

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



MINISTRY OF HEALTH



*In Search of Better Health*

# 14<sup>th</sup> KASH PRE-CONFERENCE

**Theme:**

*Market Shaping for Local Manufacturing of HPT Towards  
Attainment of UHC in Kenya: The Role of Research &  
Development*

## PROGRAM

KEMRI Annual  
Scientific & Health  
(KASH) Conference

**13<sup>th</sup> February,  
2024**

Safari Park  
Hotel, Nairobi,  
Kenya

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*In Search of Better Health*

# **The 14<sup>th</sup> KEMRI Annual Scientific & Health (KASH) Pre-Conference**

13<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
SAFARI PARK HOTEL,  
NAIROBI, KENYA

## **Theme:**

***Market Shaping for Local Manufacturing of HPT Towards  
Attainment of UHC in Kenya: The Role of Research &  
Development***

**Organized by:**

**Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)**

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# PROGRAM

TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

TIME	MARKET SHAPING FOR LOCAL INNOVATIONS AND MANUFACTURING OF HEALTH PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGIES TOWARDS ATTAINMENT OF UHC IN KENYA: THE ROLE OF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
0800-0830hrs	Arrival & Registration
0830-1000hrs	KASH Official Opening Ceremony
0830 - 0920hrs	<p>Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair KASH</li> <li>• DRD, KEMRI</li> <li>• Director General, KEMRI</li> <li>• Chair BoD, KEMRI</li> <li>• Director HPT, MoH</li> <li>• Director General, MoH</li> </ul> <p><b>Official Address and Opening by the Chief Guest:</b> – Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health, Nakhumicha S. Wafula.</p>
0920 - 0950hrs	<p><b>Keynote Address</b></p> <p>Empowering Kenya through Local Manufacturing of Innovative Health Products and Technologies for Universal Health Coverage (UHC).</p> <p><b>Mr. Rajni Vora</b>, MD, Revital Healthcare (EPZ) Limited</p> <p><b>Session Chair: Dr Steve Wandiga</b> <b>Co-Chair: Lilian Mayieka</b></p>
0950-1030hrs	<p><b>Diagnostics</b></p> <p><b>KEMRI Case Study:</b> Translating Research Outputs into Health Security through Commercialization of Health Products and Technologies – Learning for Targeted Investment.</p> <p><b>Dr. James Kimotho, Prof. Samson Muuo, Dr. Ruth Nyangacha</b></p>
1030-1100hrs	<b>TEA BREAK &amp; EXHIBITIONS</b>
11-00-1130hrs	<p>Launch of KEMRI Documentary KEMRI Corporate Communications</p>
11-30-1250hrs	<p><b>Biopharmaceuticals</b></p> <p>Building a Regional Biopharmaceutical Innovation &amp; Production Ecosystem</p> <p>[10 min presentation by each panelist followed by 30 min panel discussion]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MoH, Health Products and Technology</b> – Dr. Tom Menge (Pharma innovation/manufacturing policy)</li> <li>• <b>KEMRI</b> – Dr. Bernard Ogotu (Drug discovery)</li> <li>• <b>Villgro Africa</b> – Dr. Robert Karanja (Biologicals discovery)</li> <li>• <b>DNDi</b> - Prof. Sam Kariuki (Clinical validation)</li> <li>• <b>BIOVAX</b> – Dr. Michel Lusiola – Pharma industry (Vaccine manufacturing)</li> <li>• <b>AMREF</b> – Innovations Landscape</li> </ul> <p><b>Session Chair: Dr. Lucas Nyabero</b> <b>Co-Chair: Dr. James Kimotho</b></p>
12-50-1310hrs	KHF/USAID
1310-1410hrs	<b>LUNCH BREAK &amp; EXHIBITIONS</b>

1410-1530hrs	<p><b>Medical Devices &amp; Equipment</b></p> <p><b>Building a Regional Medtech Innovation &amp; Production Ecosystem</b> [10 min presentation by each panellist followed by 30 min panel discussion]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kenyatta University – Dr. June Madete</li> <li>• HewaTele – Dr. Bernard Olayo/Dr. Wali Zulfiqar</li> <li>• Villgro Africa – Eng. Wambui Gachiengo-Nyabero</li> <li>• Drop Access – Eng. Norah Magero</li> <li>• DeKUT – Prof. Eng. Ndirangu Kioni/Rice University</li> </ul> <p><b>Session Chair: Dr. Robert Karanja</b> <b>Co-Chair: Dr. Veronica Manduku</b></p>
1530-1540hrs	<b>Recap and recommendations, Dr. Damaris Matoke-Muhia</b>
1540-1600hrs	<p><b>Launch of Research Management Administration, KEMRI</b> Director Cooperate Services, KEMRI</p>
1600-1700hrs	<p><b>Launch of KEMRI Human Genetics and Genomics Society. Chair: Ms. Eva Aluvaala</b></p> <p><b>Prof Wallace Bulimo:</b> President Human Genetics and Genomics Society of Kenya (15 Mins) <b>Topic:</b> In-depth presentation about the society, its objectives, and plans.</p> <p><b>Dr John Gatimu:</b> Illumina FnS Scientific Representative <b>Topic:</b> Translation research in genomic medicine (15 mins)</p> <p><b>Keynote Speaker</b> <b>Prof Ambroise Wonkam:</b> President Africa Society of Human Genetics (Virtual 15mins) <b>Topic:</b> Filling the African Genome Gap</p> <p><b>Unveiling of society and Cake Cutting (15 Mins)</b> <b>Chair:</b> Ms. Eva Aluvaala</p>
1700-1705hrs	<b>Vote of Thanks – Chair KASH, Dr. Cecilia Mbae</b>
1705-1730hrs	<b>TEA BREAK &amp; DEPARTURE</b>



# KASH CONFERENCE OPENING CEREMONY



**Chief Guest**  
**Nakhumicha S. Wafula**

Cabinet Secretary,  
Ministry of Health



**Dr. Abdullahi Ali Ibrahim**

Chairman Board of  
Directors, KEMRI



**Prof. Elijah Songok**

Ag. Director General &  
CEO, KEMRI



**Dr. Tom Menge**

Director Health Products  
and Technologies,  
Ministry of Health



**Dr. Cecilia Mbae**

Chair, KASH

# KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Mr Rajnikant Chandulal  
Vora

## Empowering Kenya through Local Manufacturing of Innovative Health Products and Technologies for Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

### Bio

Chairman to Revital Healthcare, Mr Rajni holds extensive experience after holding a business position for over 40 years. Mr Rajni began his entrepreneurial journey at the age of 16 by trading various small commodities in Mombasa.

This led to the eventual development of the family business, D.C.K Chandulal Vora and Companies LTD. The company held distribution rights for multinational organisations such as Reckitt Benckiser, Unilever, Beta Healthcare, Colgate Palmolive, Nestle foods, and Kapa Oil to assist these companies' expansion across the East African territory. Over his journey, the Chairman has held experience with the Agriculture, Accounting, Import/Export Trading, and Confectionary sectors while establishing industries of Toothpaste in Uganda and confectionary manufacturing in Tanzania.

His vision led to the establishment of Revital Healthcare [EPZ] Ltd. In 2008.

Under his stewardship and supervision at Revital, the **following milestones have been achieved:**

- Over the past 15 years in operation, **Revital has grown to become the largest manufacturer of medical devices in Africa, manufacturing over 50+ essential health commodities, and a network across 28 countries globally.**
- **Achieved 8 WHO-PQ Certifications for Re-Use Prevention Syringes** (only manufacturer in Africa to achieve this status).
- Stand out as a **global manufacturer with international accreditations such as ISO 13485, CE mark for Europe, and USFDA.**
- Guided the company to achieve a **patent for Africa's first ever early activation syringe**, and 1 out of 4 companies globally.
- Collaborated with the team to **work alongside the Gates Foundation** to develop the above patent.
- Advised the team on the partnership with various organizations including UNICEF, PFSCM, AMSP and others for the procurement of medical devices for global supply.

## Diagnosics talk on KEMRI Case Studies: *Translating Research Outputs into Health Security through Commercialization of Health Products and Technologies – Learning for Targeted Investment.*



**Dr. James Kimotho**  
Head ITTD, KEMRI

Dr. Kimotho is currently the Head of Kenya Medical Research Institute Innovation & Technology Transfer Division. He holds a PhD degree in Molecular Medicine and a bachelor in Pharmacy. He is Honorary Lecturer of Molecular Pharmacology School of Pharmacy, University of Nairobi and Pan Africa University. He sits in three committees of Kenya Pharmacy & Poisons Board: Expert Committee of Clinical Trial (ECCT), PV/PMS, and Steering Committee of Bioequivalence. His areas of interest are in manufacturing of health products, development of new technologies in health, and publication of medical literature.



**Prof. Samson Muo Nzou**  
Senior Principal Research Scientist, KEMRI

Prof. Muo Nzou is an Senior Principal Research Scientist, at the Center for Microbiology Research, Kenya Medical Research Institute and a Visiting Associate Professor, Nagasaki University. Previously, He worked as an Associate Professor, Institute of Tropical Medicine and Global Health, Nagasaki University, and a Principal Research Officer Nagasaki University, Institute of Tropical Medicine -Kenya Medical Research Institute Projects (NUITM-KEMRI PROJECT). He holds a MSc in Medical virology from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, a PhD in Medical Sciences from Nagasaki University and a Health Research Capacity Strengthening Postdoctoral Grant, Wellcome Trust. His interests in communicable and non-communicable diseases focus on vaccine and diagnostics development, molecular epidemiology, surveillance and omics leading to drug resistance patterns in humans, where he has published extensively in these areas. He is also a member of surveillance cross-cutting sub-group of the World Health Organization (WHO) Diagnostic Technical Advisory Group (DTAG) for Neglected Tropical Diseases. He has mentored and supervised Masters and PhD students from different institutions internationally.



**Dr. Ruth Monyenye Nyangacha**  
Ag. deputy director  
Center for Traditional  
Medicine and Drug  
Research (CTMDR)

Dr. Ruth Monyenye Nyangacha a medical parasitologist/ entomologist with expertise in infectious diseases research, is a principal research scientist at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). She has authored several publications in peer reviewed journals on infectious diseases. Her main focus has been studies on new antimalarial agents and more recently to provide epidemiological and clinical data on tungiasis to support community based and public health control measures.

In 2020, she was invited as one of the experts in tungiasis by the World Health Organization (WHO), to assist in developing a conceptual framework for the control of the disease. She is also a member of the PAHO/WHO tungiasis treatment guideline development group which is coming up with a guideline for tungiasis treatment. She currently serves as the Acting deputy director Center for Traditional Medicine and Drug Research (CTMDR) at the Kenya Medical Research Institute. A center which is mandated to carry out research to rationalize traditional medicine in Kenya and to carry out quality assurance of conventional medicine. Ruth holds a PhD. in Applied Parasitology from the University of Nairobi and an Msc. in Medical Parasitology and Entomology from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

## Biopharmaceuticals Building a Regional Biopharmaceutical Innovation & Production Ecosystem

### MINISTRY OF HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN AND MAP ON HEALTH PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGIES



**Dr. Tom Menge**

Director Health Products and Technologies, Ministry of Health

Dr. Menge is currently Chief Pharmacist and Head, Directorate of Health Products and Technologies, State Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health, Kenya. He has worked for over 28 years in various capacities at Kenyatta National Hospital, a Regional Referral Hospital based in Nairobi. Dr. Menge is a Honorary Lecturer of Toxicology, University of Nairobi, School of Pharmacy, and past Chair and Fellow of the Hospital Pharmacists Association of Kenya. He possesses a MSc. in Pharmacology and Toxicology and a Bachelor of Pharmacy from the University of Nairobi.

### DRUG RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY



**Dr. Bernhards Ogutu**

Senior Principal Clinical Scientist, KEMRI

Dr. Bernhards Ragama Ogutu is a Kenyan paediatrician and Clinical pharmacologist. Senior Principal Clinical Scientist with the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and the scientific team leader of the Centre for Research in Therapeutic Sciences (CREATES)- Strathmore University. Dr. Ogutu received MBChB, MMed and PhD from the University of Nairobi and is a certified Physician Investigator. Dr. Ogutu has held different positions since 1992 from practicing paediatrics at several hospitals and lead clinical trialist in a number of product evaluation protocols. His areas of research include clinical trials, disease pathogenesis, clinical therapeutics with a bias in malaria and clinical trials capacity

### BIOLOGICALS DISCOVERY AND THE ROLE OF INNOVATION START-UPS



**Dr. Robert Karanja**

Chief Innovation Officer and Co-founder, Villgro Africa

Dr. Robert is a biomedical scientist and development entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience in STEM and development sectors. He holds a PhD in Parasitology and Entomology from the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology (JKUAT). Starting his career as a scientist at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Robert was actively involved in the establishment of the intellectual property (IP) and technology transfer office (TTO). This nurtured his passion for transforming Africa's development challenges into market opportunities through innovation in the life sciences. He contributed to intrapreneurial ventures at KEMRI such as developing diagnostics, nutraceuticals & phytomedicines products. Building on this experience, he launched a bio-entrepreneurship bootcamp at Strathmore University Business School for research

commercialization in health and agriculture sectors. This paved the way for his entrepreneurial career as the Founding CEO at Villgro Africa, a position he held until 2020, to focus on building the health and life sciences innovation ecosystem in the role of Chief Innovation Officer. In addition, Robert provides strategic leadership in developing Africa's knowledge economy in various capacities including as Chairman - ISAAA Africenter; Director & Chairman, Technical Committee – KeNIA; Chairman - Association of Startup & SME Enablers of Kenya (ASSEK), and Chairman, Steering Committee – Coaliton for Health Research & Development (CHReaD).



## CLINICAL TRIALS, RESEARCH AND PRODUCT VALIDATION



**Prof. Sam Kariuki**  
Director DNDi

Prof. Sam Kariuki (DVM, MSc, PhD) obtained his DVM from the University of Nairobi (1989), MSc in Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Nairobi (1991), and a PhD in Tropical Medicine from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) in 1997. He was awarded Doctor of Science (Honoris causa) by the LSTM in December 2022. Sam Kariuki is currently Director, Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi) Eastern Africa. Previously, he was Acting Director General at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) (2021-2023) and Director of Research and Development (2018-2022). He is Fellow, African Academy of Sciences and Honorary Faculty, Wellcome Sanger Institute, visiting Professor of Tropical Microbiology, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, and the Ohio State University One-Health Initiative. He is also a member of the American Society for Microbiology and

Section Editor, Journal of Medical Microbiology.

Over the last 20 years his team has researched and published on the epidemiology and genomics of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and genomic surveillance of key enteric pathogens endemic in Kenya and the region. Their findings have been instrumental in informing policy change in first line-treatment, prevention and control strategies for key enteric pathogens including cholera, typhoid fever, invasive non-typhoidal Salmonella disease. He has published over 200 papers in peer-reviewed journals and written 4 chapters in textbooks of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, majoring in Genomics and Epidemiology. He is a member of the National Antimicrobial Stewardship Interagency Committee (NASIC) advising Ministry of Health on One Health approach in implementation of the National Action Plan to combat AMR, and a member of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Antimicrobial Resistance (STAG-AMR).

## VACCINE MANUFACTURING INITIATE, THE STRATEGIES AND MILESTONES: “THE KENYA EXPERIENCE”



**Dr. Michel Lusiola**  
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Director-General, Kenya BioVax Institute (KBI)

Dr. Michael Lusiola is a Pharmaceutical Research and Development expert with over 23 years experience working in Global Pharmaceutical Research and Development (Immunotherapies) and in Clinical Practice in the UK and USA. Dr. Lusiola holds a Doctorate and Masters degrees in Global health (Harvard, US), MBA (Reading, UK), Lean Six Sigma, Yellow Belt (Project Management Institute, UK), Evidence-based medicine (Aston, UK), Clinical pharmacology and therapeutics (Queens, UK). Dr. Lusiola has memberships at the Institute of Clinical Research (MICR) UK, the Royal Society of Medicine (MRSM) UK, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (MRPS) UK, and the International Society for Vaccines

# LAUNCH OF RESEARCH MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION, KEMRI

## FORGING TOWARDS RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE IN KEMRI

As we prepare to celebrate our scientific achievements and accomplishment, today we gather to also celebrate a team whose importance in the achievement of our scientific endeavors often gets unnoticed; The Research Managers and Administrators. KEMRI's journey in Research Management and Administration has been evolving since its inception. Along the way we have been lucky to forge partnerships which have assisted to shape the Research Management and Administration trajectory in KEMRI.

We recognize that we still have a journey we need to take to reach at excellence level.

In today's occasion we celebrate one such partnership between KEMRI and JICA and introduce a dynamic team of dedicated JICA experts, management and staff to share our collective journey, plans, and underscore our commitment for the continued pursuit towards excellence in Research Management and Administration in KEMRI.

## BUILDING A REGIONAL MEDTECH INNOVATION, MEDICAL DEVICES & PRODUCTION ECOSYSTEM



**Dr. (Eng.) June Madete,**  
Kenyatta University

Eng. June Madete is an enthusiastic and dynamic engineer, researcher and senior lecturer, with over 16 years of experience in biomedical engineering training and research. Dr. Madete's specialty is biomechanics, looking at the body as a machine. She received her PhD in Medical engineering specializing in Biomechanics, motion capture, imaging studies and patient data collection and seeks to develop biomedical engineering in Africa through knowledge and skill transfer.

Dr. Madete in the current Head of Department and the Coordinator of Biomedical Engineering at the School of Engineering and Architecture, Kenyatta university, where she lectures Biomechanics, Biomaterials, Biomedical device Design, quality management and supervises projects at Kenyatta university, JKUAT and Partner universities such

as TU-Delft in the Netherlands and DKUT in Nyeri. In her 16 years in the field, Dr. Madete has trained students, teachers, lecturers, engineers, and medical professionals at Cardiff University in the United Kingdom, Vilgro Africa, Egerton and Kenyatta Universities in Kenya, and Addis Ababa Institute of Technology in Ethiopia. She has mentored students in Engineering across the region and continues to do so through the Chandaria Business and Incubation Centre, Kijenzi and the African Biomedical Engineering Consortium (ABEC).

As a qualified biomedical engineer, Dr. Madete's passion lies in innovation and capacity building. As such, she is involved in several project including the invention education project with Rice 360, the University Based Open Biomedical Engineering Platform (UBORA) and the African Biomedical Engineering Mobility (ABEM) project, that aims to capacity build students and staff on biomedical engineering across Africa. Dr. Madete has collaborated with various universities to carry out curriculum development, organise various design workshops and schools, and bring together BME universities for networking through the BMEIdea Meetings. As a complex and exciting field, BME holds great potential for research and innovation, and June aims to be at the forefront of its exploration, armed with the theoretical knowledge gained from her doctoral studies, and her 16-year experience in practice. As a consultant, June has combined the theory with the strong analytical and observational skills to contribute to ongoing efforts to develop curriculums for Muranga University, Technical University of Mombasa, Kenya Medical Training college in Nairobi and reviewed the Kenyatta University curriculum. In addition, she has worked as a mentor and a judge at for Total Kenya, American Society for Mechanical Engineers (ISHOW), Makerspace hackathon, a mentor at Villgro Africa, and a Technical advisor to the NEST360 project, and through these opportunities, Dr. Madete has expanded her network and knowledge of the BME ecosystem in the region.



**Eng. Wambui Gachiengo-Nyabero,**  
Chief Technology Officer, Villgro Africa

Since June 2021 Wambui Nyabero has been the Chief Technology Officer at Villgro Africa (VA) where she provides strategic, technical & business leadership for VA's medtech program and is growing an Invention Based Health Technologies pipeline through training, mentoring and partnerships. Wambui is a mentor to many of the technology startups in VA's portfolio. She is also a member of the Global Health Advisory Council that seeks to expand the impact of behavioral science applications in healthcare. In addition, Wambui is a 2021 AVPA Africa-Asia Impact Investing Fellow. Wambui was the initiator and chair of the organizing committee for the Transforming African Medtech Conference held in Nairobi in August 2023. The first annual pan-African medical technology convening brought together 150 medtech experts from across the continent. Wambui is an inventor and holder of a US patent for a medical device to

diagnose peripheral neuropathy, an innovator who led development of a COVID-19 ventilator winning the 2021 Kenya American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Innovator Showcase (ISHOW) award and a serial entrepreneur who has founded several companies including medical device startups NewSpringTechnologies & MeDevice Kenya, as well as Newspring Pharmacy; a community wellness pharmacy in Arizona. Wambui's vast experience in technology leadership includes ten years at St. Jude Medical (now Abbott) where she worked in research and development of cardiac rhythm medical devices, was a program manager for multi-site international development and manufacturing projects and as a lean-six sigma black belt facilitated business and manufacturing process improvements. Additionally, she led the planning and realization of a strategic innovation initiative that developed a product for emerging markets. Wambui G. Nyabero studied Mechanical Engineering and Manufacturing Systems Engineering at Stanford University and has a B.Sc Mechanical Engineering and M.Sc Manufacturing Systems Engineering.



**Dr. Wali Zulfiqar,**  
CEO, Hewa Tele

Zulfiqar Wali, based in Nairobi County, Kenya, is currently a Chief Executive Officer at Hewa Tele Limited, bringing experience from previous roles at Envirofit Ltd, Green Energy Ltd-LPG, Bonfide group limited and YMA. Zulfiqar Wali holds a 2016 - 2017 Certified Professional Coach in ICF CPC @ Coach Development Institute of Africa. With a robust skill set that includes Business Development, Management, Negotiation, Product Development, Strategic Planning and more, Zulfiqar Wali contributes valuable insights to the industry. Zulfiqar Wali has 1 email on RocketReach. He is responsible for Strategy Formulation, execution, P&L, New Business Development and Fund Raising



**Eng. Norah Magero,**  
CEO, Drop Access

Eng. Norah Magero is a Mechanical Engineer and a Renewable Energy Expert with experience in the design and management of off-grid energy technologies. She is passionate about energy access in Africa. She has spent the past 7 years innovating decentralized solutions for use in rural communities and promoting gender inclusion and equality within the space. She is the founder of Drop Access and the project lead of the VacciBox; a portable and IoT-enabled cold chain technology that is being used to store and transport vaccines in rural and off-grid areas in Kenya. Norah is an alumna of the Young African Leaders Initiative, YALI, the Microgrid Academy, the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR), Future Females Business School by UK-Kenya Tech Hub and Acumen. She holds several awards and recognitions. She is a Booking.Com Technology Playmaker Social Impact Award 2020 finalist and Women in

Energy, Philanthropy Award winner 2017. She holds the 2020 Social Impact Award and the overall award, Energy Champion of the year Award by the World Energy Day-Kenya as well as the Microgrid Academy Award winner 2020 by the Res4Africa Foundation. Norah also won the Innovation Award 2021 by Africa Queen of Energy Awards, Diversity and Inclusion Awards and Recognition (DIAR Awards-Kenya 2023) for an Entrepreneur of Excellence, and Outstanding Women Innovator 2023 by the Institution of Engineers of Kenya. Today, through her innovation: VacciBox, Norah is the first Kenyan and the second woman to win the Africa Prize by the Royal Academy of Engineers, UK, and was recommended by the former President of Kenya, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta for her effort to bring energy access in rural communities in Kenya.



**Prof. (Eng) Ndirangu,**  
Founding Director of DeKut

He was at Cambridge University, England, on Shell International Cambridge Scholarship and Overseas Research Studentship awards, graduating with a Doctor of Philosophy degree, in 1994 at 28 years old. He went to the University of Nairobi (UoN) for his Bachelor degree, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering (1st Class) in 1988. Upon graduation, he briefly worked as a Plant Engineer at Unilever Kenya Limited, formerly East Africa Industries Ltd, before proceeding for further studies in 1990. He also spent some six months in 1990 in the University of New South Wales, Australia, as a PhD research student. He went to Kianyaga High School for his O-levels, Alliance High School for his A-level education where he took Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics earning the famed Gandhi Nidhi Smarak Award following his outstanding performance. In the two year gap period

between high school and the University, he attended the then mandatory pre-university three-month paramilitary training at Kenya National Youth Service, Gilgil, and also served as teacher in rural secondary schools. For his primary school education, he attended a local primary school in Nyandarua County. He joined the Department of Mechanical Engineering of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) as a lecturer in May 1994, rising up to become an Associate Professor. He served in many positions and made many crucial contributions to the development of the University. He was appointed a Chairman of the Department in 1996. Under his watch he rapidly transformed the department with emphasis on one hand, enhancing the academic and research capabilities and, on the other hand, with a focus on creating capabilities for building a human resource which could contribute to rapid technology transfer and technology development in the country. In 1999 he was elected, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering- JKUAT, becoming the youngest dean in the country, and went on to serve two full consecutive terms. As a lecturer, he researched and worked on laser applications, a broad research area on which now a number of M.Sc. students have written their theses; He lectures on thermo-fluids at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and on history of technology among other engineering courses, has supervised 12 master's thesis and three PhD students and has published widely locally and abroad. He has an interest in the development of technology in Kenya and Africa at large. His main research interests are: reactive flows combining the intricacies of fluid flow with the complexity of fast reaction chemistry experienced in flames, and hence in combustion devices.





# Launch of Human Genetics and Genomics Society of Kenya

**Prof Wallace Bulimo:** President Human Genetics and Genomics Society of Kenya (15 Mins)  
Topic: In-depth presentation about the society, its objectives, and plans.

**Dr John Gatimu:** Illumina FnS Scientific Representative  
Topic: Translation research in genomic medicine (15 mins)

## Keynote Speaker

**Prof Ambrose Wonkam:** President Africa Society of Human Genetics (Virtual 15mins)  
Topic: Filling the African Genome Gap

**Unveiling of society and Cake Cutting (15 Mins)**



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