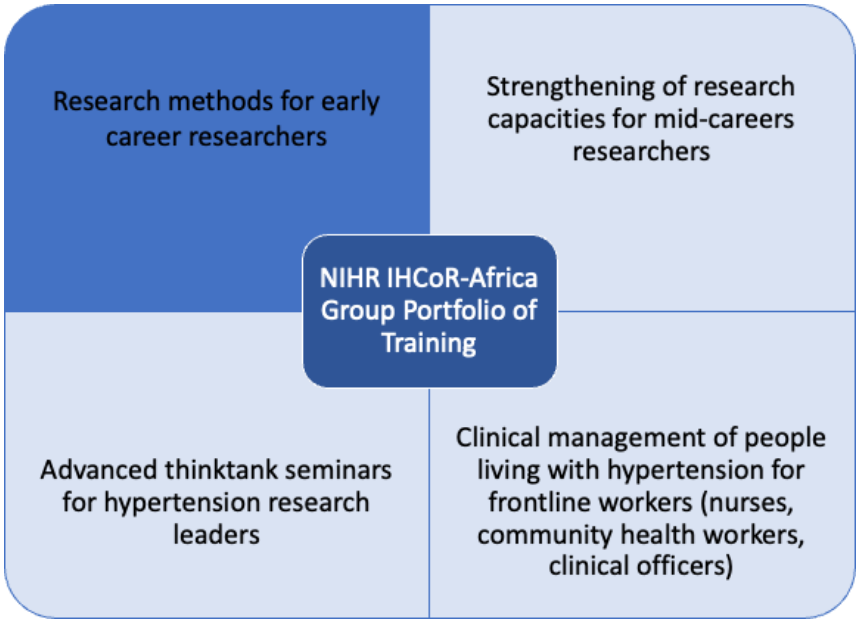
NIHR IHCoR-AFRICA Online Training

The *Improving Hypertension Control in Rural Sub-Saharan Africa (IHCoR-Africa) National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Group* is a collaboration between the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme in Kenya, the Medical Research Council Unit at The Gambia, and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in the UK, that aims to strengthen research and improve hypertension management in sub-Saharan Africa.

NIHR IHCoR-Africa Group will be offering a portfolio of training in collaboration with the Initiative to Develop African Research Leaders (IDeAL), the Pan African Society of Cardiology (PASCAR), the Kenyan Cardiac Society (KCS), and Science for Africa Foundation. This portfolio consists of four components:



We are pleased to announce the start of the *research methods for early career researchers* training with the online programme**: "Hypertension research in sub-Saharan Africa: epidemiology, health systems and clinical trials".** This comprehensive training programme will include four online courses:

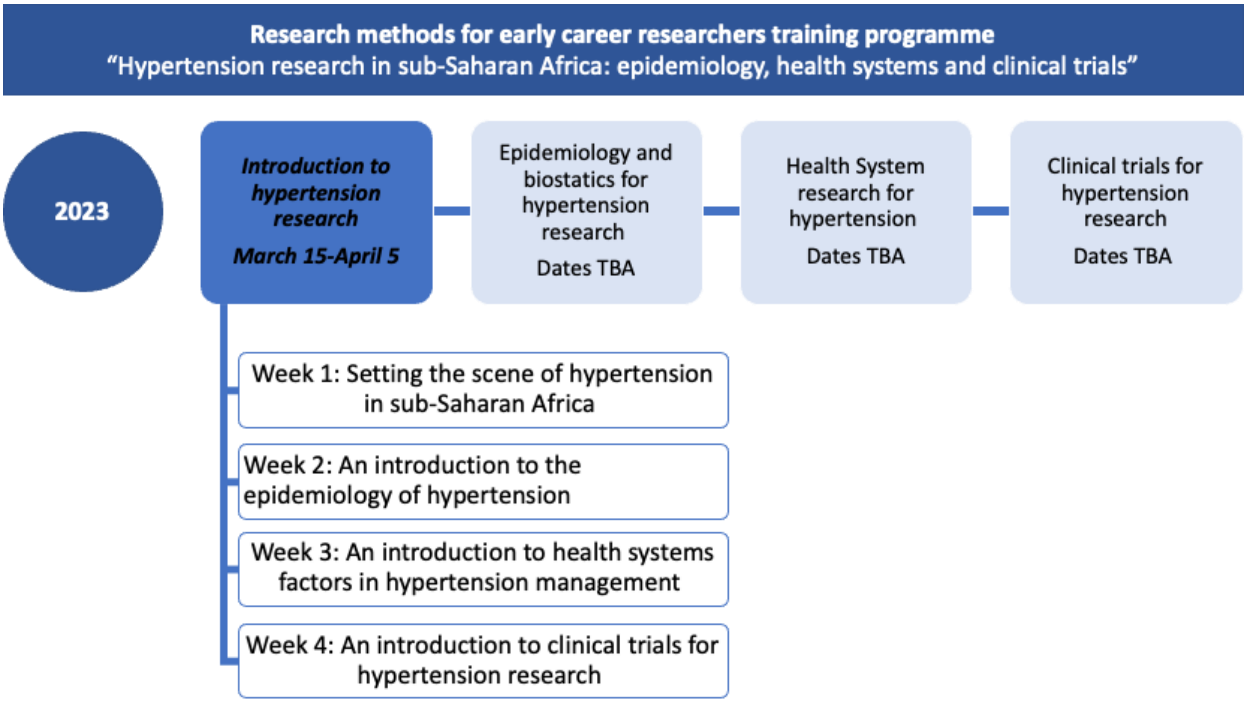
1) Introduction to hypertension research
2) Epidemiology and biostatics for hypertension research
3) Health System research for hypertension
4) Clinical trials for hypertension research.

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These courses will be run in 2023 and repeated in 2024 and 2025. Although each course can be attended as a standalone, we encourage students to attend the four courses over the three-year period. Places are limited (60 for the introductory course and 20 for the other courses) so we will prioritize applicants according to specific criteria (see below) for this first course until we reach the maximum number of students.

We are **now calling for applications for the first of these courses: "*Introduction to hypertension research*"**. This first online course will be free and will run over four weeks (on Wednesdays from 15 March to 5 April), with 3 contact hours on one day per week, and an additional 8 hours of self-directed learning per week. It will cover the following:

Week 1: Setting the scene of hypertension in sub-Saharan Africa
Week 2: An introduction to the epidemiology of hypertension
Week 3: An introduction to health systems factors in hypertension management
Week 4: An introduction to clinical trials for hypertension research



A certificate of attendance will be provided for students who engage fully in the course.

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Given the limited number of places, students will be given priority for a place using these criteria:

1. A national of a Sub-Saharan African country who is working in a SSA country
2. Working in hypertension / cardiovascular disease research within an organisation / institution / group that will benefit from the training
3. Working in hypertension / cardiovascular disease (as a healthcare worker, or other non-research role)

Students who are not selected for this year's course will have the opportunity to register interest in courses being held in future years.

Prospective students should fill in **this form** if you wish to apply for this first course. You will need to provide:

In the application form:

- One paragraph explaining why this course is relevant to your work (200 word maximum).

Emailed to IHCoR_Africa_training@LSHTM.ac.uk:

- A one-page CV
- A letter of support from your institution, including confirmation that time will be given to attend live sessions on the course dates

(Please ensure the email address you use on the form and for sending these documents is the same so we can match up your application.)

The deadline for applications, including the supporting documentation, is Monday, 13 February 2023.

We will announce in early 2023 the dates for the other three online courses that will go deeper into each of the topics of weeks 2-4 of this course. Participants who attain a certificate of attendance for the ***"Introduction to hypertension research"*** will have priority when applying for the three subsequent courses. Participants attending the four online courses will get (in addition to each of the individual online courses' certificates) an overall certificate for the *Hypertension research in sub-Saharan Africa: epidemiology, health systems and clinical trials training programme.*

Please contact IHCoR_Africa_training@LSHTM.ac.uk with any questions you may have.

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