



## **OHTN Chair in HIV Program Science for African, Caribbean and Black Communities**

The Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN), working collaboratively with the African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario (ACCHO), is actively recruiting a highly skilled candidate to be the catalyst for an impact-focused program of research to improve the health of African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) communities in Ontario.

**The newly created OHTN Chair in HIV Program Science for African, Caribbean and Black Communities** will work across disciplines, issues, teams and projects, providing leadership in innovative research that will have a measurable impact on health programs, services and systems in the short to medium term (2-5 years).

**Expectations for this new Chair are high and different.** The OHTN Chair is not a traditional investigator-driven academic award, where researchers can solely follow their own curiosity. While we are looking for someone driven by both curiosity and the conviction that our health and social systems can do better, we expect the successful candidate to build relationships and work closely with ACB communities, other researchers, health services/systems partners and policy makers to undertake highly relevant, pragmatic program science research that will lead to positive change.

### **The Program Science Need:**

African, Caribbean and Black communities in Ontario are disproportionately affected by HIV. They account for about 14% of people diagnosed with HIV in Ontario since the beginning of the epidemic, and 15% of new HIV diagnoses in 2013. After gay and other men who have sex with men, ACB communities are the second most affected population in Ontario.

***Ontario has a small number of researchers working in health and health services for ACB communities. To enhance capacity and take Ontario research to the next level, we need a dynamic individual who can kick-start new program science research.***

### **The Chair's Role**

The Chair will:

- Investigate the mechanisms through which structural and individual-level economic (e.g., poverty), social (e.g., racism, sexism), and legal (e.g., precarious citizenship, criminalization of poverty) factors contribute to the production of disparate HIV infection and HIV outcomes in ACB communities.
- Investigate the various ways in which intersecting stigmas associated with racism, sexual practices, sexual identities and positive HIV status within ACB communities affect HIV care and outcomes.
- Collaborate with ACCHO, ACB communities more broadly and other health system partners to develop, implement and evaluate HIV interventions to strengthen community resilience, address HIV prevention and treatment priorities, and improve access to care and support.



- Promote the development and implementation of ACB culturally appropriate methodologies by engaging researchers and other stakeholders who are committed to collaborative community-informed approaches to knowledge development.
- Foster relationships and stimulate networks among ACB stakeholders (i.e., people living with HIV, ACCHO and other agencies, researchers, health care providers and systems, government policy makers) to create an environment that promotes social justice, shared learning, reciprocity and research capacity building.
- Champion program science in Ontario and work to attract and mentor ACB and allied academic and community-based researchers in conducting HIV program science research with ACB communities.

**The successful candidate for the OHTN Chair will:**

- Have an established, proven, consistent and excellent academic track record and a documented history of working in a collaborative, culturally respectful way with ACB communities that has resulted in measurable positive community impacts.
- Have a personal vision for a program of research that looks beyond existing health and social disparities and sees the potential to promote social justice, build resilience and improve health and health services/systems.
- Be an internationally recognized scholar on HIV prevention initiatives, issues and challenges facing ACB communities in North America, with an extensive research publication and funding record (including previous external salary/Chair awards).
- Have an established track record of developing and evaluating health systems and services and guiding the implementation of the resulting programs in real-world settings, through collaboration with community leaders and service providers.
- Have demonstrated an ongoing multidisciplinary approach to health systems and service change by utilizing different research methods (e.g., social-behavioural, epidemiological, intervention and evaluation, community-based).
- Be classified as a Senior Scientist and fulfill the criteria for independent scholarly research at this level. A candidate working at this level would usually have received honours, awards and appointments consistent with leadership in their field.
- Have held an academic appointment in a research institute, university Faculty/Department/Division suited to the specific qualifications of the Chair
- Be eligible to work and reside in Ontario.

The Chair will be appointed for an initial 5-year term and be eligible for additional 5-year terms, based on a successful review by the OHTN and other relevant local stakeholders, as well as a national and international review panel. The appointed candidate will receive an annual salary award to protect research time for the activities outlined above, as well as an annual allowance to support training and mentoring and to initiate new research projects. The Chair is expected to seek additional peer-reviewed funding as a nominated principal applicant for specific research activities relevant to this program of research from national and international funding bodies.



The successful candidate is expected to work with a Community Research Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from ACCHO and diverse Ontario ACB communities, to inform the development of research initiatives and future priorities.

**Interested parties should contact Lydia Makoroka, Coordinator, Research Awards at OHTN, with:**

- Cover letter describing their qualifications for this position;
- Copy of their academic CV; and
- Brief summary of their proposed research focus as Chair.

Highly ranked candidates will be contacted and asked to make a more detailed submission as part of the review and interview process. Individuals not currently residing in Ontario are welcome to apply.

Each candidate will be asked to present their vision and scope for the Chair in a public forum with OHTN stakeholders – including Ontario’s key ACB leaders and community members, health care sector partners, and decision-makers in government, and academics in the fields of HIV research.

***The Ontario HIV Treatment Network is committed to employment equity and encourages applications from persons living with HIV/AIDS, and persons with culturally diverse backgrounds.***

Final appointment of the successful candidate will be made by the OHTN Board of Directors.

**Please direct your application to Lydia Makoroka by Friday May 20, 2015.**

Lydia Makoroka

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**About the OHTN and Its Partners**

The **OHTN** is a collaborative network of people living with HIV, community-based agencies, health care providers, government policy makers, educators and researchers that supports and conducts high quality research to help end the HIV epidemic, and shares the best available evidence with all those who can put that knowledge into action.

**ACCHO** provides leadership in the response to HIV and AIDS in Ontario’s African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) communities by coordinating the implementation of the [\*Ontario HIV/AIDS Strategy for African, Caribbean and Black Communities\*](#). It is a provincial coalition of organizations and individuals committed to HIV prevention, education, advocacy, policy, research, treatment, care and support among ACB communities.