

For further information, please contact:

Prof. Dr. Faqir Muhammad Anjum, T.I.

Vice Chancellor

University of The Gambia

The Gambia

Email: faqir_65@yahoo.com and vc@utg.edu.gm

URL: www.utg.edu.gm

Mr. Momodou Lamin Tarro

Registrar

University of The Gambia

P.O. Box 3530 Serekunda

The Gambia

Email: mltarro@utg.edu.gm

Cell No: 002209878085

Mr. Tajammul Hussain

Advisor (Programmes)

COMSATS Secretariat

Shahrah-e-Jamhuriat, G-5/2,

Islamabad - Pakistan

Tel: (+92-51) 9204892, Fax: (+92-51) 9216539

Email: tajammul@comsats.org

URL: www.comsats.org

Ms. Huma Balouch

Senior Assistant Director (Programmes)

COMSATS Secretariat

Shahrah-e-Jamhuriat, G-5/2

Islamabad - Pakistan

Tel: (+92-51) 9214515, Fax: (+92-51) 9216539

Email: huma@comsats.org

URL: www.comsats.org

Dr. Foued EL AYNI

Spécialiste de programmes

Direction des sciences et de la technologie

ISESCO

Rabat, Morocco

Tel: (+212-65) 741663

Fax: (+212-53) 7562012/13

Email: falayni@isesco.org.ma

URL: www.isesco.org.ma

contain an extended abstract of the paper for presentation in the Congress.

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of Abstract: 30th August 2017

Notification of Acceptance: 8th September 2017

Submission of Presentation: 20th September 2017

SELECTION CRITERIA

The participants will be selected by the technical committee on the basis of the relevance and quality of their abstracts of presentations/papers (to be submitted along with the completed nomination/registration form), qualification and expertise. Each selected participant will be required to present a country status report and/or a research/scientific paper on any of the topics in line with the Congress theme. Submission of the full manuscript of presentation material at least 15 days prior to the event is a pre-condition for participation in the Congress.

VENUE

The international congress will be held at the University of the Gambia (UTG) Sere Kunda, Gambia.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- i) Travel Grants:** Travel grants and local hospitality (boarding and lodging) will be provided to a limited number of selected international speakers by COMSATS and ISESCO.
- ii) Local Transportation and Congress arrangements:** All foreign participants will be provided transportation to and from Banjul International Airport and venue of the Congress by UTG.

ENTRY FORMALITIES, IMMIGRATION AND HEALTH

All participants of the Congress must be in possession of a valid passport and visa for entry into Gambia. The participants should approach Gambian embassies/diplomatic missions in their countries for requiring an entry visa. Visa-on-Arrival may be facilitated for participants from countries without Gambian embassies, for which requests should be made to the host institution, UTG, well in advance. UTG will facilitate the issuance of visa by providing the participants with official letters of invitation.

1st International Congress on Viruses and Vaccines in Tropical Areas

11-12 October 2017
Sere Kunda, Gambia



Organizers



INTRODUCTION

Despite their public health importance, tropical diseases remain the leading cause of mortality and morbidity in least and less developed countries. Despite decades of economic growth and development in tropical and subtropical regions, most developing countries still have a high burden of communicable tropical diseases. The consequences of globalization are wide reaching and a global perspective is necessary to overcome this threat. Progress on developing vaccines for tropical viruses has lagged because of some key technical hurdles and the fact that these infections occur almost exclusively in the world's poorest people living below the poverty line. Travel and population movements lead to increasing and changing spatial and temporal dimensions to tropical diseases with rapid spread across borders. Despite policies and interventions to prevent and control tropical diseases, most developing countries have failed to eradicate vaccine-preventable diseases, especially for emerging and re-emerging viruses that can produce epidemics.

Realizing the importance of collaboration in this vital research area and to encourage cooperation in the field of vaccinology, the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), in collaboration with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and the University of the Gambia (UTG), is organizing 1st International Congress on Viruses and Vaccines in Tropical Areas, in Sere Kunda, Gambia, on 11th – 12th October 2017.

OBJECTIVES

The Congress aims to bring together the scientists and researchers, healthcare professionals and trainees, veterinarians, vaccine manufacturers, and public health officials, to discuss recent scientific advances contributing to progress in the development of vaccines for tropical viruses and identify further research opportunities and scientific challenges in the research and development of vaccines and associated technologies for tropical disease control.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

i) COMSATS (www.comsats.org)

The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) is an inter-governmental organization working for science-led socio-economic uplift of the developing countries. It was established in 1994 and has its Headquarters located in

Islamabad, Pakistan. COMSATS has 24 Member Countries across three continents; Latin America, Africa and Asia. COMSATS' programmes of South-South cooperation in S&T are being implemented through Network of twenty-one International S&T Centres-of-Excellence, which are renowned S&T/R&D institutions in different developing countries that are predominantly COMSATS' members.

ii) ISESCO (www.isesco.org.ma)

The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) is one of the largest international organizations of Islamic Countries based in Rabat, Morocco. ISESCO aims at strengthening, promoting and consolidating cooperation among Islamic Countries in the fields of education, science, culture and communication, developing applied sciences and use of advanced technology within the framework of Islamic values and ideals, and contributing to the global efforts of world peace and security.

iii) University of the Gambia (www.utg.edu.gm)

The University of The Gambia was established in 1999 by an Act of The National Assembly. It is the only public University in the country and has a student population of over 4000. The University has nine schools/faculties including a school of Graduate Studies and Research. It has five campuses-Kanifing, Banjul, Brikama, Faraba and Farafenni. The main campus is currently under construction at Faraba Banta, Kombo East, West Coast Region. The UTG has an academic staff of two hundred and sixty-nine including one hundred and sixty full-time and one hundred and nine adjuncts lecturers. The UTG also has one hundred and twenty-four administrative/professional staff.

PROGRAMME OF THE CONGRESS

The Congress will be held in Sere Kunda, Gambia, on October 11 and 12, 2017. The detailed programme will be made available to the participants in due course of time.

SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS

Applications for participation are required to be submitted in the prescribed form to COMSATS Headquarters if the applicants belong to COMSATS member states, at the contact addresses given at the end of this announcement on or before 30th August 2017. The Gambia applicants may however send their applications to UTG, Gambia, directly.

The registration proforma is enclosed. The form should be completed in all respects. The submitted application should

REGISTRATION FORM

1st International Congress on **Viruses and Vaccines in Tropical Areas**

11-12 October 2017
Sere Kunda, Gambia

Name (*as per passport*) _____

Designation _____

Institution/Organization _____

Highest Qualification _____

Present Field of Activity _____

Postal Address _____

City _____ Country _____

Passport No. _____

Tel. _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Only for Foreign Participants

■ Boarding & Lodging Required Yes No

■ Travel Grant Required Yes No

Signature _____

Date _____