6th ACE Impact Virtual Regional Workshop

DISBURSMENT LINKED INDICATOR (DLI) ACHIEVEMENTS

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Participating Countries

ACE Impact Project - Advancing the Quality, Quantity and Access of Postgraduate Education in Africa
About WACCBIP

- Established in 2014
- Semi-autonomous unit under College of Basic and Applied Sciences
- Research & training centre at University of Ghana
- Faculty from Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research and other units
- World Bank African Centre of Excellence (ACE) for Cell and Molecular Biology
- Supported by Wellcome/African Academy of Sciences DELTAS project

**Strategic goal:** Establish a major hub for biomedical research training and leading the training of home-grown, globally competitive African science leaders
Synergizing funding schemes

Grantsmanship ACE DLR credo:
“For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance. ……” Mathew 25:29

Funding Sources for WACCBIP Training programmes

- RCUK-GCRF-CAN
- WT-DELTAS

Complementary programmes
- Cambridge-Africa
- NIH Fogarty
- Royal Society Collaborative grants
- TIBA partnership
- Crick Africa Network (CAN)
DLI 3: Quantity of students

**Long-term students – PhD and Masters**
Diversified sources of funding
- Award of additional student scholarships from complementary training grants
- Students engaged under individual faculty research projects

**Short-term students – Workshops and Short courses**
Strategic partnerships
- Leveraged to organize and sponsor workshops
- All workshops are fully-funded workshops to increase participation

Mode of course delivery
- Organization of virtual workshops following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic
- High performance computing system and highly skilled personnel
Wide faculty base with diverse research portfolio
• Multi-disease, multi-dimensional research
• Focused molecular/cellular approach

Scholarship conditions encourage publications
• PhD scholarship beneficiaries must produce at least two manuscripts for publication before graduation.
• MPhil scholarship beneficiaries must produce at least one manuscript for publication before graduation.

Implementation of WACCBIP publication rewards scheme for student and principal supervisors
• 50USD multiplied by Journal impact factor
DLI 4.3: Teaching & Research Infrastructure

Formulation of milestones
- Milestones must be realistic and achievable within the project period

Procurement processes
- Procurement processes initiated once milestone formulations were approved
- Availability of funds to complete procurement activities
Grantsmanship - Maintaining excellence and global competitiveness

• Primary source of funding for the centre’s operations
• Status of the Centre as a major biomedical research hub has led to our ability to attract large, highly competitive research and training grants
• A reputation of excellence has placed the centre in a position to be the preferred partner for funders and global health networks.

WACCBIP’s COVID-19 seroprevalence and sequencing study which has attracted funding from several grantors
Operational factors

Semi-autonomous status
• Funds managed closely at the Centre level
• Centre runs a parallel operational system that interfaces with the University’s system

Permanent support staff
• Recruitment of support staff at the Centre level
• Staff ensure all project results are tracked efficiently with minimal supervision from Centre leader
• Centre leader and other researchers can focus on writing proposals to seek for additional funding to sustain centre’s operations
Challenges and mitigation measures

Low female student enrolment
• Deliberate effort made during admissions to ensure gender parity
• More females have been encouraged to apply and they have become stronger candidates

Low regional Master's students' enrolment
• Leveraging on regional academic partners to enroll qualified students into masters programmes
• Award of scholarships for regional students during the first year of the programme

Internships
• Increased private sector engagement
• Implementation of internship fellowship awards to cover/subsidise transportation costs
• New scholarship conditions mandate beneficiaries to complete a one-month industrial internship.
THANK YOU

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