



www.wac-crep.org – waccrep2015@gmail.com

Call for 2nd Cohort Applications: WAC-CREP EPSILON-2 Exchange Award Strengthening Clinical and Genomic Research Capacity on Arboviruses (SC-GRA)

The West African Consortium for Clinical Research on Epidemic Pathogens (WAC-CREP) invites early and mid-career researchers to apply for the **EPSILON Exchange Award** through a competitive process. The award enables visits to consortium institutions (in Mali, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone) for up to 6 weeks to enhance skills in research and management pertaining to the activities described in the SC-GRA protocol.

These exchanges address the human resources gap in our sub-region by building cross-country expertise to strengthen health systems and foster regional collaboration in biomedical research and management.

Objectives and Thematic Priorities

Exchanges must focus on WAC-CREP countries and align with SC-GRA goals:

- 1. Workforce Development & Training**
 - Structured program for researchers, clinicians, and laboratory staff in biomedical sciences.
 - Continuous professional development in Good Clinical Practice (GCP), bioethics, and regulatory compliance.
- 2. Laboratory & Technical Skills**
 - Strengthening laboratory networks with training in diagnostics, biosafety, and biobanking.
 - Capacity-building in advanced techniques such as genomics, immunology, and molecular epidemiology.
- 3. Data Science & Research Informatics**
 - Training in bioinformatics, data management, biostatistics, and digital health tools.
 - Building regional capacity for data sharing and epidemic modeling.
- 4. Research Administration & Management**
 - Building skills in grant management, financial accountability, and consortium governance.
 - Training administrators in international standards for reporting, auditing, and compliance.
- 5. Leadership & Mentorship**
 - Developing leadership pipelines for early-career scientists and women in research.
 - Establishing mentorship networks across WAC-CREP countries to sustain knowledge transfer.
- 6. Community & Policy Engagement**
 - Equipping researchers and administrators with skills to translate evidence into policy.
 - Training in community engagement, risk communication, and culturally sensitive research.



www.wac-crep.org – waccrep2015@gmail.com

7. Sustainability & Resource Mobilization

- Skills for fundraising, proposal development, and international collaboration.
- Building institutional resilience to maintain research programs beyond donor cycles.

Host institutions will be matched based on the applicant's needs and availability.

Award Details

- **Maximum budget per award:** \$10,000 USD (covers travel, accommodation, per diem, activities).
- **Duration:** Up to 6 weeks (flexible start dates post-selection).
- **Number of awards:** Up to 4 this year.

Eligibility Criteria

- Current employee of one of WAC-CREP's research teams (in Mali, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, or Sierra Leone).
- Early and mid-career researcher.
- Required fields/expertise: Management, MEAL, Laboratory, Data Sciences, Community Engagement (or related support roles).
- Female application is highly solicited

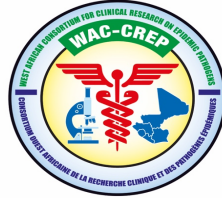
Sample Budget Template

Plan your \$10,000 budget using this table (include justification).

Category	Requested Amount (USD)	Justification (e.g., round-trip flight Bamako-Abidjan)
Travel (air/ground)		
Accommodation/Per Diem		
Training/Materials		
Research expenses		
Visa/Insurance		
Other (specify)		
Total	≤10,000	

Required Documents

West African Consortium for Clinical Research on Epidemic Pathogens (WAC-CREP)



www.wac-crep.org – waccrep2015@gmail.com

Submit as a single PDF (max 8 MB):

1. [Click to apply for EPSILON SCGRA EXCHANGE AWARD](#)
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV) (up to 4 pages).
3. Personal statement (1 page)
4. Letter of recommendation from a WAC-CREP project PI/Co-PI or mentor.
5. Letter of support from the PI of the leveraged WAC-CREP grant.

Proposal Structure:

- Exchange proposal (max 3 pages: objectives, host preference, expected outcomes, budget)
- Times New Roman 11-point font and normal layout.

Submission and Timeline

- Submit through the link: <https://redcap-ucrc.org/surveys/?s=3NYTHECA9JTR3W7E>
- Deadline: **September 10th, 2026, 11:59 PM GMT.**
- Notifications: **September 25th, 2026.**

Selection based on relevance of the topics (30%), feasibility (30%), impact on capacity (20%), candidate background (10%) and diversity (10%).