Post-doctoral fellow at the Institut Pasteur de Guinée
18-month contract (renewal possible)

BACKGROUND:

The exceptional Ebola fever epidemic that raged in West Africa from 2014 to 2016 served as a catalyst for the emergence of the Institut Pasteur de Guinée (IPGui). The IPGui's objectives are to respond to epidemic emergencies, to participate in surveillance and research on infectious diseases in order to predict future emergences and to train and support Guinean scientists in the prevention of infectious risks.

Based on an initial contract between Guinea and the Institut Pasteur signed in September 2015, the National Assembly of Guinea unanimously voted in December 2017 on a law creating the IPGui as an “autonomous Guinean Public Institution with special status, including legal personality and administrative and financial autonomy”.

The IPGui is a member of the Institut Pasteur International Network (IPIN). Its current missions consist in: (i) offering support for the diagnosis of infectious diseases in particular by developing expert tools; (ii) setting up operational research programs to meet public health challenges in Guinea and prepare the response to microbiological emergencies; (iii) participating in the training of a new generation of Guinean scientists; (iv) developing national and international collaborations through the IPIN and beyond.

In the context of the “one health” approach, the EBO-SURSY project (https://rr-africa.oie.int/projects/EBOSURSY_2018/index.html) aims to improve early detection in animals of zoonotic pathogens that can be transmitted to humans. Five viral haemorrhagic fevers (VHF) prevalent in West and Central Africa are more particularly targeted: Ebola virus disease, Marburg virus disease, Rift Valley fever, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever and Lassa fever.

The project aims to better understand the natural cycle of these viruses while strengthening technical capacities and surveillance systems for wild and domestic fauna at local, national and regional level. The aim is to help countries to better detect and characterize the occurrence of zoonotic disease outbreaks early in animals, and therefore better prevent their propagation in humans. One element of the project is to create disease surveillance systems based on sustainable community vigilance.

In this context, IPGui is looking for a postdoctoral fellow for an 18-month contract (renewal possible).
MISSIONS:

- Implementation, development, comparison, optimization of serological tests of VHF (ELISA, Luminex technology, ...) for the detection of different classes of antibodies directed against viral zoonoses in human and / or animal samples.
- Development, optimization and evaluation of molecular tests targeting VHF.
- Implementation and development of cell culture within the IPGui.
- Implementation and development of pseudo-types for Ebola viruses to perform seroneutralization tests under P2 conditions.
- Technological transfer of serological and molecular methods within the IPGui.
- Participation and supervision of courses organized at IPGui.
- Participation in animal sampling campaigns and setting up of collections within the IPGui biobank.

REQUIRED PROFILE:

Training: PhD in virology, molecular and cellular biology and / or immunology, in particular on emerging pathogens.

Skills:

- Expertise in molecular and cellular virology (viral culture, cloning, transfection, western blot, recombinant proteins).
- Knowledge of serological techniques (ELISA, IFA, xMAP Luminex technology, seroneutralization).
- Knowledge of molecular techniques (PCR, real time PCR, sequencing).
- Experience in the development and evaluation of molecular or serological screening tests.
- Working experience in confined laboratory (BSL2 + / BSL3).
- Experience in French and English language.
- Autonomy, sense of responsibility, leadership capacity, prioritization.
- Capacity in team working, human relationships, adaptability to a multicultural environment.

Previous international experience would be a plus, especially in a country with limited resources.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

A local contract from the Institut Pasteur de Guinée is offered, accompanied by a package including Health insurance and repatriation to be discussed depending on national rules.

If this position is of interest for you, send a motivation letter and a CV mentioning 2 or 3 references, all in a single file in PDF format by e-mail with the subject "Postdoc EBOSURSY" to ntordo@pasteur.fr and cecile.troupin@pasteur.fr until 02/14/2020.