



THE AFSCAN SURVEY: TICKS, FLEAS AND ATHROPOD-BORNE INFECTIOUS AGENTS IN DOGS AND CATS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

AFSCAN, in collaboration with Bayer Animal Health and Idexx, are to launch an exciting new research programme in 2018. The aim of the study is to characterise the tick and flea species infesting dogs and cats in Sub-Saharan Africa and to identify arthropod-borne infectious agents that might be carried by those ectoparasites or found in parasitized animals.

The study will take place in the six AFSCAN countries (Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda) between 2018 and 2020.

We are looking to identify **one veterinary parasitologist** in each AFSCAN country to participate in the study. The individual will be based in a veterinary school or research institution and have demonstrated research expertise in veterinary parasitology; ideally related to small companion animals (i.e. dogs and cats). Applications from veterinary microbiologists or veterinarians practicing internal medicine will be considered in case a parasitologist does not apply from each country.

The selected individuals will become part of an international research team addressing the aims of the project by collecting samples from dogs and cats in different geographical locations in their home country. Parasite identification and PCR and serological testing (of parasites and host animals) will be conducted at a central facility. Results of the study will be published in the scientific literature and all team members will co-author this publication.

Each individual will be allocated a research grant of **US \$8,500** for participation in the project. The award funding will cover travel and consumables for sample collection within each country and attendance at two scientific meetings (one to kick-off the project in December 2018 in Tanzania and another at the end of the project).

Interested veterinary pathologists should apply with a letter of intent (indicating their interest and experience in companion animal parasitology) and full Curriculum Vitae by the closing date of October 31st, 2018. Applications must be sent by e-mail to the project leader, Emeritus Professor Michael J. Day, at profmjd@ gmail.com. Messages should indicate 'AFSCAN Project Application' in the title.