

## Global Challenges Forum Newsletter (June 2017)

### Immediate opportunities:

- **GCF funding proposal preparation meeting – 21st June, 3-6pm**, Nick Mackintosh Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), Department of Psychology. Please register [here](#) to attend the first of a series of meetings to establish Global Challenges Forum thematic working groups, some of which are likely to focus on coordinating funding proposals.
- **Financing Urban Sanitation workshop, WSUP and GCF – 26th June, 3-6pm**, Alison Richard building. Please register [here](#) to attend this workshop co-organised by GCF and WSUP. The workshop will involve the discussion of WSUP's competitive calls in coming months with a focus on sanitation financing and wider discussion around research priorities in the urban water and sanitation domain, and around prospects for partnership in bids for other research funding streams, including GCRF.

### Funding

- **2017 call for applications for the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA – Deadline: 25th June.** The Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund competitively awards grants of between £1,000 and £20,000 to support pairs of researchers (post-doctoral level and above) from the University of Cambridge (or affiliated institutions such as the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and NIAB) and sub-Saharan African institutions, across all disciplines, to initiate and/or strengthen research collaborations. Please apply [here](#).
- **Digital Impact Grants 2017 now open.** Launched in 2016 with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Digital Impact Grants support research and innovation to strengthen the safe, ethical, and effective use of digital resources in civil society. A total funding pool of \$200,000 is set aside for 2017 grants and it is anticipated making between 5 and 15 grants, although number and size will depend on the applicant pool. New for 2017: Digital Impact Grants is now accepting proposals from nonprofits and universities in the U.S. and abroad. More information [here](#).
- **OpenPlant Fund – Deadline: 30th June.** The OpenPlant Fund supports innovative, open and interdisciplinary projects relevant to plant Synthetic Biology over 2015-19. Up to 20 six-month projects per year will receive £4k each, with an additional £1k awarded on completion for follow-on and outreach. More information [here](#).

### Opportunities

- **Hapold summer internship: World Engineering Index internships – Deadline: 23rd June.** The Hapold Foundation is sponsoring 4 students (one statistician at Pos-Doc or PhD-level and three undergraduates or recent graduates on subjects such as economics, engineering or international development) to compile a World Engineering Index addressing inequality in access to engineering skills in different countries. Please email your CV and covering letter to [fran.baker@centreforglobalequality.org](mailto:fran.baker@centreforglobalequality.org) stating in the subject title which job you are applying for. Interviews will take place the following week.
- **Make a Difference Challenges opens.** The aim of the idea challenge is to enhance creativity, openness and knowledge exchange between students, makers, labs, engineers, designers, and other technology developers irrespective of their technological proficiencies. Make A Difference will provide an opportunity for nine selected participants from around the world to develop their ideas into physical products by visiting their fabrication laboratory (OLab Hamburg) for a week long development workshop. more information [here](#).

- **Biomarker Challenge – Deadline: 23rd June.** Biomaker Challenge is a four-month programme challenging interdisciplinary teams to build low-cost sensors and instruments for biology co-organized by OpenPlant, Synthetic Biology SRI and CamBridgeSens. The challenge is open to students and staff at the University of Cambridge, John Innes Centre and the Earlham Institute. Participants will receive a Biomaker Toolkit and a discretionary budget for additional sensors, components, consumables and 3D-printing worth up to £1000. More information [here](#)

## News

- **Opinion piece by GCF member Jenny Malloy: “We need to break science out of its ivory tower – here’s one way to do this”.** Dr Jenny Malloy, a member of GCF’s executive committee, together with Max Liboiron (Memorial University of Newfoundland) shared a view on science inequalities at The Conversation. From access to scientific hardware to gender and minority representation in laboratories, Jenny looked at some of the initiatives around the world that are addressing these disparities and working to move science out of the lab. Read more [here](#).
- **Africa's Voices wins Shuttleworth Foundation Flash Grant.** Africa’s Voices Foundation (AVF), founded and run by GCF members, has won a Shuttleworth Foundation Flash Grant in recognition of the positive social change that AVF adheres to. AVF was nominated for this award by Gavin Weale of Livity Africa. Combining technology, media and data analysis, AVF’s methods listen intelligently to amplify diverse, local voices at the heart of responsive and effective development and governance. For more information please visit the [Africa's Voices website](#).
- **Water testing project wins photo competition** Hajime Shinohara won an award in the People and Skills category of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's national science photography competition with a photo taken during a field visit in Tanzania supported by Smart Villages and the Centre for Global Equality to test a novel approach to purifying water. Click [here](#) to see award winning photographs.

## Events

- **REAL Centre conference: Inclusive learning and teaching: Lessons from the last two decades – 28th June,** Faculty of Education The Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre pioneers research into overcoming barriers to education, such as poverty, gender, ethnicity, language and disability, and promotes education as an engine for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Please register [here](#).
- **Open Plant Forum: Fast and frugal engineering with biology – 24- 27th July.** OpenPlant is a joint initiative between the University of Cambridge, John Innes Centre and the Earlham Institute, funded by the BBSRC and EPSRC as part of the UK Synthetic Biology for Growth programme. The initiative promotes interdisciplinary exchange, open technologies and responsible innovation for improvement of sustainable agriculture and conservation. Please register to the forum [here](#).
- **Sustainable Health Symposium , Anglia Ruskin University.** This one day symposium will harness learning across the globe to consider the transformations required for a healthy, sustainable world, and brings the best minds together with the expertise of key individuals to help solve these conundrums in practical, sustainable and hopeful ways and highlight recommendations for the next 5-10 years. Please register [here](#).