

# Call volunteer 2022-2023

## Full version

### Context

4Brain is a multidisciplinary research group at Ghent University and the Department of Neurology of Ghent University Hospital. Neuroscientists within 4Brain focus on translational neuroscience in epilepsy, stroke, multiple sclerosis, and neurodegenerative and cognitive problems.

Since more than 10 years Prof. Dr. Paul Boon, programme director and founder of 4Brain and chairman of the Department of Neurology at Ghent University Hospital has developed an ongoing brain health cooperation with Dr. Fidele Sebera, medical director of CARAES neuropsychiatric hospital Ndera, Rwanda as well as several other Rwandan partners, e.g., Ministry of Health, King Faisal Hospital, several district hospitals and the Brothers of Charity. The objective of the cooperation is to improve access to high-quality neurological care for people living with epilepsy in African low- and middle-income countries. The collaboration contributes to education including the development of an academic Neurology curriculum for the University of Rwanda to develop human, medical and technical capacity through training and the development of technical resources and scientific research. Since 2013, the Rwandan research platform consists of mainly epilepsy-related research activities in light of accumulating evidence of a 5% epilepsy prevalence, one of the highest prevalence rates throughout sub-Saharan Africa and 5 times higher than in Europe. The research activities include projects on epilepsy and depression as a comorbidity, engagement of community health workers in supporting people living with epilepsy, psychosocial aspects of female people of childbearing age living with epilepsy, cost of epilepsy care, quality of life of people living with epilepsy, risk factors and etiologies of epilepsy... By engaging local partners and applying digital health in the epilepsy care, the ongoing projects will continue to create local research capacity and enhance an international research network.

In light of several ongoing projects within the North-South cooperation, our team is currently looking for volunteers to assist in several ways during ongoing projects.

The task of a volunteer is very diverse: from logistical support during preparation of research projects to assisting the medical team during their outreach in rural areas.

Do you speak English and French fluently, do you want to make a meaningful contribution to improving health care access in Rwanda and are you open to the Rwandan culture?

Then contact the 4Brain research group and step into their project as a volunteer. Volunteers generally work 5 days a week; however flexibility is required as the volunteers should be willing to work according to the requirements of ongoing projects. There is enough free time outside of working hours to explore Rwanda.

### Desired profile

- You have a diploma of higher secondary education (ASO, TSO, BSO 7th year) and an academic Bachelor degree or higher. A medical background of some kind is an asset, but not an absolute requirement.
- You are able to use a PC.
- You have a valid international drivers license

- You have good communication skills.
- You are team-oriented and stress resistant.
- You have a sense of initiative and you are solution-oriented.
- Your work is accurate, planned and structured.
- You have a great sense of responsibility.
- You integrate smoothly into a new work environment.

### Period

We are looking for volunteers who are available from September/October 2022 onwards. A minimum period of 3 months is required.

### Our offer

4Brain and its ongoing international cooperation offer a professional, multidisciplinary work environment where there is plenty of room for training, coaching and personal growth. Reimbursement of travel costs and accommodation is offered.

### Selection procedure

- Apply for this position today by sending your CV and motivational letter to Prof. dr. Paul Boon, programme director ([paul.boon@uzgent.be](mailto:paul.boon@uzgent.be))
- Want more information, contact [ieme.garrez@uzgent.be](mailto:ieme.garrez@uzgent.be)
- Would you like more information about 4Brain? Then be sure to take a look at our website [www.4brain.eu](http://www.4brain.eu)
- We run every year to gather funding for our translational neuroscientific research projects. Interested? Have a look at <https://www.run4brain.com/> !

### Short note

Looking for volunteering work during several months? Do you want to make a contribution in Rwanda and are you open to the Rwandan culture? Then contact the 4Brain research group and step into their project as a volunteer in order to help improve access to high-quality neurological care for people living in African low- and middle-income countries. Apply for this position today by sending your CV and motivational letter to [paul.boon@UZGent.be](mailto:paul.boon@UZGent.be)