

## **Early Career Scholars' Programme (ECSP) Building Capacity for Research and Academic Leadership**

### **Introduction**

The ECSP is a 3-year research capacity-building programme, totalling to USD 800,000, which targets to support 15 staff to acquire skills for developing innovative projects of their own choice, increase innovative thinking, nurture emerging leaders and create an intellectual community of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences scholars engaged in innovative research and scholarship. It seeks to move the bulk of CHUSS staff from the status of just being PhD holders to research leaders in their respective disciplines. It will support teams of early career scholars to generate a critical mass of additional high-level scholars. In turn, this will scale up the academic vibrancy of the College, thereby strengthening its capacity to play its rightful role in knowledge generation and dissemination nationally, regionally and internationally.

### **Objectives**

The medium and long-term goal is to develop and nurture a robust academic community and a new generation of scholars in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The short-term objectives are fourfold:

- i) Mentor a new generation of scholars through the provision of opportunity to conduct innovative and cutting-edge research.
- ii) Equip the scholars with the ability to establish themselves as independent researchers with skills to initiate and manage their own research at host institutions within and outside Africa.
- iii) Build vibrant research teams working on pertinent questions affecting the country with a particularly Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences inflection.
- iv) Create a conducive atmosphere and adequate infrastructure including regular workshops, seminars, symposia and conferences that enact platforms and congregates publics to engage timely and robustly with key issues and trends in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

### **Structure of the Programme**

The program will benefit 15 academic staff over a period of three (3) years. The training programme will entail two cohorts; each cohort will pursue a two-year research programme. Each of the 15 scholars is expected to take a maximum of four (4) months residence at an advanced research centre to participate in advanced and specialized skills and research methodology training in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

### **Selection**

The scholars will be selected based on academic excellence and the originality of either their proposed research projects or any meriting academic/community outreach programme such as curriculum review. The selection will also ensure that diversity based on gender and thematic distribution are built into the program. The research projects will be selected on their levels of innovation, interdisciplinarity, relevance, feasibility and equity/diversity.

### **Programme Management**

The project head for this grant will be the Principal of CHUSS, Prof Edward K. Kirumira. The Principal will be the overall person responsible for the scientific direction of the program and tracking program impact and accountability. The Principal will be supported by Associate Prof Josephine Ahikire who is the Deputy Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Both Prof Kirumira and Dr Ahikire shall be part of the Steering Committee, which will be directly involved in the selection, training activities and mentorship of scholars. The Steering Committee will comprise the Deans of the 5 schools and the Director, MISR. The Steering Committee may co-opt members whenever necessary. The Steering Committee will be directly involved in overall planning of mentorship activities, and it will participate in group mentorship to support the scholars. The Steering Committee will also be responsible for reviewing and supporting relevant changes required for a quality Early Career Scholars' program.