

Research Assistant Position:

Description of Position

This position entails assisting in a new study entitled *Use of Skilled Attendance at Childbirth in Rural Tanzania: The Role of Social and Material Inequalities*. The study is a collaborative effort between IHRDC (Ifakara Health Research & Development Centre) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States. It seeks to better understand which women residing in the Ifakara DSS (Demographic Surveillance System) villages are using skilled health care for childbirth, which women are not, and why. It also will explore local structures of social and material inequalities and the influence these have on care-seeking behaviors. Although the study will utilize both quantitative and qualitative methods, the research position will involve qualitative work only.

Specifically, the research assistant will be required to assist in conducting open-ended, in-depth interviews with women who have experienced childbirth in the last six months. These interviews will take place in "the field," so travel to the surrounding villages will be necessary. The research assistant will also be responsible for translating/transcribing the interviews once they have been conducted. Finally, it is preferable that this person be able to contribute some personal insight to the topic of study.

The position is currently being offered for the month of November, 2007. The hours are flexible but may require occasional nights spent in the field. If the assistant likes the work and desires to continue their involvement after November, there is potential for additional work from March to June of next year (including potential for co-authorship on publications). The salary is expected to be \$1,000-1,500 USD/month including per diem, depending on individual qualifications and availability.

Qualifications

Applicants **must be female** and fluent in English as well as Swahili. Basic medical knowledge of reproductive health is also required. Applicants with any amount of experience in qualitative data collection or who have cultural/sociological knowledge of the villages in Kilombero Valley are especially encouraged to apply.

Application Process

Please submit a resume and a short statement of interest to Sydney A. Spangler (Principle Investigator and Certified Nurse-Midwife), email: sspanqler@unc.edu. Prospective applicants will be contacted and interviewed once this information has been received. The application deadline is October 26th, 2007.

In case of questions, feel free to contact me at the above address or at telephone #: +255 (0)78 230 2096