

# **COMPLETE LIST AND BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF DISCUSSION PANELISTS AT THE KEMRI AT 40 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ON 10<sup>TH</sup>, FEBRUARY 2020 FROM 2.30 PM AND 4.30 PM.**

## **PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

### **Topic for Panel 1: Cancer! The battle to be won!**

A. Korir, N. Mabachi, D. Matoke-Muhia, M. Maloba, S. Kessler, V. Manduku

#### **Background**

In 2018 there was an estimated 47,000 new cancer cases and 33,000 cancer deaths in Kenya. Cancer has become the second leading cause of non-communicable diseases deaths in Kenya. This rise is not only a concern for health care professionals, but for Kenyans as evidenced by the numerous news reports on the subject. Indeed, cancer patients and their families have called for the Kenyan government to declare cancer a “national disaster” and thus harness resources to improve access to affordable diagnosis, treatment and palliation. This begs an increase in cancer specialists, and better equipped facilities.

However, there are barriers that are hindering a comprehensive approach to addressing this alarming rise in cancer rates. These barriers include: 1) inadequate monitoring and evaluation hampered by challenges of collecting nationwide quality data 2) Limited resources and capacity in regards to qualified health care providers, and equipped treatment facilities, 3) Low levels of screening for preventable cancers such as breast, cervical, prostate and colorectal cancers 4) low prioritization among policy makers and opinion leaders and 5) the lack of a multi-stakeholder collaborative strategy to address this issue at all levels of the socio-ecological model.

#### **Panel goals**

Given these challenges we are convening a panel of experts from Kenya and our collaborators who are working to highlight this issue and provide depth on strategies to conquer and control Cancer. The panel will discuss where we are in regards to cancer prevention, diagnosis, management and research. Each expert will discuss: 1) the work they are currently doing, 2) the achievements so far 3) the challenges they face from their professional perspective, and 4) New and existing approaches of addressing cancer, and 5) Strengthening collaborations in addressing cancer. This will be an opportunity for the audience to connect with the panel and to discuss concerns, and ideas.

#### **Learning Goals**

1. Show case the landscape of cancer in Kenya

2. Highlight the successes and challenges of addressing cancer in Kenya
3. Discuss potential collaboration opportunities and integrated approaches of addressing cancer
4. New opportunities for research

**Organizer:** Ms. Anne Korir

**Co-Chair:** Dr. Veronicah Manduku

**Rapporteur:** Dr. Damaris Matoke

## **PANEL SPEAKERS**

### **Ms. Anne Korir, MPH – KEMRI**



Anne Korir is a Senior Research scientist (Epidemiologist) working at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) in the area of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) mainly cancer. She has a Masters in Public Health and currently pursuing a PhD in cancer epidemiology. Anne has made significant contribution towards cancer data in Kenya. She is a pioneer in the establishment of population-based cancer registries across various counties in Kenya and is currently the head of the KEMRI National Cancer Registry. Her focus is on epidemiological research and surveillance in the area of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and utilizing the information to inform policy and implementation of cancer control interventions that improve health outcomes among communities. She has been a Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Investigator in several projects and has experience in the management of large and diverse research programs having national and international collaborations. She has served in several Technical Working Groups of the Ministry of Health and internationally including International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Africa Cancer Registries Network (AFCRN) and Vital Strategies (VS), USA. Anne currently sits in the Board of the National Cancer Institute of Kenya (NCI-K), Africa Cancer Registries Network (AFCRN) and Health Care Global Cancer Care Kenya (HCGCCK). Previously she served as the Chair of the Board of Kenya Cancer Association (KENCASA) and was the Africa representative in the International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR) for a period of five years.

### **Dr Vera Manduku, MBChB, MSc – KEMRI**



Dr. Veronica Manduku is the Deputy Director, Centre for Clinical Research and has a background in diagnostic imaging. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery from Pune University, India (1996) and a Masters in Medicine in Diagnostic Imaging from the University of Nairobi (2003). As a director, she coordinates a robust research team with expertise in clinical trials, epidemiology and basic sciences within several research stations including the Nairobi, Kisumu, Kericho and Thika counties. The team typically undertakes research in key infectious diseases like HIV, Malaria,

Leishmaniasis, Sickle cell disease and a good number in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) like Mental and dental health, cancer, child and adolescent health, reproductive health among others

Her objectives are in improving quality of cancer care in Kenya through research and enhanced understanding of cancer and other major NCDs.

She is also keen in chest imaging with her past work being in supporting the Malaria vaccine trial and the Pneumonia Etiology survey in radiation safety, standardization of reading and review of images. In 2015, she was the lead imaging expert in the first ever Kenya National Tuberculosis Survey.

She supports MOH through various technical working groups in cancer control program. She is currently the chair of the Kenya Society for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (KESUMB). A member of African Society of Radiologists (ASR).

In the past she has served as a board member in the Kenya Radiation Protection Board (KRPB) and chair, Kenya Association of Radiologists (KAR).

### **Dr. Damaris Matoke-Muhia, KEMRI**



Damaris is a molecular biology research scientist with interest in utilizing genomics in the control diseases. She holds a PhD in Molecular Medicine from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, MSc in Biotechnology and BSc in Biochemistry. Currently, Damaris' research is on exploring innovative genetic approaches in diagnosis and treatment of diseases. During her Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), Damaris was involved in investigating risk determinants of leishmania transmission and

occurrence in Kenya. Her PhD work focused on population genetics and insecticide resistance monitoring of malaria vectors in Western Kenya. Damaris joined KEMRI, Centre for Biotechnology Research and Development, Molecular Entomology laboratory in the year 2006 as an Assistant Research Officer and later rose to the position of Senior Research Officer. She supervises a number of PhD and MSc students, and has a passion in mentoring young women in STEM. In 2017, Damaris got recognized as the best young

scientist and selected to be an Affiliate of the African Academy of Sciences for 2017-2021. She is a member of American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH), Pan-African Mosquito Control Association (PAMCA), Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) and an Organizing Secretary for the KEMRI Annual Scientific Health (KASH).

### **Dr. Nelly Mugo, MBChB, MSc – KEMRI**



Dr. Mugo is a reproductive health specialist and clinical research scientist working with the Center of Clinical Research (CCR) and heads the Reproductive Adolescent Child Health Research Program (SRACH-RP) at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). She is a registered medical practitioner with over 27 years of experience in clinical medicine working in public hospitals and over 17 years of active clinical research work. Her area of research focus is HIV and cervical cancer prevention. During her tenure at the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) she was an honorary lecturer at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Nairobi. She has contributed to various World Health Organisation (WHO), NASCOP and Department of Family Health guideline development committees.

She conducts research on HIV-AIDS and cervical cancer prevention and currently leads a KEMRI clinical research team in Thika, Kenya (PHRD). This team participated in the Partners PrEP clinical trials, whose data informed the change in global policy for use of HIV-PrEP as standard intervention for HIV prevention. In collaboration with Prof. Elizabeth Bukusi (KEMRI) and Ruanne Barnabas (Univ. of Washington), they are implementing a study evaluating the effectiveness of a single dose of HPV vaccine named 'Kenya Single Dose HPV Study- KEN SHE'.

Dr. Mugo received her under graduate and postgraduate medical training at the University of Nairobi and earned her MPH with a major in epidemiology from the University of Washington.

Dr. Mugo regularly reviews manuscripts for several peer-review journals and presents on topical issues on HIV/AIDS and reproductive health in local, regional and international meetings. She currently has over 175 publications in peer-reviewed journals

## **Prof. Chite Asirwa, MBChB, MSc – ICI**



Prof Chite is the Director of International Cancer Institute that has activities and programs with various partners in Sub-Saharan Africa. He is also the Program Director of Blue-Print Program which brings various implementing partners together to work on a Cancer project. Currently doing a project with the Meru County, Kenya and Makueni County, Kenya. He was Previously the Director of Academic Model Providing Access to Health Care (AMPATH) Oncology and Hematology Programs since 2011 to 2019. This is a consortium of a group of North American Universities (including University of Toronto, Brown University, Duke University, UCSF amongst others) led by Indiana University collaborating with Moi University and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya.

Prof. Chite is presently PI on many program development and research grants and have brought to fruition, a functional tumor registry in Eldoret, assisted in the development of a Medical Oncology fellowship curriculum, gynecologic Oncology curriculum , Developed Oncology curriculum for Physician assistants (Clinical Officers) at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, Established an ongoing Multiple Myeloma program, Breast Cancer screening and treatment program, Hemophilia and Sickle cell diagnostics, treatment & patient registry, Electronic medical records for Oncology point of care encounters, have assisted in the implementation of electronic breast and cervical cancer screening program amongst many other research activities and interests. He is also the PI for a multi-national Lung Cancer study (Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Swaziland). He has had formal training in coagulation and benign hematologic disorders including hemophilia and sickle cell disorders which are endemic in sub-Saharan Africa. He underwent successfully formal fellowship training at an NCI-Designated Cancer Center having completed his Internal Medicine in the United States and a 3-year Hematology-Oncology fellowship training at Indiana University. He has also conceptualized, developed and implemented Oncology Nursing training program at Moi Campus (Started training its first class in 2016) in Kenya and a Fellowship program for Medical Oncology at Moi University's Department of Medicine (starting soon), both in-country trainings. He is currently the PI of a multi-year Breast and Cervical cancer control program, Sickle Cell & Hemophilia program, Lung cancer control program, Lymphoma program and Multiple Myeloma Program.

## **Ann Chao, PhD**



Senior Advisor for Cancer and NCDs  
Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute  
National Institutes of Health, DHHS  
Based at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya  
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Dr. Ann Chao received her MPH and PhD in epidemiology (minor in biostatistics) from the University of California, Los Angeles; she received her BS in gerontology and MS in applied biometry from the University of Southern California. Ann joined the Center for Global Health, National Cancer Institute (NCI) in January 2012 as its representative in East Asia, based at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China. From 2017 to 2019, Dr. Chao served as NCI's representative in Geneva, Switzerland, working with WHO, IARC, and other multilateral partners. In September 2019, Dr. Chao began her assignment as NCI's representative in Nairobi, Kenya, based at the U.S. Embassy Nairobi. In addition to research, Ann supports cooperation in national cancer control planning and implementation, health and cancer surveillance, training, and cancer research in basic, clinical, and population sciences. Prior to joining NCI, Dr. Chao lived and conducted epidemiologic research studies in the U.S., Rwanda, Zambia, and China. Her research at the SEER New Mexico Tumor Registry and at the American Cancer Society (Cancer Prevention Studies) focused on modifiable lifestyle and familial risk factors associated with cancer incidence, mortality, screening and early detection.

## **Dr. Alfred Karagu Maina, MBChB, MSc - NCI-Kenya**



Dr. Alfred Karagu is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Cancer Institute of Kenya, a statutory body established under the Cancer Prevention and Control Act of 2012 to serve as the coordinating and regulatory agency for cancer prevention and control. He is a public health specialist with a background in clinical care, health services management, monitoring and evaluation, training and public health research. He holds a Bachelors degree in Medicine and Surgery and a Master of Science in Health Systems Management and is a graduate of the Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme. He has a vast experience in program management in both the infectious and non-communicable disease prevention spheres having worked in

various departments across the national and county government levels. He is currently involved in establishing structures for the National Cancer Institute with a focus on enhancing access to treatment, improvement in quality and treatment outcomes and enhanced cancer data management. He is passionate about strengthening health systems to respond to the rising burden of non-communicable diseases in general and cancer in particular.

### **Dr. Natabhona Mabachi, PhD - University of Kansas**



Dr. Natabhona Mabachi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC). A Kenyan national, Dr. Mabachi completed her doctoral training in Communication Studies with a focus in Health Communication at the University of Kansas, Lawrence Kansas. Dr. Mabachi works in Public health both in academic and community settings using her expertise in Health Communication, Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR), qualitative research methods, and evaluation to address a variety of topics both in Kansas City and East Africa.

Dr Mabachi employs an Equity and Empowerment philosophy in her work. Her goal is to work in partnership with communities and organizations and empower them to address health issues in ways that are most meaningful and sustainable for them. Areas of focus include: Prevention of mother to child HIV transmission (PMTCT) and ways to engage male partners, Community level Sexual Assault Prevention and Policy change and improving Cervical Cancer screening and treatment. Recently, in collaboration with KEMRI, and Global Health Innovations (GHI), Dr. Mabachi and colleagues received funding to develop and implement the CATSystem - a cancer tracking system designed to support cervical cancer screening, treatment, referral and follow-up for reproductive age women in Kenya.

Dr. Mabachi also conducts medical education research designed to address health inequities arising from the hidden curriculum, and implicit biases in care provision and decision making.



## **Zipporah Bukania, PhD**



Dr. Zipporah Bukania is Deputy Director -KEMRI heading the Centre for Public Health Research. She has strong academic and professional training in applied human nutrition with over 20 years' work experience in both clinical application and research. Her doctoral studies training is in applied human nutrition. She has been involved in a wide range of nutrition research activities focusing majorly on generating evidence to support policy formulation and development of government guidelines for the implementation of nutrition programmes. She is currently leading two national level studies, on Universal Health Coverage and assessment of food consumption in Kenya as part of response to the 'Big 4 Agenda'. Zipporah serves on various technical committee as well as mentors nutrition graduate students from various national and international institutions.



## **PANEL 2: Gender and Science: Harnessing the potential of women in addressing Health**

**Organizer: Dr. Damaris Matoke-Muhia**

**Co-Chair: Prof. Charles Mbogo**

**Rapporteur: Violet Asiko**

Evidence shows that gender equality and women's rights are critical drivers of health, wellbeing, and socioeconomic development. The complexity of global health problems demands leadership that represents the pluralism in society. Despite women making up the vast majority of those working in the field of global health, there is a persistent lack of female representation in the highest management and leadership positions. The absence of gender parity in the leadership of key global health institutions in academic, governmental, and non-governmental organisations is evidence that this aspiration for diverse and inclusive leadership is not yet a reality. The Alliance for Gender Equality and UHC asks UN Member States to address three critical areas on UHC:

- Gender equality and women's rights as central to the design and delivery of UHC
- The female health workforce as central to the design and delivery of UHC
- Women's voice and leadership as critical to the process

Achieving gender parity in the scientific arena, including health and health systems it is critical to harnessing the full potential of the global scientific community and creating solutions, which are both gender responsive and effective. Although the global health community has already committed itself to gender parity, **targets are not being met and progress needs to be quickened**. Here we seek to highlight:

1. The experiences and success of being a female leader
2. Gender gaps in leadership
3. Men as allies in strengthening the role of women in leadership

## **PANEL SPEAKERS**

**Topic: Gender and Science: Harnessing the potential of women in addressing Health**



**Damaris Matoke-Muhia**, Kenya

*Senior research scientist, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) & Director of capacity Building, Gender Mainstreaming, and Career Progression, Pan-African Mosquito Control Association (PAMCA)*

Damaris is a senior research scientist at Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) undertaking research in vector borne diseases control. She holds a PhD in Molecular

Medicine and a Masters in Biotechnology. In addition to her extensive experience working in disease prevention and vector control, Damaris is passionate in mentoring young career scientists and advocates for the advancement of the careers of women scientists. She is an affiliate of the African Academy of Sciences and the organizing secretary of KEMRI's annual scientific conference.

### **TOPIC: GENDER EQUITY IN GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP**



#### **DR. EVELYN GITAU**

Director of Research Capacity Strengthening (RCS)  
African Population & Health Research Center (APHRC)

Dr. Evelyn Gitau is the Director of Research Capacity Strengthening division at the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) where her main role is to expand opportunities for African scholars to become research leaders and to support the growth of APHRC's signature fellowship program, Consortia for Advanced Training in Africa (CARTA). Evelyn was previously a Programme Manager at the African Academy of Sciences where she was responsible for the Grand Challenges Africa.

She has over 16 years' experience in medical research and sits on the advisory board of several organizations including the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB), Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme College of Medicine, Blantyre, Malawi, University of Oxford (MSc International Health and Tropical Medicine), the Crick-Africa Network and the Investment Committee -Grand Challenges Canada.

**Abstract:** Despite having an increased number of women working in global health related professions in Africa, barriers to academic and career advancement continue to exist especially in higher education institutions. While this is the case globally, African women face unique challenges that hold them back. These challenges which include sexual harassment, poor sexual and reproductive health, inappropriate human resource policies, gender insensitive budgeting and lack of power to make decisions, prevent women from fully participating in economic development. To add to the problem, African women have internalized gender norms that stop them from seeking leadership positions. A society cannot make progress if slightly more than half of its population is left out of the development agenda, and we therefore need to effectively address barriers to leadership to achieve gender equity.

## **Topic: RESEARCH CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING**



### **Prof. Sammy Kariuki (PhD Tropical Medicine),**

Director Research and Development

KEMRI

Prof. Sam Kariuki obtained his PhD in Tropical Medicine from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in 1997 and rose through the ranks to become a Chief Research Officer at Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and served in this position until April 2018. Prof Sam Kariuki is currently the Director, Research and Development at KEMRI. He is Fellow, African Academy of Sciences and a Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute International Fellow. He is a visiting Professor of Tropical Microbiology, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, UK and a member of the American Society for Microbiology. His research interests are in epidemiology and genomics of enteric bacterial pathogens and antimicrobial resistance, including invasive non-typhoidal salmonellosis (NTS) and typhoid fever, *Shigella* spp, *Vibrio cholerae* and *Escherichia coli*. In order to develop novel treatment methods for enteric infections, Sam Kariuki's team also uses genomics for understanding the microbiome in health and disease. He serves as World Health Organization consultant in areas of food safety, antimicrobial resistance and infectious disease surveillance for the region, and a member of the Advisory Group for Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR). He has authored/co-authored 145 papers in peer-reviewed journals and 3 textbooks on Antimicrobial Resistance and Food Safety. He led the initiative to develop the National Action Plan for reduction and control of Antimicrobial Resistance (Published in January 2011 and updated in May 2017) and is a member of the National Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee (NASIC) overseeing the implementation of the AMR National Action Plan.

## **Topic: TIPS ON THE BALANCING ACT FOR WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP**



### **Prof. Mary Abukutsa-ONYANGO**

Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research at JKUAT

Member of the Mawazo Board

**Mary Abukutsa-ONYANGO** is a distinguished scientist that has conducted pioneering research in African indigenous vegetables (AIVs) . Her work has had a tremendous impact on the utilization of indigenous vegetables in Africa and has led to her receipt of numerous, awards including Presidential, Africa Union awards and Edinburgh medal. Her

work has inspired consumers, producers, students, young researchers and influenced governments to consider the importance of indigenous vegetables for nutrition, health and income generation. Her passion, coupled with her careful scientific multi-disciplinary research, have repositioned indigenous vegetables from a poor man's crop to internationally recognized super vegetables. She holds a BSc (Agriculture), MSc (Agronomy) and PhD (vegetable crop physiology and nutrition). She currently serves as a Professor of Horticulture and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research, Production and Extension) at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya. In 2016, she released 9 varieties of AIVs and in 2018 she was nominated as a fellow of the African Academy of Sciences. She is a mother of two boys, a mother in law to one girl and a wife to one husband. She is a Seventh Day Adventist Christian and a believer in present truth. Her vision is to be ***A Personality of Global Excellence in Serving Human Kind to the Glory and Honour of God***

**Topic: WHAT DRIVES GENDER INEQUITIES IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CAREER PROGRESSION IN AFRICA?**



**Ms. Millicent Liani,**

DELTAS LRP PhD Research Fellow of the Centre for Capacity Research,  
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine,  
United Kingdom

Ms. Millicent Liani is a Kenyan PhD fellow of the Centre for Capacity Research, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), United Kingdom. Her fellowship is supported through the Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training and Science (DELTAS) Africa Learning Research Programme, where she is leading research study on '*Gender equitable scientific career pathways within the DELTAS-funded African Research Institutions*'. This study aims to provide information about how to improve research career equity for internationally competitive African researchers while acknowledging their multiple social identities.

Ms. Liani has a long-standing interest in gender integration in research and development work. Prior to joining LSTM, she worked as a Gender Research Associate with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), where she provided technical support with implementation of the Institutes' gender research strategies. She holds a Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts (honors) degree in Anthropology and Gender Studies

**Abstract:** The slow progression and under-representation of women in senior scientific career positions is a well-known and persistent global problem. The 'leaky pipeline' metaphor has commonly been used to numerically describe this. Current statistics indicate that women account for only 28 percent of all researchers worldwide; although

Sub-Saharan Africa has been identified as one of the regions with the lowest numbers of women in science careers. However, to inform action for change, there is a need to go beyond numerical evidence of inequalities to understanding the underlying social, cultural and institutional drivers and processes that produce gender inequities in science careers. Efforts to address this problem are being sort through a research study that is nested within the DELTAS 'Learning Research Programme', which works alongside the DELTAS Africa health-based Research Capacity Strengthening Initiative to produce research-based learnings about how to equitably develop internationally competitive and effective researchers and research institutions in Africa. Specifically, the study is aimed at examining the barriers and enablers to gender equitable scientific career pathways in the DELTAS-funded African research institutions to provide information about how to improve research career equity. Preliminary findings from this study shows that the career progression of female [and male] researchers to senior positions is influenced by many factors, including individual, socio-cultural and institutional barriers. Current institutional mechanisms in place for addressing some of the barriers will be highlighted. Suggestions for improvement and future plans as put forward by study participants for enhancing gender equitable scientific career progression will also be presented.

### **Topic: Drivers of Upward Mobility for Women Scientists: An Overview.**



#### **Dr. Halima Mwenesi**

Director, Infectious Diseases Division, Global Health Programs, Global Health, Population and Nutrition group, FHI 360; Washington, DC.

Halima Abdullah Mwenesi is the Immediate Director, Infectious Diseases Division, Global Health Programs, Global Health, Population and Nutrition group, FHI 360; Washington, DC. The portfolio included Malaria, TB, Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and Emerging pandemics. She oversaw seven senior scientists, and programs in 20 countries globally. Her personal focus has been on malaria.

She was awarded a PhD in Public Health and Policy for a study focused on understanding the psycho-social aspects and complexities of severe life-threatening malaria in the African Child in 1993; at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London, UK. Dr. Mwenesi's contribution to the social aspects of the disease at the Wellcome Trust, UK supported; University of Oxford – Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) field-hospital program at Kilifi formed the foundation for several decades of subsequent work and contributed to the success of the program, to become one of the leading institutions in Africa, including African science leaders, and is recognized internationally as a center of excellence. Her work pioneered new thinking in the fight against malaria that continues to be relevant to this day.

While at KEMRI, Dr. Mwenesi rose to the position of Senior Research Scientist, at the Centre for Public Health Research, winning grants from various international organizations



and establishing collaborations with groups in Europe and the USA. In the mid-90's she was hired by the World Health Organization to coordinate an important program to introduce insecticide-treated nets for malaria control in Africa, coordination operational research in 24 African countries. Her contribution in this endeavor has had lasting impact on malaria control especially at household and community level – with ITNs playing a major role in the reduction of malaria cases in Africa in the last 2 decades. Dr. Mwenesi was then selected to become the second chairperson of the multilateral Initiative on Malaria/TDR Task Force on Malaria Research Capability Strengthening in Africa for five years (2001-2007) – maximizing the impact of scientific research on malaria in Africa through promoting capacity building and facilitating global collaboration and coordination of malaria research with an emphasis on South-North collaboration. Dr Mwenesi then worked with an international organization rising to the position of Technical Director on a project that lay the foundation for ITN private sector growth and technology transfer across Africa.

She has had an unwavering commitment to the development of science in Africa, serving as a senior advisor to many WHO, Wellcome Trust and regional Universities, including initiatives such as Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training and Science in Africa (DELTAS), which works under the Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA). Dr. Mwenesi continues to be a thought leader in the malaria space through participating in the global RBM partnership to end malaria and serving in various capacities in different forums to chart the future of the malaria response globally. She now, at FHI 360, leads a portfolio that includes malaria, tuberculosis (TB) and Neglected tropical diseases which has programs globally.



### **Charles Mwaniki Mbogo PhD**

Prof. Charles Mbogo is a public health entomologist with over 30 years' experience in the conduct of entomological studies in Kenya, Ethiopia and Eritrea. He is a Chief Research Scientist at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme. He heads the Vector Biology and Ecology Department and the Vector Public Health unit at KEMRI Wellcome Trust, Nairobi. He pioneers research in the ecology and behaviour of mosquitoes and other disease vectors. He has developed and implemented vector surveillance systems at local and national scales in the Eastern Africa region. He serves on various national and international technical committees and maintains a keen interest in translating research into policy and practice. He maintains a keen interest in translating research into policy and practice and played an important role in the formulation of national policy on Integrated Vector Management (IVM). He is the current President of the Pan African Mosquito Control Association (PAMCA), an association of African entomology professionals dedicated to Improving human health through suppression of mosquitoes

and mosquito borne diseases. He is chair of the KEMRI Annual Scientific and Health (KASH) Conferences.

### **Asiko Ongaya**



Asiko Ongaya is formally trained as a medical laboratory scientist (BSc) and Mycobacteriologist (MSc) and currently pursuing a PhD in Microbiology from Jomo Kenyatta University of science and technology in collaboration with Institute of Tropical medicine and infectious (ITROMID) and Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).

She currently a Senior Research Scientist based at the Centre for Respiratory Disease Research (CRDR), Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). Her research work as a principle Investigator, co-investigator or author of various publications includes New tuberculosis (TB) diagnostics, immunology of TB/HIV, TB epidemiology, TB drug resistance (MDR-TB, XDR-TB) studies, TB case finding studies among others. Her main area of research interest includes general Microbiology, TB/HIV co-infection, TB diagnosis, TB drug development and vaccinology and Immunology of TB and HIV.