



**Japanese post-doctoral fellowship at the Institut Pasteur:
first call (2019)
Research project 5**

Host laboratory	Emerging Disease Epidemiology Unit
Contact	boursepdjapon@pasteur.fr
Title	Towards the elimination of hepatitis B in Africa
Abstract	<p>Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is a serious global health problem, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. To achieve WHO's HBV global elimination strategy, it is crucial to interrupt mother-to-child transmission (MTCT). Administration of HBV vaccine to all neonates within 24 hours of birth, the current WHO recommendation, cannot completely prevent MTCT in HBV-infected women with high HBV DNA levels. Consequently, antenatal screening to identify highly viremic women and subsequent maternal antiviral therapy, a strategy similar to HIV, is now recommended in high-income countries. This strategy may be adapted to Africa, where uptake of antenatal care is high, and anti-HBV therapy is inexpensive. However, access to HBV DNA test is limited because the current assay (PCR) is not affordable and available for most of African people. We therefore evaluate inexpensive/simple alternative HBV markers in real-life African field (Senegal and Burkina Faso), and generate high quality evidence to inform WHO's guidelines and African health authorities.</p>