



In Search of Better Health

10th - 13th | Safari Park Hotel
February 2026 | Nairobi, Kenya

16th KASH CONFERENCE

KEMRI Annual
Scientific and Health
(KASH) Conference

FULL PROGRAM



In Search of Better Health

The 16th KEMRI Annual Scientific & Health (KASH) Conference

10th-13th February 2026
SAFARI PARK HOTEL
NAIROBI, KENYA

Theme:

The Future of Health:

*Scientific Research, Innovations, Technologies and
Manufacturing for a Resilient UHC*

Organized by:

Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)

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Nairobi, Kenya.

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FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE KEMRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Abdullahi Ali Ibrahim, CBS

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), I am pleased to welcome you to the 16th KEMRI Annual Scientific and Health Research (KASH) Conference and to this Abstract Book, which captures the depth, diversity, and quality of scientific work presented at KASH 2026.

Over the years, the KASH Conference has evolved into a flagship scientific forum for Kenya and the wider region, bringing together researchers, policymakers, practitioners, industry, and partners to exchange knowledge, forge collaborations, and shape health research priorities that respond to real-world challenges. Its continued growth and relevance reflect KEMRI's mandate as a national institution and its enduring contribution to evidence-based health policy and practice.

The theme of this year's Conference—*"The Future of Health: Scientific Research, Innovations, Technologies and Manufacturing for a Resilient Universal Health Coverage"*—is both timely and forward-looking. It speaks to the urgent need to strengthen the entire research-to-impact continuum, from discovery and innovation to translation, scale-up, and local manufacturing. As Kenya advances its Universal Health Coverage agenda, anchored within broader national development priorities, scientific research and innovation must remain central drivers of resilient, equitable, and sustainable health systems.

The scientific outputs contained in this book showcase a wide range of research spanning infectious and non-communicable diseases, emerging and re-emerging health threats, genomics, biotechnology, natural products, health systems research, and innovative technologies. Collectively, they demonstrate the strength of Kenya's scientific talent and the growing maturity of our national research ecosystem. They also underscore the importance of multidisciplinary and collaborative approaches in addressing complex health challenges.

As a Board, we remain committed to providing strategic oversight, sound governance, and fiduciary stewardship to ensure that KEMRI continues to deliver high-quality, ethical, and impactful research. We place strong emphasis on integrity, accountability, and public trust, recognizing that scientific excellence must be matched by the highest standards of ethics and responsibility.

I wish to commend all the authors, reviewers, and organizers who have contributed to the success of KASH 2026. To our scientists and researchers your dedication and intellectual rigor are vital to advancing knowledge, informing policy, and translating research into tangible health and development outcomes.

It is my hope that this Conference will not only serve as a record of the scientific work presented at KASH 2026, but also as a catalyst for continued collaboration, innovation, and action in pursuit of improved health for all.

I wish all participants fruitful deliberations and a successful conference.

Dr. Abdullahi Ali, CBS
Chairman, Board of Directors

KENYA MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR SCIENTIFIC, RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE (SRIC)

Hon. Dr. Damaris Maweu

It is my great honour to welcome you to the **16th KEMRI Annual Scientific and Health Research Conference (KASH)**, convened under the theme **“The Future of Health: Scientific Research, Innovations, Technologies and Manufacturing for a Resilient Universal Health Coverage.”** This theme is firmly aligned with Kenya Vision 2030 and the national Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy, which recognize research, innovation, and local manufacturing as key drivers of health security, socio-economic transformation, and sustainable development.

KASH serves as a strategic platform through which KEMRI advances its institutional mandate to generate evidence, develop technologies, and translate research into policy and practice. By bringing together researchers, policymakers, industry, and development partners, the conference strengthens linkages across the research–innovation–manufacturing continuum, ensuring that scientific outputs respond to national priorities while contributing to regional and global health goals.

The Board of Directors through the Scientific, Research and Innovation Committee (SRIC) is pleased by the submission of 405 abstracts which reflects the growing strength and relevance of health research in Kenya and beyond. These have been organized into 34 scientific sessions and 22 symposia, offering a robust conference programme.

A key highlight of this year’s conference is the pre-conference dialogue on local vaccine manufacturing, which addresses financing, regulatory readiness, quality assurance, market shaping, and supply chain resilience. These discussions underscore the strategic importance of aligning research and innovation with Kenya’s industrialization agenda, strengthening local manufacturing capacity, and advancing Universal Health Coverage.

I sincerely acknowledge our partners and sponsors for their continued support, as well as the KEMRI Board of Directors, Management, researchers, reviewers, and the KASH Organizing Committee for their leadership and commitment to scientific excellence.

I wish you a successful and impactful conference.

Dr. Damaris Maweu
Board Director & Chair SRIC
KENYA MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



MESSAGE FROM ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL KEMRI

Prof. Elijah Songok, PhD, MBS

Vaccine R&D Innovation as Pillars of Health Security and UHC

The 16th KEMRI Annual Scientific and Health Research Conference convenes at a defining moment for Kenya's health and development agenda. Under the theme *"The Future of Health: Scientific Research, Innovations, Technologies and Manufacturing for a Resilient Universal Health Coverage,"* this conference underscores the central role of science in delivering sustainable health security and economic resilience.

The pre-conference preceding the three-day meeting on *Advancing Kenya's Vaccine Research, Development and Manufacturing Capacity for Sustainable Health Security*, reinforces a clear policy message that vaccine research and manufacturing are no longer peripheral scientific pursuits. They are strategic national assets, integral to health security, industrial development, and national sovereignty.

While Kenya has made notable progress including the establishment of the Kenya Biovax Institute, the strengthening of KEMRI's vaccine research and biotechnology platforms, and alignment with the Africa CDC's Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM), the country remains reliant on external markets for both routine and emergency vaccines. This reality underscores the urgency of accelerating domestic research, development, and manufacturing capabilities.

The discussions revolve around four priority enablers for vaccine self-reliance: robust research and product development platforms; strong regulatory and quality systems aligned to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) standards; sustainable financing and investment mechanisms; and effective technology transfer and strategic partnerships. However, progress in these areas requires deliberate policy coherence and coordinated national action.

KEMRI remains committed to mission-oriented research that directly supports Universal Health Coverage, strengthens local manufacturing, and contributes to national development priorities. However, achieving vaccine self-reliance and broader health innovation goals cannot be delivered by a single institution. It requires sustained government leadership, private and public-sector collaboration, academia, and international partnership working as an integrated ecosystem.

This 16th KASH conference therefore serves not only as a scientific forum, but as a platform for aligning research, policy, and investment toward shared national outcomes. KEMRI stands ready to play its role as a lead public research institution in translating science into impact for Kenya, the region, and the continent.

Prof. Elijah Songok, PhD, MBS,
Acting Director General & CEO,
KENYA MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW BY KASH CHAIR

Dr. Cecilia Mbae

It is my great honour to welcome you to the 16th KEMRI Annual Scientific and Health Research Conference (KASH), convened under the timely and forward-looking theme: ***“The Future of Health: Scientific Research, Innovations, Technologies and Manufacturing for a Resilient Universal Health Coverage.”*** This year’s conference theme, together with our sub-themes, reflects the breadth, depth, and ambition of KEMRI’s scientific agenda. We are intentionally creating space for conversations that bridge science to policy, innovation to impact, and research to real-world solutions.

The response to this call has been truly encouraging. This year, KASH received 405 abstracts, a strong testament to the vibrancy of health research within Kenya and beyond. These abstracts have been carefully reviewed and curated into 34 scientific sessions and 22 symposia, offering a rich and diverse scientific programme that speaks to both national priorities and global health challenges.

I wish to specially acknowledge the pre-conference held this morning, which focused on local vaccine manufacturing, a critical priority for Kenya, the region, and the continent. The discussions on Kenya’s progress in vaccine manufacturing; strategic financing for local production; regulatory pathways, quality and standards, access to finance, supply chains and market shaping were both timely and strategic. These conversations highlight the importance of translating research, innovation, and policy into sustainable manufacturing capacity that strengthens health security, supports Universal Health Coverage, and reduces reliance on external supply chains.

This conference would not be possible without the invaluable support of our partners and sponsors. We are deeply grateful to KCB Bank, Wellcome and Carramore our Gold Sponsors, as well as all our other sponsors and partners, for believing in KEMRI’s mission and investing in science for health and development.

Allow me to extend sincere appreciation to the KEMRI Board of Directors, led by Dr Abdullahi Ali, for their strategic leadership and unwavering support of scientific excellence. I also wish to acknowledge the KEMRI Management, led by our Director General, Prof. Elijah Songok, for providing stewardship and an enabling environment for research and innovation to thrive.

To the KEMRI staff, our researchers, scientists, and support teams, thank you for your dedication and tireless efforts. To all KASH participants, both local and international, we are honoured by your presence and contributions. We also sincerely appreciate all researchers who submitted abstracts and the reviewers who committed their time and expertise to ensuring the scientific rigor of this conference.

Finally, I wish to recognize and thank the KASH Organizing Committee, whose hard work, coordination, and commitment over many months have made this conference possible.

As we engage over the next few days, I encourage us all to participate actively, collaborate boldly, and think innovatively about how science, technology, and partnerships can shape a healthier, more resilient future for Kenya and the region.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and a successful conference.

Thank you.

Chair, KASH Organizing Committee

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

16 TH KEMRI ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC & HEALTH (KASH) CONFERENCE	
VENUE: SAFARI PARK HOTEL 10 TH -13 TH FEBRUARY 2026	
DAY ONE, 10 TH FEBRUARY 2026	
Theme: Advancing Kenya's Vaccine Research, Development and Manufacturing Capacity for Sustainable Health Security	
TIME	SESSION / ACTIVITY
0730 – 0830hrs	Arrival & Registration Master of Ceremony: Dr. Steve Wandiga Chair: Dr. Damaris Matoke-Muhia Co-chair: Dr. Ernest Wandera Rapporteur: Nicole Tanchu
0830 – 0845hrs	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Cecilia Mbae, Chair KASH • Dr. Erick Muok, Ag. Director Research & Development, KEMRI • Prof. Elijah Songok, PhD, MBS, Ag. Director General & CEO, KEMRI
0845 – 0905hrs	Plenary Talk 1: Dr. Ernest Wandera, KEMRI Title: Accelerating Kenya's Local Vaccine Manufacturing: Leveraging KEMRI's Strategic Role
0905 – 0925hrs	Plenary Talk 2: Dr. Wesley Ronoh, CEO, Kenya BioVax Institute Title: Vaccine Manufacturing Progress in Kenya: The BioVax initiative
0925 – 0945hrs	Plenary Talk 3: Prof. Tom Kariuki, CEO, SFA Foundation Title: Harnessing Strategic Financing for Local Vaccine Manufacturing
0945 – 1045hrs	<div> Roundtable 1 Key Success Factors in Local Vaccine Manufacturing: <i>R&D, Manufacturing, Technology Transfer & IP, Skill development</i> </div> <div> Moderator: Dr. Ferdinand Adung'o Co-moderator: Dr. Fredrick Sawe Rapporteur: Tiffany Wandera & Faith Atieno </div> <div> Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Richard Oduor, BioVax • Prof. Tom Kariuki, SFA Foundation • Prof. Faith Osier / Ondari Mogeni, IVI • Dr. James Kimotho, Head Production unit, KEMRI • Dr. Nazila Ganatra, Director HPT • Dr. Michael Kiraithe- KEVEVAPI • Eng. Mwai Ngubuini- IAVI </div> <div> Q & A </div>
	Media Briefing
1045 – 1115hrs	COFFEE BREAK
1115 – 1135hrs	Plenary Talk 4: Prof. Faith Osier, IVI Title: International Vaccine Institute: Advancing Global Vaccine End-To-End Capabilities
1135 – 1155hrs	Plenary Talk 5: Prof. Emmanuel Mutisya, Africa CDC Title: Africa's Initiative for Local Vaccine Manufacturing

1155 – 1255hrs	<p align="center">Roundtable 2</p> <p align="center">Key Success Factors in Local Vaccine Manufacturing: <i>Regulatory pathways, Quality & Standards, Access to finance, Supply chain and Market shaping</i></p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Matilu Mwau Co-moderator: Dr. Bernards Ogutu Rapporteur: Lynette Ndumia & Mercy Tuluso</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Geoffrey Karau - KEBS • Dr. Jonathan Meriakol- PPB • Ruth Khalayi Ndanyo- NQCL • Prof. Emmanuel Mutisya - KAIST • Dr. Kenneth Mwige- MD, Kenya Vision 2030 <p>Q & A</p>
1255 – 1300hrs	Closing Session - MC, Dr. Steve Wandiga
1300 – 1400hrs	LUNCH BREAK
1400 – 1500hrs	<p>KASH Opening Ceremony Kenya National and East Africa Anthem</p> <p>Master of Ceremony: Dr. Steve Wandiga Chair: Dr. Erick Muok, Ag. Director Research & Development Rapporteur: Jenifer Otieno</p> <p>Sponsors Remarks Moderator: Dr. Linus Ndegwa</p> <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Cecilia Mbae, Chair KASH • Dr. Erick Muok, Ag. Director Research & Development, KEMRI • Prof. Elijah Songok, PhD, MBS, Acting Director General, KEMRI • Dr. Abdullahi Ali, CBS, Chairman, KEMRI Board of Directors. • Dr. Patrick Amoth, EBS, Director General for Health, Ministry of Health • Ms. Mary Muthoni, CBS, HSC, Principal Secretary, State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards. <p>Remarks and Introduction of the Cabinet Secretary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ouma Oluga, OGW, Principal Secretary, State Department for Medical Services.
1500 – 1530hrs	<p>Chief Guest Address and Official Opening: Hon. Aden Duale, EGH, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health</p>
1530 – 1600hrs	<p>Keynote Address: Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, PhD, EBS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Secretary, State Department for Science, Research and Innovation, Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, Republic of Kenya <p>Title: Kenya's Vision and Journey in Local Vaccine Manufacturing</p>
1600 – 1610hrs	Way forward - Dr. Damaris Matoke-Muhia Recommendations & Partnerships
1610 – 1630hrs	Vote of Thanks - Dr. Cecilia Mbae, Chair KASH
1630 – 1645hrs	Kenya National and East Africa Anthem
	Media Briefing
1700 – 1900hrs	COFFEE BREAK / NETWORKING SESSION

	DAY TWO, WEDNESDAY 11 TH FEBRUARY 2026.					
	Arrival and Registration					
0730-0855hrs	Rising Scientific Star Award 1 Session Chairs: Dr. Doris Njomo & Dr. Joseph Mwangangi Judges: Dr. Konongoi Limbaso, Dr. Hosea Akala & Francis Kimani Rapporteurs: Jecinta Ndung'u & Bryson Kimemia Venue: Aberdare					
Venue						
	KEYNOTE AND PLENARY SESSIONS					
0900-0930hrs	Keynote Address: Mr. Kenneth Mwige “60% continental vaccine sustainability by 2040, progress made so far”					
0930 - 0950hrs	Plenary Session 1: Prof. Amy Pickering “Disrupting environmental transmission of enteric pathogens and antibiotic resistance”					
0950 - 1010hrs	Plenary Session 2: Dr. Ombeva Malande “Vaccination as a strategy for combating antimicrobial resistance”					
Master of Ceremony:	Dr. Steve Wandiga					
Session Chair	Dr. Eric Muok					
Rapporteur	Lillian Mayieka					
	Media Briefing					
1010-1030hrs	TEA BREAK					
SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 1-7						
1030-1245hrs	1030-1245hrs	1030-1245hrs	1030-1245hrs	1030-1245hrs	1030-1245hrs	1030-1245hrs
Scientific Session 1: AMR 1	Scientific Session 2: Public Health 1	Scientific Session 3: NTDs and One Health 1	Scientific Session 4: Maternal and Child Health 1	Scientific Session 5: Natural Products 1	Scientific Session 6: Malaria 1	Scientific Session 7: TB
Session Chair: Dr. Susan Kavai	Session Chair: Enock Kebenei	Session Chair: Dr. Erastus Mulinge	Session Chair: Dr. Benson Singa	Session Chair: Dr. Njeri Irungu	Session Chair: Dr. Luna Kamau	Session Chair: Dr. Jane Ong’ango
Rapporteur: Kelvin Kering	Rapporteur: Schilla Mbuka	Rapporteur: Dr. Ben Ong'ondo	Rapporteur: Yusuf Mwadzala	Rapporteur: Joyce Ondicho	Rapporteur: Maureen Otinga	Rapporteur: Asiko Ong’aya
Venue: Aberdare	Venue: Masai Mara	Venue: Shimba Hills	Venue: Amboseli	Venue: Tsavo	Venue: Samburu	Venue: Bogoria
1245-1345HRS: LUNCH BREAK						
SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 8-14						
1345-1500hrs	1345-1500hrs	1345-1500hrs	1345-1500hrs	1345-1500hrs	1345-1500hrs	1345-1500hrs
Scientific Session 8: Health systems 1	Scientific Session 9: HIV	Scientific Session 10: AMR 2	Scientific Session 11: Vector Biology	Scientific Session 12: NCDs	Scientific Session 13: Public Health 2	Scientific Session 14: Health Technologies
Session Chair: Bridget Kimani	Session Chair: Dr. Raphael Lihana	Session Chair: Kelvin Kering	Session Chair: Dr. Edith Limbaso	Session Chair: Dr. Nancy Kinyatta	Session Chair: Enock Kebenei	Session Chair: Dr. Ernest Wandera
Rapporteur: Mariam Macharia	Rapporteur: Stephen Ombija	Rapporteur: Kevin Kariuki	Rapporteur: Tiffany Wandera	Rapporteur: Yvonne Ochieng	Rapporteur: Schilla Mbuka	Rapporteur: Daisy Cheruiyot
Venue: Aberdare	Venue: Masai Mara	Venue: Shimba Hills	Venue: Amboseli	Venue: Tsavo	Venue: Samburu	Venue: Bogoria

SYMPOSIA 1-7						
1500 – 1800hrs	1500 – 1800hrs	1500 – 1800hrs	1500 – 1800hrs	1500 – 1800hrs	1500 – 1800hrs	1500 – 1800hrs
Symposium 1: Strengthening Cancer Surveillance and Research to inform Policies in Sub-Saharan Africa	Symposium 2: Using Innovative methods for setting up Early Warning Systems for Disease Surveillance and Response to Disease Outbreaks in East Africa	Symposium 3: SAMSA - Sustainable Atmospheric Monitoring Service for Africa	Symposium 4: Multi-pathogen genomic surveillance symposium	Symposia 5: Advancing Leishmaniasis Research and Control in Kenya: Building Partnerships for Impact	Symposia 6: CBEC - KEMRI Bioethics Training Initiative	Symposium 7: Respiratory Disease Surveillance Platforms in Kenya: Leveraging Surveillance for Public Health Action
Session Chair: Anne Korir	Session Chair: Dr. Samoel Khamadi	Session Chair: Prof. Thumbi Mwangi	Session Chair: Prof. Isabella Oyier	Session Chair: Dr. Damaris Matoke- Muhia/ Dr. Daniel Masiga	Session Chair: Prof. Elizabeth Bukusi	Session Chair: Nancy Otieno
Rapporteur: Dr. Regina Mbugua	Rapporteur: Nicole Tanchu	Rapporteur: Yvette Fleming	Rapporteur: Dr. Patience Kiyuka	Rapporteur: Lynette Wangechi	Rapporteur: Ms. Joy Waiharo	Rapporteur: Lily Kirui
Venue: Aberdare	Venue: Masai Mara	Venue: Shimba Hills	Venue: Amboseli	Venue: Tsavo	Venue: Samburu	Venue: Bogoria
END OF SECOND DAY						
DAY THREE, THURSDAY 12 TH FEBRUARY 2026						
0700-0830hrs	Arrival & Registration					
0730-0830hrs	RISING SCIENTIFIC STAR AWARD 2 Session Chairs: Dr. Doris Njomo & Dr. Joseph Mwangangi Judges: Dr. Konongoi Limbaso, Dr. Hosea Akala & Francis Kimani Rapporteurs: Jecinta Ndung’u & Bryson Kimemia Venue: Aberdare					
Venue						
	PLENARY SESSION					
0830-0845hrs	Plenary Session 4: Prof. Amir Sagi “The Monosex Advantage: Prawn Biotechnology for Sustainable Control of Aquatic Disease Vectors and Invasive Snails”					
0845-0900hrs	Plenary Session 5: Dr. Daniel Masiga “Visceral Leishmaniasis in East Africa: Insights from disease mapping”					
0900-0915hrs	Plenary Session 6: Prof. Mwangi Thumbi “Mathematics of Life and Death: Modelling for Better & Faster Health Decisions”					
0915-0930hrs	Plenary Session 7: Prof. Isabella Oyier “Molecular Innovations for Health Facility-based Surveillance of Antimalaria Drug Resistance”					
Session Chair	Dr. Eric Ochomo					
Rapporteur	Yvonne Ochieng					
SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 15-21						
0940-1115hrs	0940-1115hrs	0940-1115hrs	0940-1115hrs	0940-1115hrs	0940-1115hrs	0940-1115hrs
Scientific Session 15: Health Systems 2	Scientific Session 16: Natural Products 2	Scientific Session 17: Cancer	Scientific Session 18: AMR 3	Scientific Session 19: Mental Health 1	Scientific Session 20: Genomics 1	Scientific Session 21: Virology 1
Session Chair: Dr. Richard Mutisya	Session Chair: Dr. Sospeter Njeru	Session Chair: Ibrahim Mwangi	Session Chair: Kelvin Kering	Session Chair: Dr. Lucy Chite	Session Chair: Stephen Okeyo	Session Chair: Dr. Konongoi Limbaso
Rapporteur: Mariam Macharia	Rapporteur : Joyce Ondicho	Rapporteur: Tiffany Wandera	Rapporteur: Kevin Kariuki	Rapporteur: Dr. Lynn Namwoso	Rapporteur: Lynette Wangechi	Rapporteur: Stephen Ombija
Venue: Aberdare	Venue: Masai Mara	Venue: Shimba Hills	Venue: Amboseli	Venue: Tsavo	Venue: Samburu	Venue: Bogoria
Media Briefing						
1115-1130HRS: TEA BREAK						

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 22-28

1130-1300hrs	1130-1300hrs	1130-1300hrs	1130-1300hrs	1130-1300hrs	1130-1300hrs	1130-1300hrs
Scientific Session 22: Genomics 2	Scientific Session 23: Malaria 2	Scientific Session 24: Virology 2	Scientific Session 25: AMR 4	Scientific Session 26: Mental Health 2	Scientific Session 27: Health Systems3	Scientific Session 28: Public Health 3
Session Chair: Ibrahim Mwangi	Session Chair: Dr. Luna Kamau	Session Chair: Dr. Samoel Khamadi	Session Chair: Dr. Peter Muturi	Session Chair: Dr. Lucy Chite	Session Chair: Bridget Kimani	Session Chair: Daisy Cheruiyot
Rapporteur: Lynette Wangechi	Rapporteur: Miriam Chelangat	Rapporteur: Victor Ofula	Rapporteur: Kevin Kariuki	Rapporteur: Dr. Lynn Namwoso	Rapporteur: Mercy Tuluso	Rapporteur: Hellen Koka
Venue: Aberdare	Venue: Masai Mara	Venue: Shimba Hills	Venue: Amboseli	Venue: Tsavo	Venue: Samburu	Venue: Bogoria

1300-1400HRS: LUNCH BREAK

SYMPOSIA 8-15

1400 – 1700hrs	1400 – 1700hrs	1400 – 1700hrs	1400 – 1700hrs	1400 – 1700hrs	1400 – 1700hrs	1400 – 1700hrs	1400 – 1700hrs
Symposium 8: Environmental Exposures and Women's Health in Kenya: Insights from Personal Care Product Use, Breast Cancer Perceptions, and Policy Implications	Symposium 9: Metagenomic Next-Generation Sequencing (mNGS) for Public Health Action and Preparedness in Kenya	Symposium 10: SITAWI - Turning the Tide for Women and HIV	Symposium 11: Antimicrobial Resistance in Enteric Pathogens: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities for Kenya and Sub-Saharan Africa	Symposium 12: The Burden, Consequences and Cost of Childhood Shigellosis and implication for Shigella vaccines: Insights from the Enterics for Global Health (EFGH) Shigella Surveillance and Related Enteric Studies	Symposium 13: Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases in Eastern Africa	Symposium 14: Human genomics, ethics health and justice	Symposium 15: Amplifying Research: Engaging Stakeholders and Driving Demand for Research Evidence
Session Chair: Dr. Njeri Irungu	Session Chair: Dr Damaris Matoke-Muhia/ Dr. Edwin Ochieng	Session Chair: Prof. Elizabeth Bukusi	Session Chair: Dr. Cecilia Mbae	Session Chair: Dr. Richard Omore	Session Chair: Dr. Paul Mireji	Session Chair: Eva Aluvaala	Session Chair: Lilian Mayieka
Rapporteur: Dr. Esther Matu	Rapporteur: Kelvin Thiong'o/ Bryson Kimemia	Rapporteur: Joy Waiharo	Rapporteur: Diana Imoli	Rapporteur : Alex Awuor	Rapporteur: Dr. Alex Olia	Rapporteur: Belinda Azzam	Rapporteur: Wambui Njonge
Venue: Aberdare	Venue: Amboseli	Venue: Shimba Hills	Venue: Masai Mara	Venue: Tsavo	Venue: Samburu	Venue: Bogoria	Venue: MT Kenya C

END OF DAY THREE

DAY FOUR, FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2026

0700-0830hrs	Arrival & Registration
	PLENARY SESSIONS
0730-0830hrs	RISING SCIENTIFIC STAR AWARD 3 Session Chairs: Dr. Doris Njomo & Dr. Joseph Mwangangi Judges: Dr. Konongoi Limbaso, Dr. Hosea Akala & Francis Kimani Rapporteurs: Jecinta Ndung'u & Bryson Kimemia Venue: Aberdare
Venue	
0830-0850hrs	Plenary Session 8: Dr. Joseph Carvalho "Bridging Medical Research and Pandemic Preparedness in Africa"
0850-0910hrs	Plenary Session 9: Dr. Fredrick Sawe "HIV Care: Past Lessons, Present Strategies, Future Directions, and the Quest for a Cure"
0910-0925hrs	Plenary Session 10: Prof. John Clemens "The Extended Analysis of Datasets Project: An Innovative Approach to Building Research Capacity and Leadership of Young Scientists While Addressing Important Research Questions"
Session Chair:	Dr. Samoel Khamadi
Rapporteur:	Dr. Susan Kavai

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 29-34

0935-1100hrs	0935-1100hrs	0935-1100hrs	0935-1100hrs	0935-1100hrs	0935-1100hrs
Scientific Session 29: Public Health 4	Scientific Session 30: MCH 2	Scientific Session 31: AMR 5	Scientific Session 32: Health systems 4	Scientific Session 33: NTDs and One Health 2	Scientific Session 34: Vector Biology 2
Venue: Aberdare	Venue: Masai Mara	Venue: Amboseli	Venue: Tsavo	Venue: Samburu	Venue: Shimba Hills
Session Chair: Enock Kebenei	Session Chair: Dr. Benson Singa	Session Chair: Dr. John Mwaniki	Session Chair: Dr. Richard Mutisya	Session Chair: Dr. Paul Gichuki	Session Chair: Dr. Eric Ochomo
Rapporteur: Mercy Tuluso	Rapporteur: Yusuf Mwadzala	Rapporteur: Dr. Peter Muturi	Rapporteur: Billan Omar	Rapporteur: Dr. Ben Ong'ondo	Rapporteur: Tiffany Wandera

Media Briefing

1100-1130HRS: TEA BREAK

POSTER SESSION

1130 – 1300hrs	1130 – 1300hrs	1130 – 1300hrs	1130 – 1300hrs	1130 – 1300hrs	1130 – 1300hrs
Screen 1: AMR	Screen 2: Malaria, Genomics	Screen 3: Health Systems	Screen 4: Health Technologies	Screen 5: Maternal and Child Health	Screen 6: Virology, Natural Products
Poster Judges: Dr. John Mwaniki Dr. Susan Kavai	Poster Judges: Francis Kimani Dr. Sophie Uyoga	Poster Judges: Lillian Mayieka Mariam Macharia	Poster Judges: Hellen Koka Joyceline Kinyua	Poster Judges: Dr. Vera Manduku Dr. Linus Ndegwa	Poster Judges: Dr. Raphael Lihana Dr. Sospeter Njeru
Venue: Aberdare	Venue: Aberdare	Venue: Masai Mara	Venue: Masai Mara	Venue: Shimba Hills	Venue: Shimba Hills
Screen 7: NTDs	Screen 8: NCDs	Screen 9: Public Health	Screen 10: Vector Biology	Screen 11: Mental Health, TB, Cancer	
Poster Judges: Dr. Erastus Mulinge Dr. Paul Gichuki	Poster Judges: Dr. Nancy Kinyatta Dr. Benson Singa	Poster Judges: Dr. Richard Mutisya Dr. Peter Muturi	Poster Judges: Dr. Edith Limbaso Dr. Erick Ochomo	Poster Judges: Dr. Jane Ong'ango Asiko Ong'aya	
Venue: Aberdare	Venue: Aberdare	Venue: Masai Mara	Venue: Masai Mara	Venue: Shimba Hills	

1300-1400HRS: LUNCH BREAK

SYMPOSIA 15-21

1400 – 1630hrs	1400 – 1630hrs	1400 – 1630hrs	1400 – 1630hrs	1400 – 1630hrs
Symposium 16: Integrating community and primary health care for improved antenatal care and Community Health Promoters' mental wellbeing: Experiences from the C-It DU-It and SHINE Programmes	Symposium 17: The Clinical Trials Ecosystem in Kenya: Challenges and Opportunities	Symposium 18: Novel integrated surveillance and innovative strategies to shape the future of maternal and child health.	Symposium 19: Building Kenya Influenza Pandemic Response: Evidence from Detection to Intervention	Symposium 20: Clean Air for a Resilient Health System: Integrating Air Pollution, Clean Energy, Climate and Action Associated with Health Burdening Kenya
Session Chair: Dr. Gerald Ongayo	Session Chair: Dr. Victor Mudhune	Session Chair: Dr. Victor Akelo	Session Chair: Dr. Eric Osoro	Session Chair: Prof. Mabel Nangumi
Rapporteur: Dr. Hellen Barsosio	Rapporteur: Sheila Mundalo	Rapporteur: Dr. Sarah Ngere	Rapporteur: Carolyne Nasimiyu	Rapporteur: Virginia Chege
Venue: Aberdare	Venue: Masai Mara	Venue: Shimba Hills	Venue: Amboseli	Venue: Tsavo
1645-1730HRS CLOSING CEREMONY				
1645-1730hrs	Master Of Ceremony: Dr. Damaris Matoke-Muhia			
	Conference outcomes & resolutions Chief Rapporteur: Dr. Steve Wandiga			
	Awarding Ceremony: Dr. Veronica Manduku			
	Sponsors and Exhibitors: Dr. Linus Ndegwa			
	Vote of thanks: Dr. Sophie Uyoga			
	Official Closing remarks: KASH Chair: Dr. Cecilia Mbae Ag. Director General & CEO, KEMRI: Prof. Elijah Songok, MBS Chair KEMRI Board of Directors: Dr. Abdullahi Ali, CBS Principal Secretary, State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action - Ms. Anne Wang'ombe, CBS			

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mr Kenneth Mwige

Director General of
the Kenya Vision 2030
Delivery Secretariat
(VDS)



Bio.

Mr. Kenneth Mwige is the Director General of the Kenya Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat (VDS) and an accomplished public servant, legal professional, and policy expert with over three decades of experience spanning government, the private sector, regional institutions, and international development organizations. His career is marked by strategic leadership in national development planning, governance and ethics, legislative and policy reform, anti-corruption, international relations, and results-based public sector management. Education and Professional Training Mr. Mwige is an alumnus of Alliance High School. He holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the University of Nairobi and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Downing College, University of Cambridge. He also possesses a Diploma in Legal Practice from the Kenya School of Law, a Certificate in Legislative Drafting from the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, and a Certificate in International Trade and Transport Law from Lloyd's Maritime Academy, London. Professional Experience Mr. Mwige has served in senior leadership, advisory, and statutory roles across key institutions, including the Office of the President, State Law Office, Kenya AntiCorruption Authority, Standard Chartered Bank, Law Society of Kenya, International Commission of Jurists (Kenya Chapter), Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and leading legal chambers in London. He has also held public offices such as Executive Director of the Public Complaints Standing Committee (Ombudsman), Secretary General of the Intergovernmental Standing Committee on Shipping, Gazetted Public Prosecutor for corruption offences, and Inaugural Chairman of the Embu Municipal Board. Key Achievements and National Contributions Mr. Mwige has played a pivotal role in shaping Kenya's legislative, governance, and development architecture. His contributions include drafting and reforming constitutional amendments (2001–2003), public ethics and anti-corruption laws, banking and central bank legislation, public procurement frameworks, and leading the Marine Cargo Insurance localization policy implemented in 2017. As Director General of VDS, he provides strategic leadership for Kenya Vision 2030 implementation and delivery. His achievements include spearheading the VDS Transformation Strategy, VDS Strategic Plans (2018–2022 & 2023–2027), the Vision 2030 Scorecard (2008–2024) and mainstreaming knowledge management through documentation of the Vision 2030 Progress Reporting (2008–2024). Mr. Mwige spearheaded development of various government circulars inter-alia Flagship Programme and Project Identification Criteria issued as a Treasury Circular No. 01/2022, Head of Public Service Circular No. OP/CAB.39/1A on Synergized and Coordinated Government Communication and the Political Parties Manifesto Guidelines, 2022. He is currently working on, together with the State Department for Economic Planning, the post-Vision 2030 Long-Term Development Framework (Kenya @100). In Conclusion Mr. Mwige has also led coordinated national communication and stakeholder engagement on Vision 2030, advanced investment mobilization and private sector participation, and championed a performance-driven, ethical, and inclusive organizational culture, with strong emphasis on innovation, knowledge management, and people-centered. Mr. Mwige brings deep expertise in governance and ethics, anti-corruption, international relations and diplomacy, banking and financial regulation, maritime and blue economy affairs, international trade, and development policy. He is a strong advocate for institutional reform, technology-enabled public service delivery, and active citizen engagement.

PLENARY SPEAKERS



Amir Sagi, Ph.D.

Bio: Professor Amir Sagi is a Distinguished professor, Department of Life Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in the field of Comparative Endocrinology and Functional Genomics. Prof. Sagi's ongoing research utilizes functional genomics (RNAi and CRISPR) and transcriptomic analyses to investigate sexual differentiation and exoskeleton formation in crustaceans which resulted with several applied biotechnologies. Prof. Sagi's research output includes over 200 publications (Scholar h-index = 61, 8654 citations), nine granted patents, and numerous invited plenary lectures and presentations. He currently serves as a committee member of major scientific agencies, and as an ad hoc reviewer for numerous scientific journals and foundations. He is actively involved in several research projects supported by national and international foundations in the fields of functional genomics, comparative endocrinology, aquaculture, physiology, and crustacean growth with a special focus on cuticular functional proteins, androgenic hormones and monosex culture of crustaceans (totally collected over 13.5 million US\$ in grants). Prof. Sagi received Recognition of transformative contribution to

aquaculture over two decades by BARD (2024); the Lifetime Achievement Award in University Transformation - Special Recognition Award. ACEEU Asia-Pacific Triple E Awards (2024); the BGU Groundbreaking Applied Research Prize on CRISPR applications in Crustaceans (2022); the ICA award for leading entrepreneurship in agriculture and biotechnology (2018), the 2015 Crustacean Society Excellence in Research Award (TCSERA), the Landau Prize for Sciences and Arts (2014) and the Novus Global Aquaculture Innovation Award (2013).

Title: The Monosex Advantage: *Prawn Biotechnology for Sustainable Control of Aquatic Disease Vectors and Invasive Snails*

Abstract: The discovery of an insulin-like androgenic gland hormone (IAG) in decapod crustaceans paved the way for sexual plastic manipulations. This molecule was found to serve as a physiological switch (termed the IAG-switch) in which its presence dictates masculine phenotype and its absence enables female differentiation.

Endocrine manipulations included RNAi that reduced the level of the IAG in males and caused functional sex reversal that at the next generation, generated all ZZ male populations. On the other hand, IAG-secreting cells that were transplanted into females enable complete and functional sex reversals that resulted with all-WZ female populations.

Such monosex populations are not breeding and could be sustainably used for environmental and disease-related biocontrol tasks. The deployment of monosex biocontrol agents offers an effective strategy for managing pest snails, which, whether endemic or invasive, serve as carriers of parasites that infect humans and fish and also damage rice crops.

John Clemens, M.D

Bio: Professor John Clemens is an infectious disease epidemiologist with over 30 years of experience leading large population-based studies and vaccine field trials in low-income countries. He led the first efficacy trial of an oral cholera vaccine at icddr,b and later held senior roles at the U.S. NIH and the International Vaccine Institute, where he oversaw development of the oral cholera vaccine Shanchol, now WHO-prequalified and part of the global vaccine stockpile. He has served as Founding Director of UCLA's Center for Global Infectious Diseases, Executive Director of icddr,b, and is currently Senior Scientific Advisor to IVI. Professor Clemens has authored over 500 publications and received the Sabin Gold Medal and the Prince Mahidol Award in Public Health.

Title: *The Extended Analysis of Datasets Project: An Innovative Approach to Building Research Capacity and Leadership of Young Scientists While Addressing Important Research Questions*

Abstract: The Extended Analysis of Past Datasets (EAD) Program, initiated in 2018, was developed in response to the opportunity created by two converging problems in contemporary global health research. Firstly, early- and mid-level scientists from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) commonly lack skills in several areas often not addressed in research training programs: formulating cogent research questions and concepts for proposals; developing appropriate analytic plans to address the questions; conducting and interpreting data analyses; composing manuscripts to report these analyses in scientific journals; submitting the manuscripts for publication with effective cover letters; and responding to journal reviewers appropriately in revisions of the manuscripts. Secondly, because of the contemporary “rat race” requiring scientists to obtain soft money to fund their salaries, scientists rapidly turn attention to new grants and projects after conducting only a few top-line analyses of completed studies, leaving many important questions unaddressed from rich data sets. The EAD program has trained African and Asian epidemiologists, statisticians and clinical scientists from KEMRI, AHRI (Ethiopia), icddr,b (Bangladesh), and IVI (Korea) to address these gaps in research skills using an innovative systematic, hands-on approach that leverages well curated datasets from already completed Asian and African field studies of enteric infections. With intensive mentorship, these datasets provide opportunities for trainees to answer in a systematic fashion research questions that have not yet been addressed. The process emphasizes peer-peer collaboration among trainees from the different institutions; involves senior mentors who are both content and methodological experts; and entails obligatory publication of papers in international, peer-reviewed scientific journals based on the analyses, first authored by trainees. In addition to providing unique training that has assisted trainees in advancing their careers, the program has yielded major insights with important policy implications for the control of several enteric infections research across Africa.





Daniel Masiga Ph.D

Bio: Dr. Daniel Masiga is an infectious diseases biologist and Head of Human Health at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe). His research focuses on disease vectors and pathogens, including malaria, arboviruses, and Neglected Tropical Diseases. He leads major regional capacity-building initiatives in data science and bioinformatics and serves as Chair of Kenya's Ministry of Health Leishmaniasis Technical Advisory Group, where he also leads visceral leishmaniasis mapping efforts in East Africa. Dr. Masiga is a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences and serves on international research review panels.

Title: *Visceral Leishmaniasis in East Africa: Insights from disease mapping*

Abstract: Enteric infections, including antimicrobial-resistant infections, disproportionately impact low- resource communities. Among children under five who die from antibiotic resistance bacterial

infections, over 99% are in low- and middle-income countries. Scalable prevention strategies are urgently needed. In this talk I will present studies that exploit new tools in molecular microbiology to better understand zoonotic and environmental transmission pathways of enteric pathogens and antibiotic resistance in underserved communities, including patterns of bacterial strain sharing identified with metagenomics. I will also discuss efforts to reduce barriers to safe water access, including developing and evaluating novel technologies that can automate water chlorination without the need for electricity (inline chlorination). Finally, I will share potential implementation models for scaling inline drinking water chlorination technologies across diverse settings in efforts to reach the estimated 2 billion people globally that use contaminated drinking water sources.



Joseph Carvalho, Jr., M.D

Bio: Dr. Carvalho is President and CEO of HJF, where he leads the organization's strategic vision to advance military medicine globally. Prior to joining HJF in 2017, he served as Joint Staff Surgeon at the Pentagon, acting as Chief Medical Adviser to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He previously held senior leadership roles including Army Deputy Surgeon General and Commanding General of major U.S. Army medical commands. A career Army physician of 38 years, Dr. Carvalho trained as an internist, nuclear medicine physician, and cardiologist. He holds an MD from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and serves on the boards of the Wounded Warrior Project and Gonzaga University.

Title: *Bridging Medical Research and Pandemic Preparedness in Africa*

Abstract: The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine (HJF), established in the United States in 1983, has a long history of successfully advancing scientific innovation through clinical trials, infectious diseases surveillance, vaccine development, and global health program implementation.

HJF operates through its subsidiaries, HJFMRI, Inc. (Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique), and HJFMRI, Ltd/Gte (Nigeria), partnering with governments, academic institutions, and NGOs to build sustainable research infrastructure and scientific capacity. Key collaborators include KEMRI, the National Institute for Medical Research (Tanzania), and the Makerere University Walter Reed Program (Uganda). HJF's early African work supported WRAIR's Military HIV Research Program, which informed HIV epidemiology, incidence, and molecular analyses. In 2003, HJF expanded its reach into behavioral research and PEPFAR-supported clinical services (to advance HIV countermeasures, such as vaccines and monoclonal antibodies), while strengthening local laboratory and clinical capabilities for therapeutics and cure research.

Since 2010, HJFMRI and partners supported WRAIR-led disease surveillance across Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Nigeria, enabling rapid detection and monitoring of emerging pathogens that included Ebola, Zika, SARS-CoV-2, and mpox. Specific to Kenya, HJFMRI helped establish a Technical Working Group on influenza and other respiratory pathogens with MOH, KEMRI, the National Influenza Center, and the U.S. CDC to guide identification, preparedness, and response to these specific diseases.

Building on these efforts, HJF welcomes opportunities to further develop its direct collaborations with diverse international organizations to execute clinical trials and investigative research, leveraging local partnerships to grow and diversify medical research across Africa.

Ombeva Malande MB. ChB, MMed, FC Paed-Cert ID, MPhil - Paed ID, PhD

Bio: Ombeva Malande is a Vaccinologist and Paediatric Infectious Diseases Specialist. He is a Stanford Global Health Scholar, and a faculty member at Makerere University, Moi University, and Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, South Africa. Ombeva is the Director of the East Africa Centre for Vaccines and Immunization (ECAVI). He is a member of the WHO Afro Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (RITAG). He has authored two books, supervised over 15 masters and 3 PhD students, has published 40 peer-reviewed scientific papers, and made over 150 expert presentations in local and international scientific meetings. He is a Rotarian who believes in Service Above Self. Ombeva is a respected poet, who for over 20 years has written award-winning poems for drama and music festivals for primary and high school children in Kenya. He is a weekly Columnist on Child Health with the Standard Media Group in Kenya.



Title: *Vaccination as a strategy for combating antimicrobial resistance*

Abstract: Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and its contribution to morbidity and mortality is a major problem, with the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2019, identifying Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) as a top ten threat to global health. The WHO has been engaged in helping governments and concerned stakeholders in formulating global action plans to combat the rise in AMR. Initiatives advanced include antimicrobial stewardship, investments in development of new classes of antibiotics, and educational programs designed to eliminate inappropriate antibiotic use. An additional frontier is the use of vaccines as tools to reduce AMR. This under-recognized, yet positive tool requires harnessing and investment into its potential. This talk reflects on the current drivers of antibiotic use, the burden of AMR, explores ways in which existing vaccines are contributing to combatting AMR, future prospects for the role of new vaccines in reduction of AMR, and highlights challenges associated with future vaccine development to combat AMR.

Amy Janel Pickering Ph.D.

Bio: Amy J. Pickering, Ph.D. is the Blum Center Distinguished Chair and Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research uses molecular microbiology to understand and interrupt environmental transmission of enteric pathogens and drug-resistant bacteria, and to design scalable water and sanitation interventions for underserved communities. Her work has informed U.S. CDC guidelines on hand hygiene and fomite transmission of SARS-CoV-2, and she served on the WHO expert panel that developed the Global Community Hand Hygiene Guidelines. She has published over 130 papers and is a recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship and ACS Environmental Au Rising Star recognition.



Title: *Disrupting environmental transmission of enteric pathogens and antibiotic resistance*

Abstract: Enteric infections, including antimicrobial-resistant infections, disproportionately impact low- resource communities. Among children under five who die from antibiotic resistance bacterial infections, over 99% are in low- and middle-income countries. Scalable prevention strategies are urgently needed. In this talk I will present studies that exploit new tools in molecular microbiology to better understand zoonotic and environmental transmission pathways of enteric pathogens and antibiotic resistance in underserved communities, including patterns of bacterial strain sharing identified with metagenomics. I will also discuss efforts to reduce barriers to safe water access, including developing and evaluating novel technologies that can automate water chlorination without the need for electricity (inline chlorination). Finally, I will share potential implementation models for scaling inline drinking water chlorination technologies across diverse settings in efforts to reach the estimated 2 billion people globally that use contaminated drinking water sources.



Fredrick Kipyego Sawe Ph.D

Bio:

Dr. Fredrick Sawe is the Director of the Kenya Medical Research Institute/Walter Reed Project (KEMRI/WRP) Kericho site, responsible for all research and HIV/AIDS related prevention, care, and treatment activities in the South Rift Valley Province. Under the United States Military HIV Research Program (MHRP) and HJF Medical Research International (HJFMRI), Dr. Sawe has conducted several HIV/AIDS studies, including HIV vaccines, therapeutics, and cohort studies, double-blind, randomized controlled, IND/FDA-regulated, from phase I to III, US Division of AIDS (DAIDS) and non-DAIDS-sponsored studies. To date, the site has conducted over 80 studies—both HIV and non-HIV—spanning vaccines, therapeutics, cohorts, surveillance, public health evaluations, and health economics. These studies range from first-in-human trials to phase IV. Vaccine studies include a) HIV (4), b) Enteric Shigella (4), c) COVID-19 (2), and d) one each of Tuberculosis, Ebola, Yellow Fever, Polio, Typhoid, RSV, Hepatitis B, and MERS-CoV.

The site enrolls participants of all ages, including pregnant women. Dr. Sawe has been/is a Co-chair, Principal Investigator (PI), and Associate Investigator on 4, 12, and 30 studies, respectively, that are either ongoing, about to start, or closed to follow-up. Shigella (controlled human infection).

Dr. Sawe is the Clinical Research Site (CRS) leader for the KEMRI/ Walter Reed Project (WRP), Kericho, and Clinical Research Center (CRC) for the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), DAIDS:

1. AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG),
2. International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT),
3. HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) and
4. Corona Vaccine and Prevention Network (COVPN).

The studies conducted under these networks include HIV “remission/cure”, acute HIV infections in adults and neonates, Tuberculosis and HIV co-infections, cryptococcal meningitis, Kaposi’s sarcoma and immune reconstitution syndrome, evaluation of interventions to treat and prevent HIV infection and its consequences in infants, children, adolescents, and pregnant/postpartum women through the conduct of high-quality clinical trials.

Since 2004, Dr. Sawe has also overseen the KEMRI/WRP South Rift Valley Province (SRV) United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)-funded comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment program, serving approximately 4 million people, 55,000 of them are on Antiretroviral Therapy.

Title:

HIV Care: Past Lessons, Present Strategies, Future Directions, and the Quest for a Cure

Abstract:

In 2024, approximately 40.8 million people were living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and 1.3 million people, including 120,000 children, were newly infected, resulting in 630,000 deaths. UNAIDS estimates that without continued support, an additional 6 million new HIV infections and 4 million additional AIDS-related deaths would occur by 2029. Successful scale-up of antiretroviral therapy (ART) has increased the lifespan of people with HIV. HIV disease is disproportionately worse in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially among women. Conversely, funding for HIV/AIDS programmes in these countries has decreased in recent years. Although domestic funding has increased and now accounts for more than half of HIV resources in LMICs, the growth is insufficient to achieve the UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals.

While antiretroviral therapy can suppress the virus to undetectable levels, it cannot cure HIV because the virus integrates into the genomes of long-lived, latent memory CD4+ T cells. These cells evade both the immune system and available therapeutic approaches, leading to a resurgence of the virus within 2–4 weeks of stopping ART. An effective curative intervention could prevent new infections, overcome limitations of antiretroviral treatment, combat stigma and discrimination, and provide a sustainable financial solution for pandemic control. One of the main challenges in fighting HIV infection is to develop a combination of interventions and strategies that deplete or eliminate the latent viral reservoir.

HIV cure involves an intervention that sustains HIV remission in an individual, suppresses HIV viraemia, minimizes transmission, prevents re-infection, and maintains indefinite viral control without ART. Researchers have recently developed multiple strategies as cure pathways for HIV, including reducing or eliminating the HIV reservoir and enhancing HIV-specific immunity. Modelling indicates that an HIV cure ultimately results in fewer Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) than ART alone. The sector, therefore, needs an effective, safe, scalable, affordable, accessible, and acceptable cure for HIV infection. The lack of definitive assays to measure viral reservoirs not only challenges research on HIV remission or cure but also limits the capability to assess risks from analytical treatment interruption (ATI).

HIV Cure Africa Acceleration Partnership (HCAAP) operates as a multidisciplinary public-private partnership that catalyzes and promotes HIV cure research through diverse stakeholder engagement.

Mwangi Thumbi Ph.D

Bio: Thumbi Mwangi is an Associate Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at Washington State University, Co-Director of the Center for Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis (CEMA) at the University of Nairobi, and a 2025 Calestous Juma Science Leadership Fellow. His work applies epidemiological modelling to understand infectious diseases transmission and guide control and elimination strategies in human and animal populations. He has published more than 130 peer-reviewed papers and generated evidence that has shaped health policy at national, regional and global levels, including informing Gavi's expansion of access to rabies human vaccines, Kenya's COVID-19 response, schistosomiasis elimination strategies in Kenya and across Africa. Under his leadership, CEMA has grown into a Center of Excellence supporting government health decision-making such as strategies for control of endemic and epidemic diseases, and data analytic and modelling insights guiding the design of health benefit package under Kenya's Social Health Insurance Scheme. Thumbi holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery from the University of Nairobi and a PhD in Infectious Disease Epidemiology from the University of Edinburgh. He has held research positions at the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Nairobi, mentored graduate and post-doctoral fellows nationally and internationally including supervising 14 PhD's to completion, and attracted more than USD 35 million in research funding from CEPI, DFG, End Fund, Gates Foundation, Kenya NRF, USAID, Wellcome Trust, and others. He has served in national and international roles, including: Chair of Kenya's COVID-19 Modelling Technical Committee; Chair of the United Against Rabies Forum Working Group on effective use of vaccines and tools; member of the WHO Rabies Modelling Consortium; member of the WOAHS Rabies Status Evaluation Group; Commissioner of the Lancet Commission on Strengthening Epidemiological Modelling; Member of the Wellcome Population and Public Health Early-Career Advisory Group; and Editorial Board member of Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B.



Thumbi holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery from the University of Nairobi and a PhD in Infectious Disease Epidemiology from the University of Edinburgh. He has held research positions at the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Nairobi, mentored graduate and post-doctoral fellows nationally and internationally including supervising 14 PhD's to completion, and attracted more than USD 35 million in research funding from CEPI, DFG, End Fund, Gates Foundation, Kenya NRF, USAID, Wellcome Trust, and others. He has served in national and international roles, including: Chair of Kenya's COVID-19 Modelling Technical Committee; Chair of the United Against Rabies Forum Working Group on effective use of vaccines and tools; member of the WHO Rabies Modelling Consortium; member of the WOAHS Rabies Status Evaluation Group; Commissioner of the Lancet Commission on Strengthening Epidemiological Modelling; Member of the Wellcome Population and Public Health Early-Career Advisory Group; and Editorial Board member of Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B.

Title: *Mathematics of Life and Death: Modelling for Better, Faster Health Decisions*

Abstract:

Applied Epidemiological Models are essential tools for generating actionable insights for informing public health decisions during health emergencies or guiding disease control and elimination programs. By estimating parameters that define the transmission dynamics, projecting how an outbreak may evolve, and evaluating expected impact of interventions, these models help determine what actions to take, when to take them, and how to prioritize limited resources. At their core, effective models balance complexity with usability by being detailed enough to represent transmission adequately and simple enough to generate fast, actionable insights to support rapid decision-making. This talk uses three studies to illustrate these principles: i) modelling optimal deployment windows for oral cholera vaccines during Kenya's 2022-2025 cholera epidemic; ii) cost-effectiveness of deworming campaigns versus routine community health program on time to Bilharzia elimination in Kenya; and iii) estimating kala-azar burden and modelling geographical accessibility to optimize access to treatment centers and care. Across these examples, I will demonstrate how model-based evidence can help accelerate the design of efficient, equitable, and timely health interventions.



Prof Isabella Oyier

Bio: Isabella Oyier is the Head of the Biosciences Department at KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Program (KWTRP), a Professor of Molecular Epidemiology, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford a Calestous Juma Fellow, funded by BMGF and a Global Research Fellow at Reuben College, University of Oxford. Her current research focuses on integrating malaria molecular epidemiology into routine surveillance in Kenya. A project that partners with the Division of National Malaria Programme to implement malaria molecular surveillance activities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she led the COVID-19 testing for the Coastal region. KWTRP was a regional COVID-19 genomic surveillance reference lab for Africa CDC and WHO-Afro and she led and coordinated this effort. In addition, she is coordinating the scale up COVID-19 immunological surveillance in the East Africa region, to determine genetic variants with immune escape potential. More recently she is co-leading a Wellcome funded 4 pathogen genomics surveillance project that cuts across 8 countries, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Malawi, South Africa, Thailand and Vietnam.

Title: *Molecular Innovations for Health Facility-based Surveillance of Antimalaria Drug Resistance*

Abstract:

My program of work focuses on malaria molecular epidemiology, with the aim of generating actionable molecular surveillance data to support National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) surveillance activities and inform policy decisions.

Growing concerns over established diagnostic resistance to histidine-rich protein 2 (HRP2)-based malaria rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) in the Horn of Africa, alongside emerging artemisinin resistance in East and Horn of Africa regions, threaten recent gains in malaria diagnosis and treatment. Malaria molecular surveillance (MMS) enables the early detection and monitoring of parasite genetic mutations associated with resistance to diagnostics and antimalarial drugs. To address this, we are integrating MMS into routine malaria diagnosis through a network of sentinel health facilities linked to the National Malaria Reference Laboratory, supported by research laboratories to ensure sustainable MMS implementation. This platform combines surveillance of antimalarial drug resistance and diagnostic resistance markers using routine patient samples collected from at least three sentinel sites in 15 malaria-endemic counties. Next-generation sequencing technologies are being optimized to rapidly detect resistance-associated molecular markers. The generated surveillance data regularly shared with the NMCP. To track the frequency and temporal trends of resistance markers.

MMS has already provided early insights into the status of artemisinin resistance mutation prevalence in Kenya, including preliminary evidence of kelch13 codon 675V mutations. In addition, we are characterizing the complexity of infection, assessing the number of genetically distinct parasites per infection and conducting whole-genome analyses to define the national parasite population structure. This work aims to demonstrate that a sustainable and robust MMS system can function as an early warning platform for the NMCP, supporting targeted malaria control interventions and data-driven policy decision-making.



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Founded in 1989, KWTRP is a world-class, multidisciplinary research centre with main locations in Kilifi, Nairobi, and Mbale in Eastern Uganda. KWTRP collaborates widely across Africa and globally.

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The KEMRI Graduate School invites applications for admission into the following programmes for self-sponsored students under the collaborative JKUAT/KEMRI Post-Graduate Training:

1. **Master of Science (M.Sc.)**
2. **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

COURSES	*MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENT
MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.Sc.) A. PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMME <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MSc. Public Health 2. MSc. Epidemiology and Biostatistics 3. MSc. Global Health B. BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES PROGRAMME <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. MSc. Medical Microbiology 5. MSc. Medical Virology 6. MSc. Medical Mycology 7. MSc. Medical Parasitology and Entomology 8. MSc. Molecular Medicine C. PHARMACY PROGRAMME <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. MSc. Medicinal Chemistry 10. MSc. Medicinal Phytochemistry DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.) (In the MSc areas above)	The common regulations for all Masters degrees in the University shall apply. The following shall be eligible for admission in KEMRI Graduate School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Bachelor's Degree, Second Class (Upper Division) in a relevant field of study or its equivalent from JKUAT or any other Institution recognized by JKUAT Senate. OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Bachelor's Degree, Second Class Honors (Lower Division) in a relevant field of study or its equivalent from JKUAT or any other Institution recognized by JKUAT Senate, with at least two years post-qualification work/research experience. OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Bachelor's Degree with a Pass and a Postgraduate Diploma in a relevant field of study. The minimum entry requirements of all PhDs in JKUAT shall apply.

More information about the programmes are available on our website: **kgs.acke**
 *NB: These are the minimum requirements; other conditions may apply for individual programmes.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINE

Candidates seeking admission are required to download and fill application form obtained from the KEMRI Graduate School Website indicated above in triplicate. The candidate should attach copies of the academic certificates (together with transcripts) on each form together with copies of National ID/Passport and KCSE Certificate.

Payment of application fee KES 2500 for MSc. and KES 3500 for PhD is done at **JKUAT Cash Office** situated at the Main Campus, Jua or JKUAT Towers, CBD. After making payment, the applicant should attach the original slip to one application form and copies of the slip to the other two forms. The applicant should submit all the documents to the Administration Office located at KEMRI Graduate School Building, KEMRI HQs NOT later than **10th April 2026**.

**THE DIRECTOR,
GRADUATE SCHOOL, JKUAT**
 P.O. BOX 62000-00200,
 NAIROBI, KENYA.
 Tel: 020- 2027952 or 067(52211)
 Email: director@bps.jkuat.ac.ke

**THE DIRECTOR,
KEMRI GRADUATE SCHOOL,**
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 NAIROBI, KENYA.
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FULL PROGRAM

16 TH KEMRI ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC & HEALTH (KASH) CONFERENCE		
VENUE: SAFARI PARK HOTEL-10TH -13TH FEBRUARY 2026		
DAY TWO, 11 TH FEBRUARY 2025		
	Arrival and Registration	
0730-0855hrs	RISING SCIENTIFIC STAR AWARD	
Abstract No.	Scientific Session: Rising Star Award 1	
	Venue: Aberdare	
	Session Chair : Dr. Doris Njomo & Dr. Joseph Mwangangi	
	Judges : Dr. Konongoi Limbaso, Dr. Hosea Akala & Francis Kimani	
	Rapporteurs: Jecinta Ndung’u & Bryson Kimemia	
RS001	External Validation of an Admission Risk Score For Predicting Inpatient Paediatric Mortality in Low Resource Settings; Stephen Kamau	
RS002	Cardioprotection and Antiatherosclerotic Effects of <i>Solanum incanum</i> (Lin.) and <i>Rhamnus prinoides</i> Extracts in Animal Models; Stephen Mburu	
RS003	The Hippo pathway effectors YAP/TAZ initiates and maintains malignant transformation via a tissue-type-independent gene-signature; David Nduru	
RS004	The Public Health Significance of Polioviruses Detected from Sludge in Kenya; Evidence from Septic Tanks and Pit latrines; Stephen Ombija	
RS005	Prevalence and Antimicrobial Resistance of Invasive Non-Typhoidal <i>Salmonella</i> in Poultry Farms, Workers, and Surrounding Environments in Nairobi: A One Health Genotypic Study; Ian Onyango	
RS006	Genetically Low Haptoglobin Levels and Clinical Outcomes in Haemolytic Anaemias; Keneth Oluoch	
RS007	Endothelial and Hematological Biomarkers for Early Detection of Pediatric SCD Complications: A Diagnostic Opportunity for Resource-Limited Kenyan Hospitals; Fred Abala	
RS008	Hypertension among men in Kenya: the role of education and access to health services — A scoping review ; Collins Kipkemoi	
RS009	Antibody Responses to Anopheles Salivary and <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> Antigens Reflect Seasonal Transmission but Not Individual Biting Exposure in Western Kenya; Erastus Kirwa	
RS010	Maternal Near-Miss in FGM-Affected Communities: Lessons from MPDSR in Narok County, Kenya (2023–2025); Felix Kipngetich	
RS011	Germline engagement and Affinity Maturation of CD4 Binding Site Broadly Neutralizing Antibodies Induced by HIV Vaccine Candidates; Wilfrida Ogonda	
	KEYNOTE AND PLENARY SESSIONS	
0900-0930hrs	Keynote Address: Mr. Kenneth Mwige “60% continental vaccine sustainability by 2040, progress made so far”	
0930 - 0950hrs	Plenary Session 1: Prof Amy Pickering “Disrupting environmental transmission of enteric pathogens and antibiotic”	
0950 - 1010hrs	Plenary Session 2: Dr. Ombeva Malande “Vaccination as a strategy for combating antimicrobial resistance”	
Master of Ceremony:	Dr. Steve Wandiga	
Session Chair	Dr. Eric Muok	
Rapporteur	Lillian Mayieka	
1010 – 1030HRS TEA BREAK		
Time (EAT) (1030-1245hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 1: AMR 1
		Venue: Aberdare
		Session Chair : Dr. Susan Kawai
		Rapporteur : Kelvin Kering
	1.	Antimicrobial Resistance Profiles and Detection of <i>mecA</i> , <i>blaCTX-M-1</i> , and <i>blaSHV</i> genes in Bacteria among Diabetic Foot Ulcer Patients from Kisumu County, Kenya; Silas Awuor
	2.	Antibiotics and priority effects structure colonizing resistant <i>Escherichia coli</i> strain assemblages in community settings; Eric Ng’eno
	3.	Strengthening Veterinary Pharmacovigilance Systems to Support Antimicrobial Stewardship in Kenya; Rose Owada

	4.	One health approach unravels worrying antimicrobial resistance patterns: A cross-sectional study in Kisii, Kenya; Briton Kavulavu
	5.	Unmasking The Bug - Young Healthcare Workforce in the Fight against Antimicrobial Resistance; Simon Kiambati
	6.	Coexistence of virulence and antimicrobial resistance genes in multidrug-resistant pathogenic bacteria from clinical and hospital environment samples from a referral hospital in Kenya; Racheal Kimani
	7.	Prevalence and Antibiotic Susceptibility Patterns Of Enterics among Food Handlers In Nairobi County, Kenya; Wellington Mutinda
	8.	Molecular Epidemiology and Antimicrobial Resistance Profiles of Neisseria gonorrhoeae in Kenya: Insights from MLST, NG-MAST, and NG-STAR Analyses; Mary Kivata
Time (EAT) (1030-1245hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 2: Public Health 1 Venue: Masai Mara Session Chair : Enock Kebenei Rapporteur : Schilla Mbuka
	9.	Assessing Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions of Cycling Among Female Healthcare Professionals in Nairobi City County, Kenya: Preliminary Baseline Survey Findings; Gloria Kitur
	10.	Market Survey on Existing and Emerging Tobacco and Nicotine Products Sold In Nairobi County and Tobacco Regulations In Kenya; Mary Sofia
	11.	Epidemiology of enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli among children under five years in Kenya's urban informal settlement; Amos Njuguna
	12.	"Don't push the product on its own" Implementation strategies of long-acting HIV prevention products for pregnant and lactating women in Kenya: A healthcare provider and national stakeholder perspectives; Daniel Mwai
	13.	Human infection studies in an LMIC context – lessons and practices from community and public engagement for a Shigella infection study in Kenya; Joyce Shikuku
	14.	Caregiver Dynamics and Factors Affecting Health-Seeking Behaviors for Childhood Diarrhoea in Mukuru Informal Settlements in Nairobi, Kenya; Rahma Osman
	15.	Follow-up decay in a Cohort for Acute Respiratory Disease Surveillance among the Older Persons in Western Kenya; Lillian Sewe
Time (EAT) (1030-1245hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 3: NTDs and One Health 1 Venue: Shimba Hills Session Chair : Dr. Erastus Mulinge Rapporteur : Dr. Ben Ong'ondo
	16.	Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene WASH): An integrated Approach to Disease Control, a case of Mwibona ward, Vihiga County – Kenya; Fanuel Khainga
	17.	Evidence for persistent multilocus genotypes of Biomphalaria pfeifferi in a natural population in Kenya, with implications for transmission of Schistosoma mansoni; Noel Oduor
	18.	Beyond Access: Unpacking Operational and Contextual Barriers to Trachoma Elimination in Hard to Reach Areas of Baringo County, Kenya; Bridget Kimani
	19.	Prevalence and risk factors associated with louse-borne relapsing fever among febrile patients attending Moyale Sub-County hospital in Northern Kenya; John Njeru
	20.	Decentralized Care for Visceral Leishmaniasis in Turkana County, Kenya; Challenges, Opportunities, and Implications for Long-Term Sustainability - Perspectives of the County Health Management Team; Mariam Macharia
	21.	Progress Towards Elimination of Trachoma in Tiati East Baringo County: A Cross-sectional Assessment of Active Trachoma, Facial cleanliness and Environmental Improvement Indicators; Loise Njogu
	22.	Field evaluations of a novel schistosomiasis CAA rapid diagnostic test: game changer for national control programmes in reaching the WHO 2030 goals? ; Henry Kanyi
	23.	Enteric parasitic infections: prevalence, risk factors, and genotypic characterization of Giardia lamblia, Entamoeba species and Cryptosporidium species among children in Kiambu County, Kenya; Liza Mwirigi
Time (EAT) (1030-1245hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 4: Maternal and Child Health 1 Venue: Amboseli Session Chair : Dr. Benson Singa Rapporteur : Yusuf Mwadzala
	24.	The Hidden Burden: Triage Misdiagnosis, Risk Factors, and Adverse Neonatal Outcomes Associated with Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy at Thika Level 5 Hospital; Jared Ronoh

	25.	Determinants of Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes in a Malaria-Endemic Rural Population of Western Kenya: Implications for Transformative Maternal and Child Health; Sarah Kituyi
	26.	Understanding Contextual Drivers and Barriers to Maternal Immunization Demand in Western Kenya: A qualitative Inquiry; Julius Odero
	27.	Prevalence and associated risk factors for preterm birth among a cohort of pregnant women in western Kenya, May, 2015-May, 2024; Denis Omondi
	28.	Human Resource innovation-the use of breastfeeding peer supporters to improve rates of exclusive breastfeeding among infants in Kenyan hospital; Fridah Munene
	29.	Long-term Impact of 10-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine on Pneumonia Mortality Among Children Aged 2-59 Months in Rural Western Kenya 2007-2024; Allan Audi
	30.	The Silent Supervisor: Co-development and use of the Community House hold Antenatal Records Tracker in supporting Antenatal and Post-natal care in Homabay County; Benson Omolo
Time (EAT) (1030-1245hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 5: Natural Products Venue: Tsavo Session Chair : Dr.Njeri Irungu Rapporteur : Joyce Ondicho
	31.	Identification of mycobacterial efflux pump inhibiting compounds from <i>Berberis holstii</i> Engl. and determination of their mechanism of action; Ephantus Ndirangu
	32.	Structure-based pharmacophore modelling, molecular docking, molecular dynamics simulations, binding energy calculations, and free energy landscapes of potential <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> Mmp15 inhibitors from ReFRAME database screening; Caroline Maina
	33.	Potential of the antimycobacterial activity of bedaquiline, clofazimine, and doxycycline against <i>Mycobacterium smegmatis</i> by several natural product-based compounds is putatively via efflux inhibition; Robi Chacha
	34.	From Approval to Access: Investigating Regulatory and Economic Barriers to Medication in Kenya; Martin Evans
	35.	Determination of Antiviral Activities of Crude Extracts of <i>Croton kinondoensis</i> Against <i>Herpes simplex</i> Virus Type 1(HSV-1); Erick Buoga
	36.	Phytochemical characterization and in vitro evaluation of the anti-prostate cancer activity of <i>Piliostigma thonningii</i> (Schumach.) and <i>Combretum zeyheri</i> (Sond.) stem bark extracts; Salome Onyango
	37.	Antiproliferative activity of <i>Naja pallida</i> and <i>Naja nigricolis</i> crude venoms on prostate cancer DU145 cell lines; Erick Mwengi
Time (EAT) (1030-1245hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 6: Malaria 1 Venue: Samburu Session Chair : Dr. Luna Kamau Rapporteur : Maureen Otinga
	38.	Repurposing epirubicin and pelitinib as antimalarial agents in combination with artemether and lumefantrine; Douglas Ochora
	39.	The Effect of Artemether-Lumefantrine Combined with a Single Dose of Primaquine on <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> Gametocyte Clearance and Post-Treatment Infectivity to <i>Anopheles arabiensis</i> ; Awoke Minwuyelet
	40.	A natural experiment in Kenya reveals durable immunosuppressive effects of early childhood malaria: a longitudinal cohort study; Elijah Thumbi
	41.	Placental malaria might influence TLR4, Endothelin-3, and oxidative DNA damage in human placenta samples; Francis Kobia
	42.	Persistent and Evolving <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> dhfr and dhps Mutations in Busia County, Western Kenya; Loise Ndung'u
	43.	Longitudinal evidence of differential pertussis antibody durability following natural infection among vaccinated children living in contrasting malaria transmission settings in coastal Kenya; Mercy Safari
	44.	Characterization of Cytochrome b Gene in <i>Plasmodium ovale</i> Species from Malaria Ecological Zones in Kenya; Jackline Juma
	45.	High and Heterogeneous Prevalence of Gametocytaemia in Perennial and Lake Endemic Malaria Transmission Zones in Kenya; Redemptah Yeda

Time (EAT) (1030-1245hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 7: TB Venue: Bogoria Session Chair : Dr. Jane Ong'ango Rapporteur : Asiko Ong'aya
	46.	A Time-to-Event Analysis of Predictors for Sputum Culture Conversion in Patients with Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Nairobi, Kenya; Fred Orina
	47.	Genomic heterogeneity of Multidrug Resistance Tuberculosis (MDR) Strains Circulating in Western Kenya; Fredrick Ogumbo
	48.	Applicability of the TB-LAMP Diagnostic Test for Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection among HIV-Positive Individuals in a Highly Endemic Region of Kenya; Betty Murrithi
	49.	Characterization of Genetic Mutations Associated with Fluoroquinolone Resistance in Mycobacterium tuberculosis in 14 Counties in Western Kenya; Joan Tonui
	50.	Evaluation Of Performance Of Quire Artificial Inteligent And Manually Interpreted X-Ray Against Bactec Liquid Culture; Laureen Nyongesa
	51.	Molecular Characterization and Drug Resistance Profiles of Clinically Relevant Non-Tuberculous Mycobacteria Isolated from Adult Patients Presumed to Have Pulmonary Drug Resistance Tuberculosis in Kisumu County, Western Kenya; Cecilia Dete
	52.	Determinants of Drug-resistant tuberculosis in Meru County,Kenya; Abdiaziz Mohamud
	53.	Antimicrobial susceptibility profile of bacterial pathogens in GeneXpert MTB/RIF® negative sputum samples of patients attending tuberculosis reference facilities in Kenya; Abdi Mohammed
	54.	Assessing Treatment Success and Disease Severity in Drug-Susceptible Pulmonary Tuberculosis among Persons under 15 Years in Nairobi County; Shamsa Haji
	55.	Predictors of Tuberculosis death outcome: A survival analysis of TB patients notified in Kathiani subcounty, Machakos county, Kenya, January 2021-Dec 2023; Eunice Kiilu
	56.	H37Rv Reference Strains: How Many Passages Are Too Many? A Gleans on Genetic Variations at KEMRI -TB Reference Laboratory; Elizabeth Okoth
1245-1345HRS: LUNCH BREAK		
SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 8-14		
Time (EAT) (1345hrs-1500hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 8: Health systems 1 Venue: Aberdare Session Chair : Bridget Kimani Rapporteur : Mariam Macharia
	57.	Exploring adaptation methods used by communities and health facilities to provide health services during extreme weather events; Gladys Sanga
	58.	Building a fit-for-purpose health workforce; Assessing the quality and competency of medical laboratory personnel in malaria diagnosis through the development of a regional quality assurance network in Homa Bay County, Kenya; Gabriel Kotewas
	59.	Integration of Antiretroviral Therapy Pharmacies with General Outpatient Pharmacies: Implications for Differentiated Service Delivery Models in HIV Care in Kenya; Kevin Kadede
	60.	Enhancing Blood Transfusion Safety in Public Health Systems: A Haemovigilance Study at Homabay County Referral Hospital, Kenya; Mary Oyugi
	61.	Segmentation-Driven Public Health Systems Design for Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Kenya: Evidence-Led Prioritization to Inform a Tailored Cash-Plus Intervention; Evangeline Wanyama
	62.	Use of community voices and satisfaction surveys as a tool to improve health service responsiveness in Kendu Sub County Hospital, Homa Bay County; Gabriel Kotewas
Time (EAT) (1345hrs-1500hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 9: HIV Venue: Masai Mara Session Chair : Dr. Raphael Lihana Rapporteur: Stephen Ombija
	63.	Youth Champions A Tool for Increased Access to HIV Services, Case of Luanda H/Centre, Vihiga; Fanuel Khainga
	64.	Drug-Drug Interactions between Antiretrovirals and other Drugs, including Herbal Medicines and Supplements, among HIV Patients in Naivasha Sub-County Hospital; Tiffany Njeru
	65.	Bacterial Morphotypes and Their Association with High-Risk HPV Genotypes Among HIV-Positive Women in Kenya; Sheila Mbaabu

	66.	Correlates of Seroconversion among HIV-exposed Infants in Three High-burden Counties in Kenya, 2024; Lucy Munyeki
	67.	Examining mother to child transmission of HIV: a case series of 8 mother-infant pairs enrolled in PMTCT services; Catherine Wexler
Time (EAT) (1345hrs-1500hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 10: AMR 2 Venue: Shimba Hills Session Chair : Kelvin Kering Rapporteur : Kevin Kariuki
	68.	Misuse of Antibiotics during Pregnancy as a Neonatal Risk towards Antimicrobial Resistance Development; Silas Awuor
	69.	Epidemiology and Characterization of Carbapenemase Gene Alleles Expressed by Enterobacterales Recovered from Nairobi River Surface Water and Local Input Sources in Nairobi, Kenya; Rael Too
	70.	Quality of Urinary Tract Infection Diagnosis and Management in Tanzania: A Cross sectional national level survey; Esther Ngadaya
	71.	Does negative procalcitonin predict admission blood culture negativity in patients presenting to a county hospital in rural Kenya?; Anne Amulele
	72.	Genomic Characterization of Oral-Rectal ESKAPE Pathogens Isolated from Bats Species Sampled from Coastal Kenya; Jacob Kamau
	73.	Klebsiella pneumoniae outbreaks and antigenic diversity in neonates in Kenyan hospitals; Anne Amulele
	74.	Acquisition of Multidrug-Resistant ESKAPE-E Pathogens in Kenya is Driven by Healthcare Exposure, Inpatient Care, and Increasing Age Amidst a Rising Temporal Incidence; Erick Oduyo
Time (EAT) (1345hrs-1500hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 11: Vector Biology Venue: Amboseli Session Chair : Dr. Edith Limbaso Rapporteur : Tiffany Wandera
	75.	Community evaluation of VECTRON™ T500 (broflaniide) for indoor residual spraying for malaria vector control in Siaya county, Kenya; Celestine Wekesa
	76.	Fine scale temporal patterns of mosquito density, Plasmodium falciparum sporozoite rate in Anopheles mosquitoes, and malaria cases in a community-based longitudinal cohort in Kenya; Mark Amunga
	77.	Assessment of risk of exposure to arthropod bites by military personnel participating in Justified Accord Exercise in Kenya, 2025; David Oullo
	78.	Ivermectin to Control Malaria — A Cluster-Randomized Trial; Marta Maia
	79.	Integrating Clinical, Entomological, and Environmental Data to Elucidate Dengue Transmission Dynamics in Kenya; Ferdinand Adungo
Time (EAT) (1345hrs-1500hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 12: NCDs Venue: Tsavo Session Chair : Dr. Nancy Kinyatta Rapporteur : Yvonne Ochieng
	80.	Pattern of CVDs and outcome among patients admitted to medical wards at Homabay County Teaching and Referral Hospital (HBCTRH); Evans Ondiek
	81.	Bridging the Gap in Diabetes Screening: Missed Opportunities in Linking Glucometer Testing and Urine Dipstick Glucosuria Testing in a Semi-Urban Kenyan Clinic; Lucy Maina
	82.	Effectiveness of community-based interventions for prevention and control of hypertension in sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic review; Joel Musyoki
	83.	The effect of heterozygous β -thalassemia on childhood health and survival in Kilifi Kenya; Johnstone Makale
	84.	Optimization of a Customized Genotyping Assay for determination of Rhesus Blood Group Antigen diversity; Caudencia Nyakundi
	85.	Routine Paediatric Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) Outpatient Care in a Rural Kenyan Hospital: The model care program; Sophie Uyoga
Time (EAT) (1345hrs-1500hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 13: Public Health 2 Venue: Samburu Session Chair : Enock Kebenei Rapporteur : Schilla Mbuka

	86.	Evaluation of the Advance Warning and Response Systems in Kenya, 2025; Stella Mamuti
	87.	Preferences for and experiences of antenatal and postpartum male partner support among Kenyan women living with HIV; Catherine Wexler
	88.	Recipients' and implementers' perspectives on acceptability and tolerability of a multiple micronutrient supplement in a clinical trial; Sophie Chabeda
	89.	Stakeholder Perceptions of the Key Drivers Shaping Nairobi's Food System; Schiller Mbuka
	90.	Effects of water quality, sanitation, handwashing, and nutritional interventions on serological measures of enteric pathogen infection in rural Kenya; Richelle Kihoro
	91.	Role of Chama Participation in Household Food Security: Insights from Urban and Peri-Urban Kisumu County; Lilian Sewe
	92.	Molecular Profiling of Enteric Pathogens and AMR Signatures in Children with Acute Diarrhoea in an Urban Informal Settlement in Kenya; Michael Mugo
Time (EAT) (1345hrs-1500hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 14: Health Technologies Venue: Bogoria Session Chair : Dr. Ernest Wandera Rapporteur : Daisy Cheruiyot
	93.	Rollout and scale-up of a remote logging data system for sputum: a case study of Homabay county, Kenya; Everlyne Mboga
	94.	Revolutionizing Medical & Healthcare in Africa with Artificial Intelligence using Pawanax-AI Medical Agents; Fidelis Ndombera
	95.	Transforming Youth Mental Health Through Digital Intervention: Outcomes from the AkiliBora App Trial; Collins Asweto
	96.	Integration of Machine Learning Algorithms in Yellow Fever Surveillance Data Analysis in Kenya; Seth Okeyo
	97.	AI-Driven Public Health Literacy for Sickle Cell Disease Management in Kenya; Athuman Chiguzo
	98.	Developing a Machine Learning Screening Model for Early Detection of Anaemia among Pregnant Women in Low-Resource Settings; Cynthia Kilango
	99.	Evaluating the usage patterns, enablers, and barriers of the East Africa Community Health web portal as a single-point-of-access of information; James Kariuki
	100.	Cervical cancer continuing education in Kenya: lessons learned from piloting a virtual learning educational program among health care providers; May Maloba
	101.	Advancing Next-Generation Epidemic Intelligence in Kenya: Media Monitoring and Automation as Catalytic Innovations for Reimagining Event-based Surveillance System; Philip Ngere
	102.	"When Systems Go Down, So Does Trust": Challenges of KEMR and eCHIS within Kenya's Community Health System; Sophie Otieno
	103.	Transforming Maternal and Child Health Service Delivery at Community Level: Impact of Kenya's Electronic Community Health Information System (eCHIS) in Vihiga County; Mercy Wafula
SYMPOSIA 1-7		
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1800hrs)		Symposium 1: Strengthening Cancer Surveillance and Research to inform Policies in Sub-Saharan Africa Venue: Aberdare Session Chair : Anne Korir Rapporteur : Dr Regina Mbugua
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1800hrs)		Symposium 2: Using Innovative methods for setting up Early Warning Systems for Disease Surveillance and Response to Disease Outbreaks in East Africa Venue: Masai Mara Session Chair : Dr. Samoel Khamadi Rapporteur : Nicole Tanchu

Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1800hrs)		Symposium 3: SAMSA -Sustainable Atmospheric Monitoring Service forAfrica Amplifying Research: Engaging Stakeholders and Driving Demand for Research Evidence Venue: Shimba Hills Session Chair : Prof. Thumbi Mwangi Rapporteur : Yvette Fleming
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1800hrs)		Symposium 4: Multi-pathogen genomic surveillance symposium Venue: Amboseli Session Chair: Prof. Isabella Oyier Rapporteur : Patience Kiyuka
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1800hrs)		Symposium 5: Advancing Leishmaniasis Research and Control in Kenya: Building Partnerships for Impact Venue: Tsavo Session Chair : Dr. Damaris Matoke- Muhia/Dr. Daniel Masiga Rapporteur : Lynette Wangechi
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1800hrs)		Symposium 6: KEMRI Bioethics Training Initiative Venue: Samburu Session Chair : Prof. Elizabeth Bukusi Rapporteur : Ms. Joy Waiharo
(1500hrs-1800hrs)		Symposium 7: Respiratory Disease Surveillance Platforms in Kenya: Leveraging Surveillance for Public Health Action Venue: Bogoria Session Chair : Nancy A. Otieno Rapporteur : Lily Kirui
END OF SECOND DAY		

DAY THREE, THURSDAY 12 TH FEBRUARY 2026		
	Arrival & Registration	
0700-0830hrs	RISING SCIENTIFIC STAR AWARD	
Abstract No.	Scientific Session: Rising Star Award 2 Venue: Aberdare Session Chair : Dr. Doris Njomo & Dr. Joseph Mwangangi Judges : Dr. Konongoi Limbaso, Dr. Hosea Akala & Francis Kimani Rapporteur : Jecinta Ndung'u & Bryson Kimemia	
RS012	Comparative Performance of Machine Learning Models in Predicting Emergency Cesarean Section Delivery Among Pregnant Women; Brian Onyando	
RS013	Assessing the Impact of PCV for Sustaining its Benefits on Pneumococcal Carriage and Invasive Disease in Ethiopia; Brian Otieno	
RS014	Health Seeking Behaviour among Esophageal Cancer Patients in Africa: A Systematic Review; Oduor Otieno	
RS015	Seasonal Variation in Mosquito Species Composition, Abundance as Risk of Arbovirus Transmission in Isiolo County, Kenya; Victor Dumusi	
RS016	Evaluating evaporation rates, physical integrity, and attractiveness of four prototypes of attractive resting and feeding lure (ATREFEEL) to mosquitoes and non-target species ; Gideon Laibon	
RS017	Effectiveness of Community Health Promoters in Early Detection and Referral of Maternal and Neonatal Danger Signs During Home Visits Within 48 Hours Post-Delivery in Homabay County-Kenya; Antony Ochung'	
RS018	Synergistic Bacteriophage Cocktail for MDR P. aeruginosa: OmniLog-Guided Cocktail Design and Efficacy Testing in Galleria mellonella; Meshak Omwega	
RS019	Socioeconomic factors influencing the utilization of Social Health Authority among women during postnatal care services in Homabay County, Kenya; Marvin Odhiambo	
RS020	Early Rotavac® Vaccine Effectiveness Estimate from Coastal Kenya following Switch from Rotarix™, January 2023- October 2025; Kipkirui Zadock	
RS021	Leveraging on Program quality and Efficiency to increase case Identification and combat Tuberculosis infectious chain at Matata Hospital, Homa Bay County; Brian Korir	
RS022	VectorScope: A Novel mHealth Platform for Real-Time, Case-Triggered Dengue Vector Surveillance in Kenya; Benard Ochieng	
	PLENARY SESSION	
0830-0845hrs	Plenary Session 4: Prof. Amir Sagi "The Monosex Advantage: Prawn Biotechnology for Sustainable Control of Aquatic Disease Vectors and Invasive Snails"	
0845-0900hrs	Plenary Session 5: Dr. Daniel Masiga "Visceral Leishmaniasis in East Africa: Insights from disease mapping"	
0900-0915hrs	Plenary Session 6: Prof. Mwangi Thumbi "Mathematics of Life and Death: Modelling for Better & Faster Health Decisions"	
0915-0930hrs	Plenary Session 7: Prof. Isabella Oyier "Molecular Innovations for Health Facility-based Surveillance of Antimalaria Drug Resistance"	
Session Chair	Dr. Eric Ochomo	
Rapporteur	Yvonne Ochieng	
	SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 15-21	
Time (EAT) (0940hrs-1115hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 15: Health Systems 2 Venue: Aberdare Session Chair : Dr. Richard Mutisya Rapporteur : Mariam Macharia
	104.	Cohort Profile: Population Based Integrated Disease Surveillance (PBIDS) in Asembo, Siaya and Kibera Informal settlement, Nairobi, Kenya; Allan Audi
	105.	Evaluating the Timeliness of Event and Indicator-Based Surveillance Systems in Kenya Using the 7-1-7 Framework: A Multi-County Analysis, 2021–2025; Stella Mamuti
	106.	Landscape analysis of the existing platforms for maternal vaccine safety surveillance in kenya; Linnet Muchemi
	107.	Prospective Cohort Study of Acute Respiratory Illness Among Healthcare Workers in Kenya: Integrated Surveillance Design and Early Findings; Philip Ngere
	108.	Clinical Course and Outcomes of Patients Hospitalized with Acute Febrile Illnesses in 12 Sentinel Surveillance Sites across Kenya, 2021-2025; Jared Opudo

Time (EAT) (0940hrs-1115hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 16: Natural Products 2 Venue: Masai Mara Session Chair : Dr. Sospeter Njeru Rapporteur : Joyce Ondicho
	109.	Pre-Clinical Antiviral Screening of <i>Carissa edulis</i> (Forsk.) Vahl., <i>Camellia sinensis</i> L. O. Kuntze., and <i>Adansonia digitata</i> L. Plant Extracts for the Management of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2); Elizabeth Luvai
	110.	Green Synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles mediated by <i>Brassica carinata</i> microgreens and their Anticancer Activity Against Prostate Cancer Cells; Dogfounianalo Somda
	111.	Anticancer potential of fungal secondary metabolites against cervical cancer cells; Peris Mokua
	112.	Evaluation of Anti-Influenza-A Properties of <i>Croton Dichogamus</i> and <i>Lippia Javanica</i> Extracts; Rossel Oketch
	113.	Non-hormonal contraceptive potential of <i>Flueggea virosa</i> (Roxb. ex Willd.) root bark: an integrated LC-MS/MS, sperm function assays, network pharmacology and in-silico analysis; Kehongo Nyanguru
	114.	In Vitro Antiproliferation Activity, Phytochemical Analysis, and In Silico Target Prediction of <i>Vitex doniana</i> Sweet Fraction Against Prostate Cancer Cell Line; James Mugo
	115.	Evaluation of Anticancer Activity of Solvent Fractions of <i>Croton megalocarpus</i> Against Human Cervical Adenocarcinoma Cell Line (HeLa); Jane Gati
Time (EAT) (0940hrs-1115hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 17: Cancer Venue: Shimba Hills Session Chair : Ibrahim Mwangi Rapporteur : Tiffany Wandera
	116.	Diagnostic pathways among women who screened “suspicious for cancer” through visual inspection with acetic acid at 10 hospitals in Kenya; Catherine Wexler
	117.	Trends and Patterns of Childhood Cancers in Nairobi: A 10-Year Population-Based Analysis (2010–2019); Patricia Ndambuki
	118.	Epidemiology of Cancer Among Adolescents and Young Adults (Ages 15–39): A 10-Year Analysis (2010–2019) from the Nairobi Population-Based Cancer Registry; Mary Abere
	119.	Lessons Learned: Enhancing Cervical Cancer Screening and Treatment through Health Care Worker Training; Mary Kerubo
	120.	Epidemiology of Esophageal Cancer: Population-Based Analysis from the Nairobi Cancer Registry, 2013–2022; Regina Mbugua
	121.	Disparities in Cervical Cancer Screening by HIV Status in Kenya: Evidence from a Multi-Site Trial in Western Kenya; Catherine Wexler
	122.	Diagnostic Capacity and Gaps in Cancer Care in Kenya: Insights from a National Assessment; Tonny Chepkwony
	123.	Supporting women with Cervical Cancer: Results from a qualitative study; Catherine Wexler
Time (EAT) (0940hrs-1115hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 18: AMR 3 Venue: Amboseli Session Chair: Kelvin Kering Rapporteur : Kevin Kariuki
	124.	Strengthening Genomic surveillance of ESBL-Producing <i>E. coli</i> in Kenyan Community and Hospital Settings; Josiah Kuja
	125.	Ten-year Multicenter Surveillance of Urinary Tract Infections in Kenya Shows Variable Etiology with High Third-generation Cephalosporin and Fluoroquinolone Use and Concomitant Resistance; Justin Nyasinga
	126.	Widespread Multidrug-Resistant Bacterial Contamination on Maternity Ward Surfaces in Western Kenya Risking Maternal and Neonatal Infections; Alex Ragalo
	127.	Genomic epidemiology and characterization of <i>Shigella flexneri</i> in Kenya; Ronald Kirera
	128.	High Maternal Colonization Rates with Multidrug-Resistant Bacteria During the Perinatal Period in Western Kenyan Hospitals; Roselyne Otieno
	129.	A Decade-Long Epidemiology of Clinical Methicillin Resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> in Kenya Uncovers Temporal Shifts from Hospital- to Community-Associated High-risk strains; Collins Kigen
	130.	Re-emerging Threat of Multi-drug-resistant Clade I Asian Lineage <i>Candidozyma auris</i> in Kenyan Healthcare Settings; Lillian Musila
	131.	Genomic Analysis of <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> Outbreaks in Western Kenya (2015-2023) Reveals Dominance of ST69 and presence of the European Lineage ST8; Erick Kipkirui

Time (EAT) (0940hrs-1115hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 19: Mental Health 1 Venue: Tsavo Session Chair : Dr. Lucy Chite Rapporteur : Dr. Lynn Namwoso
	132.	Adapting the Friendship Bench Intervention for Adolescent Girls and Young Women Living with HIV in Kisumu County: Perspectives of Mental Health Experts; Omollo Mevis
	133.	Strengthening Mental Health Integration in Primary Health Care: A Multi-Level Approach Combining Workforce Capacity, Digital Screening, and Community Engagement in Makadara Sub-County-Nairobi, Kenya; Victor Odira
	134.	Prevalence and Determinants of Perinatal Mental Illness in Ghana: A Cross-District Study in the Central Region; Farrukh Saah
	135.	Examining Community Health Workers' Mental well-being integration within Community Health-related Policies in Kenya: A Landscape analysis; Victoria Akoth
	136.	Burden of Suicide and Suicidal Behavior in Kenya: A Scoping Review; Lynn Namwoso
	137.	Suicide Bereavement and the Impact of Stigma on Help-Seeking Behaviour; Tele Kapkirwok
Time (EAT) (0940hrs-1115hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 20: Genomics 1 Venue: Samburu Session Chair : Stephen Okeyo Rapporteur : Lynette Wangechi
	138.	Precision HIV Medicine through Genomic Monitoring: Emerging Integrase and Multi-Class Resistance in Western Kenya; Olipher Makwaga
	139.	Polymorphism Analysis of <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> Eba175 From Whole Genome Data Obtained From Kilifi, Kenya; Maureen Osano
	140.	Expression of specific var gene subtypes is differentially associated with severe malaria syndromes; Henry Ndugwa
	141.	Virome of Bats in Mount Elgon, Kenya; Sarah Waswa
	142.	A Highly Multiplexed AmpliSeq Assay for Simultaneous Characterization of Plasmodium falciparum Population Structure and Drug Resistance in Kenya: Use Cases for Malaria Genomic Surveillance; Josphat Nyataya
	143.	Methodological Optimization of One-Pot CRISPR Gel Assay for Mycobacterium tuberculosis Diagnosis; Moses Parmeyian
Time (EAT) (0940hrs-1115hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 21: Virology 1 Venue: Bogoria Session Chair : Dr. Konongoi Limbaso Rapporteur : Stephen Ombija
	144.	A scoping review on ethical considerations during response into Nipah Virus disease outbreak in Low- and Middle-Income Countries; Noel Oduor
	145.	Prevalence and Molecular Epidemiology of Rotavirus Gastroenteritis Among Children in an Urban informal Settlement in Nairobi, Kenya Following Transition to Rotavac Vaccine; Winfred Mbithi
	146.	Seroprevalence of Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers etiologies in Garbatulla Location, Isiolo County, Kenya 2021-2023; Dennis Odhiambo
	147.	Detection of Active Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) Infection in Dromedary Camels and Camel Herders in Mandera County, Kenya, 2023-2024; Abdiaziz Gosar
	148.	Limited Transmission of the Globally Dominant Recombinant SARS-CoV-2 XFG variant in Kenya, May-July 2025; Hillary Wafula
	149.	Serological Responses and Rotavirus Genotype Distribution in Malawian Children Presenting with Diarrhoea; End Chinyama
	150.	Sero-prevalence of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in Dromedary Camels and Humans in Mandera County, Kenya; Guyo Sora
1115-1130HRS: TEA BREAK		
SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 22-28		
Time (EAT) (1130hrs-1300hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 22: Genomics 2 Venue: Aberdare Session Chair : Ibrahim Mwangi Rapporteur : Lynette Wangechi

	151.	PathCrisp-SickleDetect: A Rapid CRISPR-Based Point-of-Care Assay for Accurate Sickle Cell Disease Screening; Annes Siji
	152.	Nextflow-Enabled Wastewater eDNA Biosurveillance Pipeline for Early Pathogen Detection and Enhanced Public Health Preparedness; Nehemiah Ongeso
	153.	Vaginal Microbiome Composition and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes in Kenyan Women; Samuel Chenge
	154.	Characterization of Human Mitochondrial DNA Heteroplasmic Variant in the Kenyan Population; Eunice Githua
	155.	Draft transcriptome and metatranscriptome of Tunga penetrans; Brian Bartilol
	156.	Evolutionary Dynamics of Plasmodium falciparum in Kilifi, Kenya: Insights from 27 Years of Genomic Surveillance; James Kimani
	157.	Investigating temporal and spatial signatures of selection in Plasmodium falciparum populations from Kilifi County between 1994 and 2020: A genome wide analysis; Emmanuel Asimwe
Time (EAT) (1130hrs-1300hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 23: Malaria 2 Venue: Masai Mara Session Chair : Dr. Luna Kamau Rapporteur : Miriam Chelangat
	158.	Synthesis, Characterization and Antimalarial Evaluation of Cationic Iron Half Sandwich Complexes of Quinine, Chloroquine and Piperaquine; Velma Juma
	159.	Genetic Diversity of <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> <i>msp1</i> and <i>msp2</i> and Its Correlation to Recrudescence of Malarial Infection; Debby Nduta
	160.	Pre and Post COVID-19 Trends in Plasmodium Species Distribution across Four Transmission Zones in Kenya, 2018–2024; Gladys Chemwor
	161.	Surveillance of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms and Pfmdr1 copy number variation in Plasmodium falciparum isolates during a period of increasing Kelch13 Mutations; Risper Maisiba
	162.	Characterizing Malaria-Related Mortality Among Children Under Five in Western Kenya: Findings from CHAMPS Surveillance Data; Christine Ocholla
	163.	Therapeutic Efficacy of Artemisinin-Based Combination Therapies (ACTs) for Uncomplicated <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> Malaria in Busia and Kwale Counties, Kenya; Maureen Otinga
	164.	Determination of Sub-optimal Response of <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> to Artemether Lumefantrine; Sallim Farid
Time (EAT) (1100hrs-1300hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 24: Virology 2 Venue: Shimba Hills Session Chair : Dr. Samoel Khamadi Rapporteur : Victor Ofula
	165.	Phylogenetic Analysis of Chikungunya Virus Associated with the 2024–2025 Outbreak of Undifferentiated Acute Febrile Illness in Kenya's Coastal Region; Beth Mutai
	166.	Hepatitis B Vaccination Response among Women: Insights from Comprehensive Serological Profiles of Hbsag, Hbsab, Hbeag, Hbeab, And Hbcab; Mildred Letting
	167.	Evaluation of RNA Extraction Methods using Rabies-Positive Lateral Flow Devices for Genomic Surveillance; Rogers Ochieng
	168.	Genomic Characterization of the Monkeypox Outbreak in Kenya; Gathii Kimita
	169.	Mapping the Global Diversity and Surveillance Landscape of Medically Important Bat-Borne Viruses: A Scoping Review; George Kisoi
	170.	Post Pandemic Circulation of Respiratory Viruses among Patients Hospitalized with Severe Acute Respiratory Illness in Siaya County, 2022-2025; Jackline Achieng
	171.	Tracking Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in Kenya during the 2024 global upsurge; Allan Lemtudo
	172.	Evaluation of prevalence, incidence and persistence of high-risk human papilloma virus (hrHPV) types among sexually active adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Kenya; Syovata Kimanthi
	173.	Full genomic characterisation of rotavirus G3P[8] strains which became dominant in Kenya following vaccine introduction; Johnpaul Ogutha
Time (EAT) (1100hrs-1300hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 25: AMR 4 Venue: Amboseli Session Chair : Dr. Peter Muturi Rapporteur : Kevin Kariuki

	174.	Transposon-mediated spread of NDM-5 among Enterobacterales in Kenya; Vanessa Onyonyi
	175.	Genomic Characterization of Resistance Plasmids Driving Antimicrobial Resistance in Clinical Isolates in Kenya; James Muturi
	176.	Phenotypic, Genomic, and Structural Characterization of a Novel Myophage vB_AcnABST22Φ1PS1 against Acinetobacter baumannii; Moses Gachoya
	177.	High Rectal Carriage among Intrapartum Mothers and Mother-to-Neonate Transmission Rates of ESBL-Producing Escherichia coli in Western Kenya; Karen Cherono
	178.	Shigella prevalence, resistance genes profiling and risk factors in children under five years in Mukuru Informal settlement, Nairobi County, Kenya; Christine Kioko
Time (EAT) (1100hrs-1300hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 26: Mental Health 2 Venue: Tsavo Session Chair : Dr. Lucy Chite Rapporteur : Dr. Lynn Namwoso
	179.	Alone, Judged, and Blamed: Women's Pathways to Perinatal Mental Illness – A Qualitative Narrative from Southern Ghana; Farrukh Saah
	180.	Burden of posttraumatic stress disorder in conflict-affected populations of East Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis; Anatia Alemu
	181.	Policy Intentions versus Implementation Realities: Addressing Psychosocial Stressors among Community Health Promoters in Kenya; Vivian Okoth
	182.	Body mapping the intersecting axes of motivations and stressors Community Health Promoters experience and implications for their Mental well-being within Digitalization and remuneration reforms in Kenya; Victoria Akoth
	183.	Co-creating Sustainable Mental Wellbeing Interventions for Community Health Workers in Kenya- Lessons from Community-Based Participatory Research in Kiambu and Nairobi counties; Stephen Mulupi
Time (EAT) (1100hrs-1300hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 27: Health Systems 3 Venue: Samburu Session Chair : Bridget Kimani Rapporteur : Mercy Tuluso
	184.	Integrated Digital Systems for Reimagining Public Health & Health Systems: Experience from the Population Based Integrated Disease Surveillance (PBIDS) Sites in Kenya; Noel Agumba
	185.	Clinical outcomes among preterm infants hospitalized with severe acute respiratory illness: A Kenyan sentinel surveillance study, 2021–2025; Juma Maleve
	186.	The Resilience of Universal Health Care in Kenya: Significantly Reimagining Public Health and Health Systems through Evidence, Innovation, and Local Manufacturing; Nyongesa Duncan
	187.	Re-imagining Health System Responses to Rare Diseases: Lessons from a 13-Country Cross-Border Advocacy Cycling Campaign in Africa; Gloria Kitur
	188.	Facilitators and Barriers to the Investigation Of Adverse Events Of Special Interest (AESI) in Kenya; Winnie Okore
	189.	Priority Setting to Respond to Climate Change Impacts on Diet-Related Non-Communicable Diseases in Nairobi County; Doreen Mitaru
	190.	Evaluating the impact of HIV Infant Tracking System(HITSsystem) on optimal completion of prevention-of-mother to child transmission services and maternal viral suppression; Catherine Wexler
Time (EAT) (1100hrs-1300hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 28: Public Health 3 Venue: Bogoria Session Chair : Daisy Cheruiyot Rapporteur : Hellen Koka
	191.	Assessing the Gaps in Medical Certification of Cause of Death: Baseline review of MCCoD and ICD-11 Coding in Kenya; Kelvin Ndede
	192.	Improvements in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Indicators Between two serial household surveys in two diverse populations in Kenya; Joshua Auko
	193.	Household and ambient air pollution measurement and determinants of pollution in urban and rural western Kenya, 2025; Michael Otieno
	194.	Introducing a framework for quantitative climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessments of environmental exposures of heat and air pollution in Kenya; Eugenio Traini

	195.	CHV's performance in childhood illness management: Lessons from iCCM and Non-iCCM Sites in Busia County, Kenya; David Mathu
	196.	Cooccurrence of Aflatoxins and Fumonisin in Peanut Butter: Mycological and Toxicological Assessment in Informal Markets in Nairobi; Jessica Polo
1300-1400HRS: LUNCH BREAK		
SYMPOSIA 8-15		
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1700hrs)		Symposium 8: Environmental Exposures and Women's Health in Kenya: Insights from Personal Care Product Use, Breast Cancer Perceptions, and Policy Implications Venue: Aberdare Session Chair : Dr. Njeri Irungu Rapporteur : Dr. Esther Matu
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1700hrs)		Symposium 9: Metagenomic Next-Generation Sequencing (mNGS) for Public Health Action and Preparedness in Kenya Venue: Amboseli Session Chair : Dr. Damaris Matoke-Muhia Rapporteur : Kelvin Thiong'o/ Bryson Kimemia
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1700hrs)		Symposium 10: SITAWI - Turning the Tide for Women and HIV Venue: Shimba Hills Session Chair: Prof. Elizabeth Bukusi Rapporteur : Joy Waiharo
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1700hrs)		Symposium 11: Antimicrobial Resistance in Enteric Pathogens: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities for Kenya and Sub-Saharan Africa Venue: Masai Mara Session Chair : Dr. Cecilia Mbae Rapporteur: Diana Imoli
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1700hrs)		Symposium 12: The Burden, Consequences and Cost of Childhood Shigellosis and implication for Shigella vaccines: Insights from the Enterics for Global Health (EFGH) Shigella Surveillance and Related Enteric Studies Venue: Tsavo Session Chair : Dr. Richard Omoro Rapporteur : Alex Awuor
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1700hrs)		Symposium 13: Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases in Eastern Africa Venue: Samburu Session Chair : Dr. Paul Mireji Rapporteur : Dr. Alex Olia
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1700hrs)		Symposium 14: Human genomics, ethics health and justice Venue: Bogoria Session Chair : Eva Aluvaala Rapporteur : Belinda Azzam
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1700hrs)		Symposium 15: Amplifying Research: Engaging Stakeholders and Driving Demand for Research Evidence Venue: MT Kenya C Session Chair : Lilian Mayieka Rapporteur : Wambui Njonge
END OF DAY THREE		

DAY FOUR, FRIDAY 13 TH FEBRUARY 2026		
	Arrival & Registration	
RISING SCIENTIFIC STAR AWARD		
Abstract No.	Scientific Session: Rising Star Award 3 Venue: Aberdare Session Chair : Dr. Doris Njomo Dr. Joseph Mwangangi Rapporteur : Dr. Konongoi Limbaso, Dr. Hosea Akala & Francis Kimani Rapporteur : Jecinta Ndung’u & Bryson Kimemia	
RS023	An integrated intervention of home gardening and nutrition counseling to improve dietary diversity and micronutrients adequacy among children below five years in Siaya County, Kenya; Erick Agure	
RS024	High Prevalence of ESBL-Producing and Multidrug-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae in Urinary Tract Infections in Mandera, Kenya; Abdulsalam Karama	
RS025	Innovating Community Stewardship: Impact of an Antibiotic Amnesty Pilot in Nairobi’s Informal Settlements; Elijah Wanyonyi	
RS026	Molecular Epidemiology of Shigella in an Urban Informal Settlement in Nairobi; Brian Silantoi	
RS027	Cancer Pharmacogenomics: Gaps and opportunities for Precision Chemotherapy in Universal Healthcare Coverage; Elisha Omer	
RS028	Global Burden of Sickle Cell Disease and the Impact of Preventing Carrier–Carrier Marriages: A Population-Level Strategy toward Zero New Cases with the aid of USSD code; Felix Amolo	
RS029	Determinants Of Timely Birth Registration Across Three Health and Demographic Surveillance Sites in Kenya; Barack Mwanzia	
RS030	Automated Cervical Cytology Classification via Deep Learning; Mikenickson Wanjohi	
RS031	Unsupervised Multimodal Phenotyping Reveals Biologically Distinct Pediatric Recovery States at Hospital Discharge; Felix Maingi	
RS032	Persistent Immune, Coagulation and Cardiac Dysregulation Predict Late Post-Discharge Mortality in Children with Severe Malnutrition; Elisha Omer	
RS033	Predictive modelling to differentiate bacterial and viral cases of childhood pneumonia in Kilifi county using protein markers and clinical data; Cynthia Matuli	
PLENARY SESSIONS		
	Plenary Session 8: Dr. Joseph Carvalho “Bridging Medical Research and Pandemic Preparedness in Africa”	
0830-0850hrs	Plenary Session 9: Dr. Fredrick Sawe “HIV Care: Past Lessons, Present Strategies, Future Directions, and the Quest for a Cure”	
0850-0910hrs	Plenary Session 10: Prof. John Clemens “The journey to development of cholera vaccine”	
Session Chair	Dr. Samoel Khamadi	
Rapporteur	Dr. Susan Kawai	
SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 29-34		
Time (EAT) (0935-1100hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 29: Public Health 4 Venue: Aberdare Session Chair : Enock Kebenei Rapporteur : Mercy Tuluso
	197.	Reduced Health-Related School Absenteeism with a School Health Officer Training Program in Kenya; Georgette Akinyi
	198.	Community-Led Innovations to Improve Antenatal Care in Homabay County: Work Improvement Teams’ Novelties and Associated Stakeholder Perspectives; Jared Odaro
	199.	Determinants of intentions to receive future vaccines among women of reproductive age in western Kenya: a cross-sectional survey; Benard Opiyo
	200.	In-House Proficiency Training for Lab Personnel Improves Access to Timely Bacterial Vaginosis Diagnosis and Clinical Decision-Making; James Onyango
	201.	Exploring Women’s Experiences during Labour and Delivery in Lower-Middle-Income Settings: Insights from Peri-Urban Manyatta and Rural Karemo, Kenya; Kennedy Ochola
	202.	Cohort profile: Cohort for Acute Respiratory Disease Surveillance among Older Persons in Kenya (SeniorFlu); Brian Onyando
	203.	Influence of Community Self Help Groups on Household Food Safety; Charles Lwanga
	204.	Two Years Experience With Respiratory Syncytial Virus Among Hospitalized Patients At a Tertiary Referral Hospital In Kenya: 2024-2025; Peter Kinuthia

	205.	Leveraging Public–Private Partnerships to Improve Hepatitis B Birth Dose Coverage for Newborns of HBV-Positive Mothers at a Public Referral Hospital in Kenya; Mary Mwakughu
	206.	Characterizing the Lassa Epidemic in Nigeria for Development of Effective Countermeasures; Sandhya Vasan
Time (EAT) (0935-1100hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 30: Maternal and Child Health 2 Venue: Masai Mara Session Chair : Dr. Benson Singa Rapporteur : Yusuf Mwadzala
	207.	Effect of Advanced Maternal Age on Maternal and Perinatal Outcomes: Findings from a Prospective Cohort Study in Western Kenya, 2022-2025; Edwin Kiplelgo
	208.	Risk of Early Neonatal Mortality Among Preterm Births in Western Kenya: Insights from the PRISMA Study (2022–2025); Zacchaeus Abaja
	209.	Recurrence of Bad Obstetric Outcomes: Preliminary findings from A Prospective, Longitudinal Study of Maternal and Newborn Health (MNH) of the Pregnancy Risk Stratification Innovation and Measurement Alliance (PRiSMA) Study, Western Kenya; Fredrick Onduru
	210.	Baseline Findings on Severe Neonatal Sepsis and Mortality From 36 Health Facilities Participating in a Water Chlorination Study; Josyline Wangia
	211.	Impact of Community Quality Improvement on Person-Centered Maternal Care Experiences Among Women in Homa Bay County, Kenya; Johnbosco Omasaja
	212.	Neonatal Mortality as a Major Driver of Under-Five Mortality in the Population Based Integrated Disease Surveillance (PBIDS) Study Sites, 2016–2024; Brian Genga
	213.	Background Rates of Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes in a Rural Kenyan Cohort of Pregnant Women Eligible for Maternal RSV Vaccination: Implications for Phase IV Trial Planning, 2024-2025; Denis Omondi
Time (EAT) (0935-1100hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 31: AMR 5 Venue: Amboseli Session Chair : Dr. John Mwaniki Rapporteur: Dr. Peter Muturi
	214.	Correlation of the existence of CRISPR-Cas system and AMR, Virulence and Mobile Genetic Elements in Escherichia coli isolated from children under 5 years; Cyprian Kisiyena
	215.	Antimicrobial susceptibility profiles for E.coli and Enterococcus species isolated from ready for market poultry in UasinGishu county Kenya; Peris Sambili
	216.	Gut–Urinary Dynamics of ESCrE Colonization based on a Longitudinal Study of Postpartum Women in Kibera, Nairobi; Quetta Muliya
	217.	Greater than 40% Increase in Ceftriaxone Resistance observed in Kenya among E. Coli And K. Pneumoniae in The Last Decade; Martin Omondi
	218.	Mapping AMR Exposure in Early Infancy: Evidence of Early-life ESCrE Colonization in a Kenyan Informal Settlement; Celestine Wairimu
	219.	Metagenomic profiling of microbial communities in drinking water from Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya; Richard Nyamota
	220.	Challenges in Cancer Care: High Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae Among Cancer Patients in Kenya and the Need for Improved Antimicrobial Stewardship; Japhet Katana
Time (EAT) (0935-1100hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 32: Health systems 4 Venue: Tsavo Session Chair : Dr. Richard Mutisya Rapporteur: Billan Omar
	221.	Comparative Analysis of Out-of-Pocket payments for Antenatal Care (ANC) Before and After the Transition from Linda Mama to the Social Health Authority (SHA) in Homa Bay County; Mourine Ooko
	222.	Validating a Household Vulnerability Index for Equity Monitoring in the Kombewa HDSS; Winnie Opondo
	223.	Conducting non-pandemic research during the COVID-19 pandemic: a case study and documentary review; Micah June
	224.	Digital Promise, Practical Challenges – lessons from rolling out of eCHIS as part of a cluster randomised trial in Homabay County; Gerald Ong’ayo
	225.	Validation and Comparative Assessment of Quansys Q-Plex™ Human Micronutrient Array versus Conventional Assays for Measuring Micronutrient Status in Pregnant Women from ARM-CHAMPS and PRISMA cohorts in Western Kenya; Sagam Caleb

Time (EAT) (0935-1100hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 33: NTDs and One Health 2 Venue: Samburu Session Chair : Dr. Paul Gichuki Rapporteur : Dr. Ben Ong'ondo
	226.	Mesenchymal Stem Cells: An Alternative Approach for Managing Cutaneous Leishmaniasis Lesions; Rosemary Githae
	227.	Perspectives of local stakeholders of the National School Based Deworming Program following seven rounds of annual mass drug administration for soil-transmitted helminths control in three endemic counties of Kenya; Richelle Kihoro
	228.	Discovery of a Novel Intra-Specific Hybrid <i>Leishmania donovani</i> Genotype During the 2019–2022 Outbreak in Garissa, Kenya; Vane Omwenga
	229.	No evidence of lymphatic filariasis transmission in Matayos Sub-County, Busia County, Kenya: Results of a cross-sectional study; Sammy Njenga
	230.	Evaluation of rK28 and Kala-azar Detect Diagnostic Tests for Visceral Leishmaniasis in Kenya; Damaris Matoke-Muhia
	231.	Structural Drivers of Social and Economic effects of Trachomatous Trichiasis (TT) among Women with TT: Implications for their quality of life in North Pokot, Kenya; Victoria Akoth
	232.	Prevalence and risk factors associated with Brucellosis among febrile patients attending Moyale Sub-County hospital in Northern Kenya; Juster Mungiria
	233.	Bilharzia control: Science, Society, and Sustainability; Noa Asculai
	234.	Genetic diversity and population structure of <i>Echinococcus granulosus sensu lato</i> in Kenya; Erastus Mulinge
Time (EAT) (0935-1100hrs)	Abstract No.	Scientific Session 34: Vector Biology 2 Venue: Shimba Hills Session Chair : Dr. Eric Ochomo Rapporteur : Dr. Tiffany Wandera
	235.	A Mathematical Modeling Approach to Strengthen Malaria Vector Control using <i>Microsporidia</i> MB; Henry Wanjala
	236.	Baseline User Requirements for Co-Designing Climate-Smart, Vector-Proof Housing in Hot and Humid Rural Kenya; Teresa Bange
	237.	Demonstration of Insecticide Resistance of <i>Aedes aegypti</i> mosquito populations from diverse geographic regions in Kenya; Santos Yalwala
	238.	Sandfly ecotypes driving Visceral leishmaniasis transmission in Marsabit County, Kenya; Mercy Tuluso
	239.	Harnessing mosquito symbionts for malaria transmission blocking Advances in the development of a <i>Microsporidia</i> MB endosymbiont-based <i>Plasmodium</i> transmission blocking strategy; Jeremy Herren
1100-1130HRS: TEA BREAK		
SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 33&34, SYMPOSIA 14-17		
Time (EAT) (1130hrs-1300hrs)	Poster No.	Screen 1: AMR Venue: Aberdare Judges: Dr. John Mwaniki & Dr. Susan Kawai
	240.	Antimicrobial resistance among invasive salmonella typhi cases in Asembo: 2014-2025; Arthur Otieno
	241.	Genomic characterization of multidrug-resistant <i>Escherichia coli</i> with PBP3 insertions carrying bla _{NDM-5} carbapenemase isolated from infants in Kenya; Kevin Kariuki
	242.	Fungal and Bacterial AMR investigation of Bronchoalveolar Lavage Samples from Two Kenyan Hospitals: Preliminary Findings of an Improve study; Vincent Kiprop
	243.	Beyond Clinical Surveillance: Environmental Water Sources as Persistent Reservoirs of ESBL-Producing <i>E. coli</i> ; Teresa Ita
	244.	Pathotyping and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Profiling of <i>Escherichia coli</i> Isolated from Informal Water Sources in Kibera Informal Settlements; Teresia Nyaga
	245.	Bloody Diarrhea and associated Bacterial Etiologies and Antimicrobial Resistance patterns; Sheila Jerotich
Time (EAT) (1130hrs-1300hrs)	Poster No.	Screen 2: Malaria, Genomics, Venue: Aberdare Judges: Francis Kimani & Dr. Sophie Uyoga
	246.	Genomics and Precision Medicine: Bridging Science to Impact; Paul Faluma
	247.	A pseudokinase pPK4 is required for efficient red blood cell invasion and exflagellation center formation in <i>Plasmodium yoelii</i> ; Edwin Too

	248.	Applying Genomics Towards the Down Selection of Host-Directed Therapeutics in the Treatment of Sepsis; Kristen Pettrone
	249.	Computational Prediction of Plasmodium falciparum Antigen-T-cell Receptor Interactions via Molecular Docking: Implications for Malaria Vaccine Design; Gilbert Kipkoech
	250.	Evaluation of Plasmodium falciparum Susceptibility to Artemisinin Using the Ring-stage Survival Assay and Genomic Analysis; Agnes Cheruiyot
	251.	Near-Complete Genome Sequencing of Varicella-Zoster Virus Reveals Clade 5 Diversity in Kenya; Eric Muthanje
Time (EAT) (1130hrs-1300hrs)	Poster No.	Screen 3: Health Systems Venue: Masai Mara Judges: Lillian Mayieka & Mariam Macharia
	252.	Staffing Patterns and Practice Gaps in Private Pharmacies and Drug Outlets: Implications for Malaria Control Programs in Western Kenya; Kizito Obiet
	253.	Trends and determinants of mortality and causes of death among women of reproductive age in Arba Minch HDSS, Southern Ethiopia - a fifteen-year open cohort study; Mesfin Debere
	254.	Equity Impacts of the Shift from NHIF/LINDA MAMA to SHIF on Maternal Health in Homabay County; Isdorah Odero
	255.	Strengthening Mortality Surveillance Through Community Vital Event Reporting: Five-Year Evidence from the Population-Based Integrated Disease Surveillance Platform; Terry Komo
	256.	Increasing Access to Specialised Care in Low Resource Settings by Leveraging on Primary Care Networks; Peter Omware
	257.	Implementation, Customization, and Evaluation of the Surveillance Outbreak Response Management and Analysis System (SORMAS) for Dengue Surveillance in Kenya; Benard Ochieng
	258.	“Facilitating the Shift from Four to Eight ANC Contacts: The Evolving Role of Community Health Promoters”; Rosemary Musuva
Time (EAT) (1130hrs-1300hrs)	Poster No.	Screen 4: Health Technologies Venue: Masai Mara Judges: Hellen & Joyceline Kinyua
	259.	People’s Voice on Kenya’s Social Health Insurance Fund During Early Implementation: A Sentiment Analysis of Social Media Platforms; James Kariuki
	260.	Evaluation of the HIV surveillance system among patients at Nanyuki Teaching and Referral Hospital — Laikipia County, Kenya, 2020–2024; Duncan Kibue
	261.	The MomReach Project: Co-Designing MaMaMind, a Digital Tool for Integrating Perinatal Mental Healthcare in Ghana; Farrukh Saah
	262.	Utility of Electronic Medical Records as a Passive Surveillance Tool for Screening Cases for Influenza-like Illness and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection Surveillance at Kakuma Refugee Camp; Elizabeth Simiyu
	263.	Integrating Maternal Vaccine Safety Surveillance into Routine ANC: Implementation Challenges from Western Kenya’s Digitised Mother Child Health Booklet Pilot; kennedy Wekesa
	264.	Closing the Gap: Innovative Strategies for Improving Tuberculosis Contact Management Among Under- Five Children in Machakos County; Elizabeth Odhiambo
Time (EAT) (1130hrs-1300hrs)	Poster No.	Screen 5: Maternal and Child Health Venue: Shimba Hills Judges: Dr. Vera Manduku & Dr. Linus Ndegwa
	265.	Contributing Factors To Early Removal Of Implants Among Women Accessing Family Planning (Fp) Services At Umoja Health Center, Embakasi West Sub-County Nairobi, Kenya; Florence Oyugi
	266.	Assessment of Risk Factors for Low Birth Weight in Maternal Health Facilities within Homa Bay County; Wycliffe Kadweya
	267.	Assessing Completeness of Neonatal Anthropometry Data from Maternal and Child (MCH) Booklets in Homa Bay County, Kenya: A review of Facility-Based Live Births; Edward Agola
	268.	Profile: Cohort for Acute Respiratory Disease Surveillance among Pregnant Women and their Babies in Western Kenya (Maternal-Child Cohort Platform; Victor Opere

Time (EAT) (1130hrs-1300hrs)	Poster No.	Screen 6: Virology, Natural Products Venue: Shimba Hills Judges: Dr. Raphael Lihana & Dr. Sospeter Njeru
	269.	Genomic epidemiology of Dengue virus isolates associated with outbreaks in Kenya from 2011 to 2019; Victor Ofula
	270.	In-Vitro and In-Silico Evaluation of Allium Cepa's Ethyl Acetate Tunic Extract Against <i>Staphylococcus Aureus</i> , <i>Klebsiella Pneumoniae</i> , and <i>Pseudomonas Aeruginosa</i> Isolated From African Sausages And Smokies Sampled From Kibera Slum; David Odhiambo
	271.	Cajanus Cajan Compounds as Potential Prostate Cancer Phytotherapeutic Agents: A Computational Approach; Douglas Njuguna
	272.	Seasonal Dynamics of Respiratory Pathogens Pre, during and Post Covid-19 Pandemic period: Insights from Multi-Year Surveillance (2018–2023); Esther Omuseni
	273.	Translating Kenyan Medicinal Flora into Candidate Therapeutics: Ethnobotanical-Guided Screening, Preclinical Validation, and Formulation Efforts at KEMRI–CTMDR; Jeremiah Gathirwa
	274.	Serological Profiles and Population Immunity to Dengue Virus in Kenya: Insights from ELISA-Based Surveillance; Caroline Ndege
	275.	Harnessing the immune support potential of Moringa oleifera in the management of HIV and AIDS; Wilbroda Wasonga
	276.	Ethnobotanical Study of Traditional Medicinal Plants Used to Treat Respiratory Diseases in Kajiado, County Kenya; Esther Matu
Time (EAT) (1130hrs-1300hrs)	Poster No.	Screen 7: NTDs Venue: Aberdare Judges: Dr. Erastus Mulinge & Dr. Paul Gichuki
	277.	Stakeholders' Perceptions on Current Mass Drug Administration Program and the Proposed Fixed-Dose Combination of Ivermectin and Albendazole in Kwale County, Kenya; Lydia Kibe
	278.	The effect of treatment with a non-ionic surfactant vesicular formulation of sodium stibogluconate on serum metabolites in a murine model of Leishmania donovani; Bernard Ong'ondo
	279.	Understanding Dengue Surveillance in Kenya: A Qualitative Exploration of System Bottlenecks and Facilitators; Jane Ikapesi
	280.	Targeted Aedes Surveillance Around Dengue Cases: Abundance, Behavior, and Breeding Sites in Mombasa, Kenya; Ragot Charles
	281.	Diversities of Biomphalaria and Bulinus species shedding mammalian and digenea trematodes in Lake Victoria and environs, Western Kenya; George Ogara
	282.	Using quantitative polymerase chain reaction to identify lymphatic filariasis hotspots following treatment with triple-drug therapy in the Kenyan Coast ; Henry Kanyi
Time (EAT) (1130hrs-1300hrs)	Poster No.	Screen 8: NCDs Venue: Aberdare Judges: Dr. Nancy Kinyatta & Dr. Benson Singa
	283.	Stakeholders/Community Engagement & Involvement Outcomes from the IHCoR-Africa Project in Kilifi, Kenya and Kiang' West in The Gambia; Juliet Odhiambo
	284.	Ruxolitinib-mediated Modulation and Dynamic Expression of P-glycoprotein in Human CD8 ⁺ T Cell Memory Subsets During Differentiation; Kipchumba Biwott
	285.	Insights on Non-Communicable Diseases among Maa Speaking Communities: A Scoping Review; Miriam Bosire
	286.	Understanding the enablers and barriers of glycemic control among adults in Kenya; Ruth Jahenda
	287.	Association Between Dietary Diversity and Cardiovascular Disease risk factors among Adults in Vihiga County, Kenya: A Baseline Analysis; Lorraine Ombogo
	288.	Drivers of Dyslipidemia in Sub-Saharan Africa; Sylvia Kagusha
	289.	Prevalence of Hypertension in Young Kenyan School Health Officers; Natasha Kisandi
	290.	Age, BMI and Health Literacy as Independent Predictors of Hypertension in Vihiga County, Kenya; Rodgers Ochieng
	291.	Chronic Disease Comorbidities and Susceptibility to COVID 19: Mixed Methods Cross Sectional Study; Florence Kinyua

	292.	Unlocking Lung Health in the Turkana: Influence of Age and Gender on Pulmonary Function; Patriciah Waruguru
	293.	Beyond Savings Groups: How Chamas Shape Food Environments, Nutrition Resilience, and NCD Risk in Kisumu County, Western Kenya; Gladys Odhiambo
Time (EAT) (1130hrs-1300hrs)	Poster No.	Screen 9: Public Health Venue: Masai Mara Judges: Dr. Richard Mutisya & Dr. Peter Muturi
	294.	Performance Contracting in Kenyan Service Delivery: An Analysis of Kericho County Referral Hospital ; Alfred Too
	295.	Health and disability status among older persons: A preliminary report of surveillance in Kwale County, Kenya; Ryuji Yoshino
	296.	Geographical variation and intensity of RSV seasonality in Kenya, 2018–2025; Jorim Ayugi
	297.	One Health Surveillance in Marginalized Arid Region: Early Findings from Isiolo Population-Based Integrated Disease Surveillance; Millicent Kilinga
	298.	Evaluation of Self-reported and Registry-based Vaccination Status: Findings from the COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Evaluation in Kenya, 2022-2023; Philip Ngere
	299.	Global dietary patterns of non-pregnant women aged 15-49 years: A scoping review ; Margaret Mburu
	300.	Rethinking Housing for Health: Multi-stakeholder Perspectives on House Modification for Thermal Comfort and Vector Control in Rural Hot and Humid Areas in Kenya; Teresa Bange
	301.	Detection, Seasonality and Clinical Outcomes of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection among Young Children with Severe Acute Respiratory Illness: A Surveillance Study at Nyeri County Referral Hospital, Kenya, 2024-2025; Esther Ndung'u
	302.	Health-seeking behaviour among populations vulnerable to acute respiratory illness; Findings from longitudinal cohorts in Western Kenya, 2022-2025; George Ochura
	303.	Nutrient Adequacy among Pregnant Women in Africa: A Scoping Review; Lucy Magige
Time (EAT) (1130hrs-1300hrs)	Poster No.	Screen 10: Vector Biology Venue: Masai Mara Judges: Dr. Edith Limbaso & Hellen Koka
	304.	The evaluation of the SumiOne spatial repellents in experimental huts in Siaya, western Kenya; Seline Omondi
	305.	Housing modifications for heat adaptation, thermal comfort and malaria vector control in rural African settlements; Bernard Abong'o
	306.	Pyrethroid Resistance Status and Multiple kdr Mutations (F1534C/L) in <i>Aedes aegypti</i> Populations from Zika-prone Areas in Lamu County, Kenya; Jane Thiiru
	307.	Advancement in Symbiont-based malaria transmission blocking strategy; Syeda Bukhari
	308.	Profiling insecticide resistance in <i>Anopheles gambiae</i> s.l. and <i>Anopheles stephensi</i> from Kenya using in-country nanopore sequencing; Cynthia Odhiambo
	309.	“Client Is King”: Construction Workers’ Perceptions of House modification for Malaria Control and Thermal Comfort in Rural Western and Coastal, Kenya; Khadija Nuru
	310.	Detection of A296S Mutation in <i>Anopheles stephensi</i> and <i>Anopheles arabiensis</i> from Isiolo County, Kenya; Gladys Kerich
Time (EAT) (1130hrs-1300hrs)	Poster No.	Screen 11: Mental Health, TB, Cancer Venue: Shimba Hills Judges: Dr. Jane Ong'ango & Asiko Ong'aya
	311.	Population-based Cancer Registration in Nairobi County: Challenges and Opportunities; Melvine Obuya
	312.	Production of smaller infectious cough aerosols is associated with higher infectiousness in pulmonary tuberculosis: a secondary analysis of a prospective cohort study in Nairobi, Kenya; Michelle Chepkonga
	313.	Comparative evaluation of MGIT Time to Detection for Direct Vs Decontaminated inoculum liquid culture system for <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> H37Rv (0.5 McFarland); Ruth Sitati
	314.	Integrating Mental Health into Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Adolescents and Young People Through a Digital–Community Model ; Ivan Masete
	315.	Evaluation of Semi Quantitative and Quantitative C- reactive protein as Screening tool for Tuberculosis in kisumu western Kenya; Ruth Sitati
	316.	Unintended Consequences of the Community Health Systems Reforms on Community Health Promoters’ Mental Health and Well-being in Kenya; Faith Munyao

1330-1430HRS: LUNCH BREAK		
SYMPOSIA 16-22		
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1700hrs)		Symposium 16: C-it-DU-it: Making Every Contact Count Venue: Aberdare Session Chair : Dr. Gerald Ongayo Rapporteur : Dr. Hellen Barsosio
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1700hrs)		Symposium 17: The Clinical Trials Ecosystem in Kenya: Challenges and Opportunities Venue: Masai Mara Session Chair : Dr. Victor Mudhune Rapporteur : Barbara Bakhita
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1700hrs)		Symposium 18: Novel integrated surveillance and innovative strategies to shape the future of maternal and child health. Venue: Shimba Hills Session Chair : Dr. Victor Akelo Rapporteur : Dr. Sarah Ngere
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1700hrs)		Symposium 19: Building Kenya Influenza Pandemic Response: Evidence from Detection to Intervention Venue: Amboseli Session Chair : Dr. Eric Osoro Rapporteur : Carolyne Nasimiyu
Time (EAT) (1500hrs-1700hrs)		Symposium 20: Clean Air for a Resilient Health System: Integrating Air Pollution, Clean Energy, Climate and Action Associated with Health Burdening Kenya Venue: Tsavo Chair: Prof. Mabel Nangumi Rapporteur: Virginia Chege

FEBRUARY 10 - 13, 2026

NAIROBI, KENYA

mNGS SYMPOSIUM

KASH - KEMRI ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC AND HEALTH CONFERENCE



In Search of Better Health



U.S. Embassy Nairobi



for all your laboratory requirements

Symposium 9: Metagenomic Next - Generation Sequencing (mNGS) for Public Health Action and Preparedness in Kenya

Date: February 12, 2026. **Venue** Maasai Mara, Safari Park Hotel. **Time** 2:00-5:00PM

Organizers: Edwin Ochieng (APHL), Dr Valarie Opollo (KEMRI) and Dr. Damaris Matoke-Muhia (KEMRI)

Background: Rising outbreaks, zoonotic spillover, antimicrobial resistance, and unexplained fevers expose limits of traditional diagnostics, creating urgent need for rapid, unbiased pathogen detection. Metagenomic sequencing offers powerful surveillance capacity, yet implementation in Kenya faces cost, infrastructure, and integration barriers. This symposium convenes partners to strengthen collaboration, share evidence, and advance integration.

Aim: To advance the coordinated integration of mNGS into Kenya's public health surveillance and outbreak response systems.

Agenda

Chair: Edwin Ochieng

Co-Chair: Dr. Damaris Matoke & Dr Valarie Opollo

Rapporteur: Kelvin Thiong'o

Time	Activity	Moderator/speaker
2:00PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Damaris Matoke-Muhia, KEMRI Dr Valarie Opollo, KEMRI ASH Symposium sponsors: FnS scientific and Change Biotec 	Moderator: Edwin Ochieng
2:30PM	Engaging mNGS activity	Moderators: Drs Damaris Matoke-Muhia / Valarie Opollo
3:10PM	Leveraging Genomics for Antimicrobial Resistance Diagnostics and Surveillance	Dr Leonard Kingwara
3:25PM	Missed opportunities in Diagnosis of Meningitis: A rare metagenomic detection of a brain-eating amoeba in CSF of patients diagnosed with meningitis	Jully Okonji
3:40PM	Application of Metagenomics in Wildlife Research Using Nanopore Sequencing: A case study of trafficked brown lemurs	Byson Kimemia
3:50PM	Q&A	
4:15PM	Advancing Metagenomics with Artificial Intelligence; Achievements, Limits, and the Path Forward	Elekiah Anguko
4:30PM	Leveraging mNGS to Resolve Undifferentiated Febrile Illness Cases in Kenya	Dr Kimita Gathi
4:45PM	Q&A	
4:55PM	Closing Remarks	Edwin Ochieng





In Search of Better Health



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Leishmaniasis Symposium

KASH Conference 2026

Advancing Leishmaniasis Research and Control in Kenya:
Building Partnerships for Impact

11th February 2026

2.00pm – 5.00pm
Tsavo Meeting Room,
Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi

Organised by

- Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).
- International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe).
- Ministry of Health (VBDNTD Unit).

Objectives

- Review progress toward leishmaniasis elimination by 2030.
- Project updates e.g Kalaazar Mapper, TMRC Project etc.
- Discuss innovations in diagnosis and treatment.
- Identify gaps and actionable recommendations to accelerate elimination.

Topics

- National progress toward elimination.
- Updates from Kalaazar Mapper and TMRC projects.
- Advances in diagnosis, treatment, and surveillance.
- Social behavior management and Community engagement for VL.

Programme

Time	Session	Speaker
2:00 – 2:15 PM	Welcome & Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of the symposium • Official Opening Remarks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Daniel Masiga • Ministry of Health
2:15 – 2:35 PM	Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenya's Roadmap Toward Leishmaniasis Elimination by 2030 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Mwit, Leishmaniasis Focal Person, VBDNTD Unit
2:35 – 3:50 PM	Plenary Presentations: Technical Updates	Moderator: Duncan Ochol
2:35 – 2:50 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kalaazar Mapper Project: Risk Mapping to Inform Targeted Interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kennedy Senagi • Dr. David Tchouassi
2:50 – 3:05 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leishmaniasis Project: Progress, Findings & Lessons Learned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Damaris Matoke • Mercy Tuluso
3:05 – 3:20 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospects for improved treatment regimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Cherinet Adera (DNDi)
3:20 – 3:50 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary Q&A & Reflections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duncan Ochol
3:50 – 4:30 PM	Panel Discussion: Bridging Research, Policy & Implementation for Elimination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Dr. Masiga
4:30 – 4:45 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary Q&A & Reflections 	
4:45 – 4:55 PM	Summary of Key Messages & Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key takeaways and action points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Daniel Masiga
4:55 – 5:00 PM	Closing Remarks	Duncan Ochol



In Search of Better Health

16TH KASH CONFERENCE



CBEC-KEMRI Bioethics Training Initiative (CK-BTI)

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND CULTURAL BIOETHICS

Reproductive health is deeply influenced by cultural beliefs, social norms, and ethical frameworks. As scientific advances and public health interventions expand, there is an increasing need to engage cultural bioethics to ensure respectful, equitable, and community-centered reproductive healthcare.

This symposium brings together researchers, healthcare professionals and ethicists to explore how cultural values intersect with reproductive health policy, practice, and research.

Key Topics:

1. Cultural and Social Meanings of Surrogacy in African Contexts
2. Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications of Surrogacy in Kenya
3. Surrogacy, Consent, and Vulnerability in the African Context

SPEAKERS



Prof. Elizabeth Bukusi



Ms. Caroline Kithinji



Ms. Melba Katindi



Mr. Nelson Malenya



11TH FEB 2026



3:00 – 5:00 PM

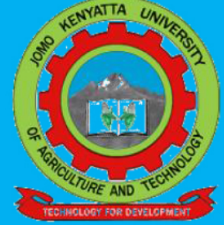


SAFARI PARK
HOTEL (SAMBURU)

Where Culture Meets Ethics in Reproductive Health



In Search of Better Health



SITAWI - Turning the tide for Women and HIV

16TH KASH CONFERENCE

ETHICS IN VACCINE DEVELOPMENT, VACCINE RESEARCH AND VACCINE HESITANCY

Vaccines are among the most effective public health interventions, yet their development, testing, distribution, and acceptance raise complex ethical questions. From equitable access and informed consent in clinical trials to public trust and misinformation, ethical considerations are central to successful immunization programs.

Key Topics:

1. Vaccine Research & Development on AGYW: Human rights, Legal concerns, Research ethics and Community-led perspectives
2. Current ethical challenges in Vaccine Research
3. Vaccine Hesitancy – An ethics perspective: HPV Vaccine
4. Ethics of Vaccine Research conducted in KEMRI

OUR SPEAKERS



*Prof. Elizabeth
Bukusi*



*Prof. Stephen
Muhudhia*



*Ms. Caroline
Kithinji*



*Ms. Melba
Katindi*



*Mr. Nelson
Malenya*



*Mr. Timothy
Kiplagat*

12TH FEB 2026 | 2:00 – 5:00 PM

SAFARI PARK HOTEL (Shimba Hills)

Ethics at the Heart of Immunization

The 16th (KASH) Conference is Proudly Sponsored By:



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