

## TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR EAKI SCIENTIFIC AND OPERATIONAL RESEARCH CONSULTANCY:

### Background.

Chronic kidney diseases (CKD) are emerging as a major non-communicable disease in Kenya and the world over. Anecdotal data indicate that about 4 million people may be having CKD with almost 10,000 patients requiring dialysis daily in Kenya and a good number require renal replacement therapy through kidney transplant. The cost of renal replacement therapy is usually high and consumes significant resources that always impoverishes patients and their families. Many patients in the region seek for specialized services such as kidney transplants in foreign countries mostly India. Some of the main challenges to experiences include lack of specialized renal specialists and facilities for this specialized service.

To enable provision of services locally and to be able to fully use the equipment that the government has invested in under the Managed Equipment Services (MES) programme, there was need to have a Centre of Excellence (COEs) in renal care.

The Government of the Republic of Kenya with the support of African Development Fund (ADF) is in the process of establishing the East Africa's Centre of Excellence in Nephrology and Urology Sciences called **East African Kidney Institute (EAKI)**, within Kenyatta National Hospital grounds in Nairobi, Kenya. The **East Africa Kidney Institute (EAKI)**, is part of the East African Community's objective of development of relevant and highly skilled workforce in biomedical sciences to meet the EAC immediate labour market needs and support EAC's free labour market protocols. The institute will be jointly owned by the University of Nairobi (UoN), Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) and the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC)

Under the research component, EAKI is premised on Article 5 of the East African Community (EAC) Protocol establishing the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), and section 6 of the IUCEA Act 2009 that provides for collaboration in regional research and assisting universities to develop centers of advanced study, research and clinical care. To achieve its goal, EACE-EAKI wish to employ good governance and scholarly practices and ensure accountability, responsiveness and participation of stakeholders through a reliable and informative research consultancy services for implementation of research work.

Upon completion, EAKI will allow multi-partite participation by putting clinical services, medical research, and professional training together; and concentrating medical expertise, advanced technology and cases of complex renal illnesses in one place.

### 1. Proposed scope for EAKI research platform

Drawing on theories, knowledge, and methods and practices from a range of disciplines, the EAKI Research Platform is a multidisciplinary vehicle that moves beyond nephrology and urology, basic and applied research, drawing on all the health professions and on many academic disciplines, including biostatistics, epidemiology, health business education, health economics, medicine, nursing, operations research, psychology, and sociology. The Platform is envisioned to address how social factors, financing systems, organizational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviors affect access to health care, the quality and cost of health care, and ultimately citizens' health and well-being. Its research domains shall include individuals, families, organizations, institutions, communities, and populations.

The proposed EAKI Research Platform shall:

- i. Ensure the best collaborative clinical research for health in urology and nephrology in children and adults.
- ii. Serve as a reference resource center to support the development of a stronger and sustainable research and clinical care portfolio.
- iii. Build and support the case for future local and international funding of research in nephrology and urology.
- iv. Inform research agenda setting to ensure impact of research and innovation in nephrology and urology.
- v. Provide a vehicle for networking, and facilitating new local and international partnerships and innovation in nephrology and urology research and clinical care.
- vi. Operate as a medium through which research, labour, subjectivity and knowledge are shaped in ways specific to hardware settings, software dynamics and the materiality of labour and life.
- vii. Be a repository for research in the area of nephrology and urology including full-spectrum of research approaches to ensure a well balanced portfolio covering underlying mechanisms, prevention, treatment and impact.
- viii. Support evolution and development of Clinical Study Groups and Networks as the core task specific groups of the Consortium to identify research priorities and generate a portfolio of high quality clinical studies that can and should be undertaken in the EAC area and by individual Partner States for the benefit of kidney patients. The Networks shall support the Clinical Study Groups and assist investigation in developing research studies.
- ix. Increase engagement of professionals, patients and the public through urology and nephrology research and research outputs.
- x. Support the research training and career development of all contributors to urology and nephrology research, to build sustainable research capability and capacity.
- xi. Create a more open research culture to maximize cross-disciplinary and collaborative research.
- xii. Facilitate mobilization of financial and technical resources for kidney research and development.

## **2. Terms of Reference**

The consultant will be expected to:

- i. Conduct desk review of existing similar research platforms and present an inception report/concept note to stakeholders detailing the research platform structure, operations, administration, utility etc.
- ii. Convene stakeholders and lead the development of an EAKI research platform framework and build the infrastructure for launching EAKI as a platform-based research and training institute for the EAC countries.
- iii. Outline the platform's mission, purpose, objectives and key thematic areas.
- iv. Develop a guideline for formulation of strategic research and training agenda including development of research strategies in urology and nephrology that covers all key levels of human resource capacity for health.
- v. Identify opportunities related to addressing societal challenges and promoting leadership in urology and nephrology in East Africa and mobilizing health services industry and other stakeholders within the EAC.

- vi. Develop strategies that enables the institute in partnership with other COES and other stakeholders to gather, share and enhance information, while enabling knowledge transfer to a wide range of stakeholders across the region in the management and control of urological and nephrological diseases.
- vii. Identify Research that would be an essential driver of improvement in all human health, forming the basis for the understanding of disease, for development and roll-out of new therapies, for the delivery of better healthcare and for preventive strategies. In establishing the Research agenda for EAKI the consultant shall propose means to overcome barriers to research and improvement in effective clinical care in urology and nephrology in Kenya and in the region.
- viii. Provide a framework for addressing major science and technological challenges in urology and nephrology care in Kenya and the region.
- ix. Identify research that would transform knowledge into commercial products and services in the region
- x. Develop the strategy for financial and technical resources mobilization for urology and nephrology research, development and application.

### **3. Qualifications**

The project is seeking to recruit an individual Consultant with the following qualifications to work with UoN, KNH and KMTC renown researchers and clinicians:

- i. Have a PhD in any either Medical or laboratory sciences, Epidemiology, Biostatics or Business Administration from the university of Nairobi or other recognized University.
- ii. Must have a wide experience working in institutions of higher learning for not less than Ten (10) Years.
- iii. Ten (10) years post-doctoral experience in working with local and international relevant organizations.
- iv. Working experience in complex consulting research assignments involving multiple stakeholders in relevant areas.
- v. Widely published in peer reviewed international journals.
- vi. History of working with EAC and such other international organizations will be an added advantage.

### **4. Other requirements**

- Professional certificate of registration
- Current practicing license from the relevant regulatory body
- Application letter detailing academic and professional experience and suitability
- An updated CV with 3 professional referees and contact address

### **5. Deliverables and Timeline**

The key deliverables include:

- i. Inception report/Concept note
- ii. Research platform Framework Document
- iii. Organogram, Institutional and administrative Arrangements
- iv. A guideline for formulation of strategic research and training agenda
- v. Agreed Platform Portfolio Roster of stakeholders

- vi. A framework/guide for institutional/stakeholder partnerships and information sharing within the EAC region and beyond
- vii. Policy Guidelines/Manual on the formation and development of Networks and Study Groups
- viii. Focal Point Persons/organizations in each Partner State
- ix. Resource Mobilization guidelines
- x. Research Award Guidelines for Study Groups
- xi. Mission Control Unit operational at EAKI with an active research web

This assignment shall be undertaken over a maximum period of three (3) months.

## **6. Terms and Conditions of Payment**

Payments shall be made on the basis of agreed work schedule and approved deliverables by appointed UON, KNH and KMTC representatives. This arrangement will be agreed upon before contract.