



2015 BHEARD Scholar
Marie Fausta Dutuze

Profile

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| Country of Study: | United States |
| University: | Louisiana State University |
| Department: | Pathobiological Sciences |
| Student Position: | Graduate Research Assistant – Ph.D. |
| Hometown: | Kigali, Rwanda |
| Home Institution: | University of Rwanda |
| Home Position: | Assistant Lecturer |
| Mentored By: | Home: Dr. Manasse Nzayirambaho USA: Dr. Rebecca Christofferson, Assistant Professor, Pathobiological Sciences, LSU |

Research Area: Pathobiological Sciences

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: August 2015

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Inter-State School of Veterinary Sciences and Medicine of Dakar, Senegal

GRADUATE EDUCATION: Master’s in Veterinary Public Health, Inter-State School of Veterinary Sciences and Medicine of Dakar

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Marie is interested in epidemiology of vector-borne diseases. Her proposed doctoral project is titled, “Hypothesis driven characterization of transmission factors and distribution of viruses of the Bunyaviridae family in Rwanda.”

The Bunyaviridae family is composed of many viruses that cause potentially deadly diseases in humans and animals. The most common in Rwanda is Rift Valley Fever virus, which is transmitted by mosquitoes to many animal species (cattle, goats and sheep) and humans, and causes significant economic losses through abortions of animals.

Marie’s research aims to analyze data from animal and human populations, as well as environmental factors in order to understand the epidemiological dynamics of these viruses and make recommendations to decision making institutions. After her Ph.D., Marie will continue doing epidemiology-related research works on other vector-borne diseases in Rwanda such as malaria, trypanosomiasis, Zika, Dengue, Chikunguniya, etc.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: Marie believes that the development of a country is achieved by education and commitment, and this is what she wants to dedicate her life to. After accomplishing her Ph.D. degree, Marie plans to concretely contribute in building the education system of her country.

This is through many activities such as teaching, supervision of students' research projects, writing grants, participation in research projects and community outreach, publication in peer-reviewed journals and presenting in international conferences. As Marie has always had a special interest in gender issues, she also plans to be actively involved in women empowerment programs at her institution and her country in general.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: Marie is a quite and pretty easygoing person. In her free time, she likes spending time with her family, reading novels, watching comedy movies, cooking and hanging out with friends.