manuscript writing and poster/presentation design,
- Laboratory and statistical approaches for identification of disease biomarkers, and evaluation of diagnostic tests,
- Statistical approaches for prognostic modelling using common regression techniques or survival analysis,
- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses of observational studies, clinical trials, or diagnostic accuracy studies,
- Assessment of cerebrovascular diseases using neurovascular ultrasound,
- Application for scholarships and research grants.

You will also learn from outstanding scientists in his large local and international collaboration network.

How to apply?

To apply, please, send us your application package as a single PDF file no later than 30/01/2026. The package should contain the following items:

- Personal statement detailing your research interests and explaining how you meet the selection criteria for the job
- Curriculum vitae
- Academic transcripts and Degree certificates
- Contact details (telephone and email) of 3 potential referees.

The selection process will comprise two phases:

- Phase 1: triage and pre-selection
- Phase 2: interviews
- Phase 3: performance during the training phase (maximum 90 days).

Please, feel free to contact us with any pre-submission inquiries.