



Infectious Diseases Workshop Series | Jointly hosted by German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf).

Infectious Diseases beyond COVID-19 · Berlin, Germany · 23–24 May 2023

Call for Participation for Emerging Scientists

The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina seeks four emerging scholars with highly distinguished profiles to participate in the workshop “Infectious Diseases beyond COVID-19” in Berlin from 23-24 May 2023. This workshop provides a platform for discussing current research, strengthening international scientific cooperation, and building capacity in research-based entrepreneurship. The workshop is organised in cooperation with the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf).

Topic

Infectious diseases remain a significant threat to humankind. Over the recent past, we have witnessed the re-emergence of old foes such as tuberculosis or polio and the emergence of new foes such as AIDS, Ebola or SARS-like diseases. As most infectious diseases are zoonotic, environmental factors induce the diffusion of vectors to new geographical regions. The increase in antimicrobial resistance further worsens the situation. The COVID-19 pandemic is the most recent reminder of our interconnectedness and shared vulnerability. The emergence of variants of concern and long-COVID/complications from diverse, long-lasting sequelae following COVID-19 infection has changed the endgame. However, prioritized pandemic handling and containment of COVID-19 reduced control measures for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, significantly leading to a profound increase in global morbidity and mortality.

This workshop aims to discuss the impact and consequences of COVID-19 on the research of Infectious Diseases and the newest advances in research from a cross-regional perspective.

Guiding questions for the workshop are:

- What have been (are) the lessons learned from handling the COVID-19 pandemic across the world regions and for other infectious diseases?
- What has been the connection between the COVID-19 pandemic and the negligence of other infectious diseases?
- What are the specific and recent experiences of AMR in the different regions? What is the status of containment, and how can it be improved?
- What are the effects of environmental change on the diffusion and modification of infectious diseases?

Format

The involvement of emerging scholars is a cornerstone of this workshop. The presented research, ideas and thoughts on the different thematic sessions, as well as the active participation in the other formats of the workshop, constitute a significant contribution to the workshop's success.

The workshop features impulse talks by established researchers, focus group discussions among emerging and established scientists, and opportunities to engage in science communication. A special session on innovation and entrepreneurship in Public Health presents ways and experiences of how scientific findings can transfer to industry and society to make an impact. On the one hand, the workshop formats aim to increase opportunities for direct dialogue and exchange between established and emerging scientists. On the other hand, these formats enhance the outreach of this highly relevant topic.

Participating emerging scientists should present in English language their most recent research and, in their view, urgent issues for research in speed talks (5min.) and engage thoroughly in the subsequent focus group discussions together with other emerging and established scientists from Southern Africa. Each group relates to one specific thematic session. A focus group presents its research related to the thematic session.

The topics for the sessions are the following: 1) Infectious Disease and Lessons Learned from COVID-19; 2) Infectious Diseases and their Negligence; 3) Infectious Diseases, Climate Change and Antimicrobial Resistance

Eligibility

This call is open to emerging scientists who can prove to have a track record of research in the thematic areas of the workshop. Applicants should meet the following criteria to participate:

- Be resident in Germany,
- Be an emerging scientist (PhD / MD title),
- Have publications in high-ranking peer reviewed journals,
- Have research experience in the abovementioned areas as well as research interest in countries of the Global South is of advantage,
- Submission of abstract as a basis for the presentation at the workshop,
- Be committed to presenting at the workshop and engage with other participating colleagues in various formats.

Workshop Application

Interested candidates who meet the abovementioned criteria should submit their application containing the following documents:

- Motivation letter (half page),
- Abstract (max. 300 words) with a reference to one of the four thematic sessions, written in English,
- CV, as an orientation please consider the DFG CV form (https://www.dfg.de/formulare/53_200_elan/):
 - Personal Data, inkl. current position
 - Qualifications and career
 - Engagement in research system
 - Scientific Results (publication list)
 - Academic distinction
- Bio sketch (short biography in text format, incl. research interest, max. 250 words)

All four documents need to be submitted in one coherent PDF document to Dr Thomas Ploetze (thomas.ploetze@leopoldina.org, Tel.: +49 (0)345 472 39-834) by **28 February 2023**.

Abstract Acceptance

Submissions will be reviewed by a scientific panel, which reserves the right to accept and allocate oral presentations. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by **20 March 2023**.

Workshop Participation

There is no registration fee to attend the workshop. Leopoldina will cover the travel and landing costs for the selected candidates for the workshop duration according to the German Travel Expenses Act (Bundesreisekostengesetz, BRKG). Please consult the general [data protection statement](#) of the Leopoldina. The organizers will circulate further information about the workshop.