

Communications Specialist - USAID STOP Spillover,
Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine
Tufts University

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Posted Nov. 10, 2020, set to expire Mar. 25, 2021

Job Title Communications Specialist - USAID STOP Spillover,
Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine

Department

Institution Tufts University

Grafton, Massachusetts

Date Posted Nov. 10, 2020

Application Deadline Open until filled

Position Start Date Available immediately

Job Categories Professional Staff

Academic Field(s) Communications/Public Relations

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Job Description

STOP Spillover is a USAID-funded project launched in October 2020 to anticipate and address threats posed by emerging zoonotic diseases that move from animals to humans. Over the next 5 years, the project will work in ten countries across Africa and Asia. A Tufts-led international consortium will support countries to build capacity to directly reduce outbreaks from known zoonotic viruses. The consortium will work with USAID to develop and institutionalize innovative, country-specific, and sustainable approaches to decrease the risk of viral spillover from animals to humans and reduce amplification and spread of viruses among humans. STOP Spillover will focus on strengthening national capacity in a number of targeted countries to 1) understand the factors that contribute to the risk of spillover of pathogens from wildlife to humans; 2) develop, assess, and implement early risk-reduction interventions that will reduce spillover and spread of priority pathogens; and, 3) recognize and respond rapidly to zoonotic spillover events.

The Tufts University team includes faculty members from the Cummings School of Veterinary

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Medicine, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Feinstein International Center, School of Engineering and the School of Medicine. The Department of Infectious Disease and Global Health (IDGH) at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine hosts a number of project faculty and applies a multidisciplinary approach to advancing the health and well-being of animals, people, and our global ecosystem. Expertise includes Infectious Diseases, International Veterinary Medicine, Conservation Medicine, Wildlife Medicine and Public Health programs. Emerging zoonotic infectious diseases are a priority. In addition, the Tufts-led consortium works with private sector partners, One Health university networks in Africa and Asia, University of Glasgow, University of Washington, UCLA, the Broad Institute, University of Nebraska, conservation organizations and others.

An experienced communications specialist is sought who can lead communications efforts for the Tufts-led STOP Spillover consortium. The specialist will help organize and lead effective internal and external communication strategies based on addressing project objectives and workplan priorities. The specialist will effectively communicate project results and achievements to USAID, other donors, global audiences, and in-country stakeholders such as ministries of health, civil society, and beneficiaries.

The communications specialist will work closely with project management, project teams in the field and consortium faculty and staff to raise the visibility of STOP Spillover contributions using an integrated approach that combines print, digital, and visual communications.

The Tufts-consortium is based in the Boston area. The communications specialist may choose to work on-site or virtually.

The successful candidate will ideally have experience using a variety of digital formats and platforms, excellent writing skills, development experience with the US Government (preferably USAID) or international entities and a demonstrated ability to work as team member while also managing tasks independently.

The communications specialist reports to the Project Manager, and works across the project, supporting multiple teams.

The Communication Officer will:

Lead communication efforts for STOP Spillover, including development of project and country-level communications strategies mapped to strategic plans and/or workplans.

Establish processes to systematically share project contributions through multiple global health channels and researching new channels for the project's technical content.

Work closely with project technical advisors and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) advisors to

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ensure that data generated by STOP Spillover is shared appropriately with stakeholders and used to tell the story of project achievements.

Ensure compliance with USAID branding strategy and marking plan for STOP Spillover.

Establish effective communication networks within the consortium and among stakeholders including other donors, government, NGOs, IGOs and private sector.

Support capacity building of in-country communications staff to lead project and country-level communications efforts for STOP Spillover.

Manage the full production cycle for communications products (print, digital, and audio/visual), including copyediting, layout/design, printing, and strategic dissemination.

Advise project teams on using online platforms (e.g., social media, blogs, other web-based) to reach in-country and global audiences. Help manage social media accounts.

Support country and project teams to plan and execute project launches, end-of-project conferences, and other in-country events as needed, including local media outreach.

Work closely with the MEL team to support ongoing monitoring and evaluation of project communication effort and report preparation.

Collaborate with technical teams to develop blogs, web content, newsletters and other pieces to promote USAID STOP Spillover work and facilitate its placement in different strategic communication channels, including through the project's consortium partners.

Build capacity of USAID STOP Spillover consortium members to share project achievements.

Provide additional communications support to the project as requested, which may include social media, writing, translating, editing, formatting, or assuring compliance.

Contact Information

Please reference Academickeys in your cover letter when applying for or inquiring about this job announcement.

Contact