



Global Clinical Research Pathways: Africa Evidence Gathering Workshop

15-16 October 2024

Nairobi, Kenya



The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) is a non-aligned, non-political, not-for-profit Pan-African organisation headquartered in Nairobi, with a hosting agreement with the government of Kenya. The AAS's vision is to see transformed lives on the African continent through science. It is the only continental Academy in Africa enjoying the support and recognition of the African Union, as well as several governments and major international partners. It has a tripartite mandate: to recognize excellence through its highly prestigious fellowship and award schemes; to provide advisory and think tank functions for shaping the continent's Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) strategies and policies; and to implement key STI programmes aimed at addressing Africa's developmental challenges.



The Academy of Medical Sciences is the independent, expert voice of biomedical and health research in the UK. Our mission is to help create an open and progressive research sector to improve the health of people everywhere. The Academy's elected Fellows are the United Kingdom's leading medical scientists from the NHS, academia, industry and the public service. We work with them to improve lives, strengthen research, support researchers, work globally and build our resources.

This workshop is funded by the Academy of Medical Sciences, through Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by the UK's Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT).

Project background

The UK Academy of Medical Sciences has received funding through the International Science Partnership Fund (ISPF) from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, UK Government to deliver a global working group project on the topic of clinical research pathways. This project will be delivered in partnership with a cohort of global partner Academies across Low- and Middle- Income countries (LMICs) in Asia, Africa, and South America.

The project will focus on institutional capacity, exploring how institutions can support and strengthen sustainable and locally embedded career pathways for clinical research. In this instance of this project, an 'institution' refers to an academic setting, university, research centre, and any healthcare setting. The project will also encourage cross-country/regional/continent knowledge sharing on solutions.

To achieve this the project aims to:

- Bring together evidence from Africa, Asia, and Latin America on the current 'state of play' for the career pathway of clinical researchers within institutions, including gaps, challenges, and opportunities.
- Identify case studies and mechanisms implemented across the globe to successfully build institutional capacity to strengthen locally embedded and sustainable career pathways.
- Generate new evidence and analysis to target unmet needs and gaps in policy and research to build the evidence base.
- Develop specific and targeted recommendations about effective policy interventions that will strengthen the clinical research career pathway within LMICs. This will include identifying key institutional entry points in the career pathway to support the implementation of targeted interventions/programmes to promote the retention of talented researchers.

The project is guided by an expert Working Group, co-nominated by all partner academies, who meet regularly to steer the direction of the project, including the evidence gathering activities, as well as the writing of the report and generation of any recommendations. The Working Group is co-Chaired by Professor Jimmy Whitworth FMedSci and Professor Patricia J. Garcia.

Aims of the meeting

The Africa regional evidence workshop co-hosted by AAS will be the first workshop for the project. This will be an opportunity to gather experts from across Africa to begin gathering evidence on clinical research career pathways within institutions. This will feed-in to the overall project report alongside evidence from Asia and Latin America to develop targeted recommendations.

The main objectives of this workshop would be to convene researchers, policy makers and wider stakeholders together with multi-sectoral expertise to explore how institutions can support and strengthen sustainable and locally embedded career pathways for clinical research in Africa.

To achieve this, the workshop will aim to:

- Convene experts from across Africa to understand the career pipeline for clinical researchers within institutions, including the barriers and facilitators to develop clinical research and how this impacts the career pathway.
- Share knowledge of best practices in building and strengthening locally embedded and sustainable clinical research career pathways.
- Gather evidence and insights from various sectors, perspectives and individuals across varied career stages.
- Discuss opportunities for action, including policy entry points, to strengthen the clinical research career pathway at the institutional and environmental level.

Working group

Co-chairs

Professor Jimmy Whitworth FMedSci (co-chair), Professor of International Public Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

Professor Patricia J. Garcia (co-chair), Professor at the School of Public Health, Cayetano Heredia University (UPCH)

Professor Adeeba Kamarulzaman (co-chair), Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases and Pro Vice Chancellor and President of Monash University, Malaysia.

Members

Dr Violet Kayamba, African Academy of Sciences

Dr Musa Kana, African Academy of Sciences

Professor David Lalloo FMedSci, Academy of Medical Sciences, UK

Professor Kathryn Maitland OBE FMedSci, Academy of Medical Sciences, UK

Professor Fanuel Lampiao, Academy of Sciences in Malawi

Professor Kondwani Katundu, Academy of Sciences in Malawi

Professor Francois Venter, Academy of Sciences of South Africa

Dr Gabriela Cromhout, Chairperson, Academy of Sciences of South Africa

Professor Marcello Barcinski FMedSci, Brazilian Academy of Sciences

Dr Detty Siti Nurdianti, Indonesian Academy of Sciences

Siti Rizny F. Saldi, Indonesian Academy of Sciences

Dr Charlotte Chiong, National Academy of Science and Technology Philippines

Dr Camilo Roa, National Academy of Science and Technology Philippines

Dr Suraj Bhattarai, Global Health Research & Medical Interventions for Development, Nepal

Professor Venkatasubramanian Ramasubramanian, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education & Research, India

Professor Jackeline Alger, Hospital Escuela, Honduras

Day 1 agenda

09:00 – 09:30	Registration & Morning tea
09:30 – 09:35	Welcome and introductions <i>AMS and AAS representatives</i>
09:35 – 09:45	Project overview <i>Overall project co-chairs Professor Jimmy Whitworth FMedSci and Dr Patty J. Garcia</i>
09:45 – 9:55	Aims, objectives and format of the workshop <i>Workshop chair Dr Violet Kayamba</i>
09:55 – 11:15	Session 1: Keynote presentations – an overview of current challenges, initiatives, and opportunities to promote clinical research career pathways in Africa <i>Session chair: Dr Violet Kayamba</i> This session will begin with presentations about the current landscape for clinical research career pathways in Africa, and the role of institutions in supporting the career pathway, with time for a Q&A. Keynote 1: The barriers and facilitators to developing clinical research in Africa (15 mins) Keynote 2: Reflections on institutional research and related capacity strengthening projects, interventions, and partnerships (15 mins) • Dr Florah Katanu Karimi, <i>Head of Research and Related Capacity Building at African Population and Health Research Center</i> Keynote 3: Supporting the identification, training, and development of researchers within institutions (15 mins) • Dr Assan Jaye, <i>Head of Research Training and Development at MRC the Gambia Unit of LSHTM.</i> Q&A (20 mins)
11:20 – 11:40	Refreshment break
11:40 – 13:00	Breakout discussion 1: Themed discussions <i>Participants will assign themselves to each themed breakout group prior to the workshop. During the session, facilitators will have pre-primed discussion questions to stimulate conversation.</i> Group 1: Infrastructure Participants in Group 1 will explore the topic of research infrastructure and how this impacts the clinical research career pathway. The group are encouraged to consider infrastructure particularly in relation to institutional capacity but recognising the role of national research infrastructure capacity. Research infrastructure includes the elements, resources, facilities, and services that support both researchers and the capacity of researchers to undertake and deliver clinical research. It is also important to consider the way resources are organised and bought together to conduct clinical research and support researchers.

Day 1 agenda

	Breakout Discussion 1 (continued) <u>Group 2: Training, roles, and career opportunities within African institutions</u> Participants in Group 2 will explore the topic of training, roles, and opportunities within African Institutions. While the major focus of the discussion is on the role of African institutions in creating sustainable and locally embedded career pathways, the group are encouraged to reflect on the impact of international training opportunities. <u>Group 3: Funding for the promotion and formation of clinical research career pathway</u> Participants in Group 3 will explore the topic of funding for the promotion and formation of the clinical research career pathways in Africa. Participants should consider both the role of domestic and international funding and collaboration for clinical research career pathways. In addition, participants are encouraged to discuss alignment between research and local priorities, and the role of funding within this, as well as communicating the value of research to decision-makers. <u>Group 4: Research governance</u> Participants in Group 4 will explore the role of research governance in the clinical research career pathway. Research governance can be defined as a broad range of regulations, principles and standards of good practice that exist to continuously improve clinical research, protect researchers, and safeguard participants in research. Research governance applies to everyone connected to clinical research.
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:05	Session 2: Funder panel discussion <i>Session chair: Dr Violet Kayamba</i> This panel discussion will be an open discussion on the current initiatives and experiences of funders, and their role in promoting the formation of clinical research career pathways going forward. Each panel member will give a brief overview, and this will be followed by an open discussion with the workshop attendees. Expert panel discussion: Exploring the role of funders in the promotion and formation of clinical research career pathways • Speaker 1: EDCTP • Speaker 2: Africa Research Excellence Fund • Speaker 3: WHO-TDR • Speaker 5: Fogarty Q&A (30 mins)
15:05 – 15:20	Refreshment break

Day 1 agenda

15:20 – 16:30	Breakout discussion 2: Opportunities and solutions to improve institutional support for CRCP Participants will return to the same breakout groups as breakout discussion 1. This session will be a practical discussion focused on solutions, interventions, opportunities, and recommendations to the challenges and barriers discussed in breakout discussion 1. The groups will be asked to reflect on the following questions to stimulate discussion: • What are the key components for interventions that successfully strengthen the career pathway for clinical researchers in Africa? • Considering breakout discussion 1, what are the biggest opportunities to strengthen the career pathway? • If resources were directed at institutions what would be needed? • What solutions lay in reach? • How should donors be thinking about funding the clinical research career pathway? • How should solutions be prioritised over a 3-, 5- and 10-year period?
16:30 – 17:00	Discussion review and presentation development During this session, participants will reflect on their group discussion and develop a PowerPoint presentation that summarises key points raised throughout. It will include: the current 'state of play' and gaps; opportunities to build on existing interventions and successes; future visions and the tools and mechanisms needed to implement this, including actions for donors. Session Outcome By the end of the session, using a PowerPoint template provided, each group will aim to have 10-minute PowerPoint presentation ready to give on Day Two. The group will have nominated a presenter to give this, with support from the other members. Groups are welcome to continue working on their presentation in the break before/after drinks and dinner.
17:00 – 17:10	Daily wrap up <i>Delivered by Dr Violet Kayamba</i>
18:00 – 20:00	Drinks reception and dinner

Day 2 agenda

09:00 – 09:30	Registration & Morning tea
09:30 – 09:40	Welcome and overview <i>Workshop chair Dr Violet Kayamba</i>
09:40 – 11:15	Breakout group session feedback Group 1: Infrastructure Group 2: Training, roles, and career opportunities within African institutions Group 3: Funding for the promotion and formation of clinical research career pathway Group 4: Research governance Open floor discussion (15 minutes)
11:15 – 11:45	Refreshment break
11:45 – 12:40	Plenary session: Identifying key next steps, research policy interventions, priority setting <i>Session chair: Dr Violet Kayamba</i> During the final session, participants will bring together the findings of the workshop and look to identify key next steps to facilitate developments around clinical research in Africa.
12:40 – 12:55	Next steps and wrap up <i>Professor Jimmy Whitworth FMedSci and Dr Patty J. Garcia</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch

Project co-chairs

Professor Jimmy Whitworth FMedSci

Professor of International Public Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), UK



Biography

Professor Jimmy Whitworth joined LSHTM in 1990 as a clinical lecturer, working on vector borne parasitic diseases and running as co-course organiser the Public Health in Developing Countries MSc. He has been back at LSHTM since 2015 where he was chair of the Ethics Committee until 2022. He helped to establish the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team in 2017 and was the Deputy Director for Research until 2019. He was also the focal point at LSHTM for WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, a member of the scientific advisory committee for the WHO Research and Development Blueprint for Action to Prevent Epid2021 and member of the Global Coordination Mechanism.

Professor Patricia J. Garcia

Professor at the School of Public Health, Cayetano Heredia University (UPCH), Peru



Biography

Dr. Patty J. García, is a Professor at the School of Public Health at Cayetano Heredia University (UPCH) in Lima-Peru. She is the former Minister of Health of Peru, Dean of the School of Public Health at UPCH, and former Chief of the Peruvian National Institute of Health (INS). She is recognized as a leader in Global Health. Has been member of the PAHO Foundation Technical Advisory Group (FTAG), board member of the Consortium of Universities in Global Health and President of the Latin American Association Against STDs (ALACITS). She is affiliate Professor of the Department of Global Health, at University of Washington and of the School of Public Health at Tulane University. She is actively involved in research and training in Global health, Reproductive health, STI/HIV, HPV and medical informatics. She has been recently appointed member of the United States National Academy of Medicine, becoming the first Peruvian professional with such a distinction.

Project co-chairs

Professor Adeeba Kamarulzaman

Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases and Pro Vice Chancellor and President of Monash University, Malaysia



Biography

Adeeba Kamarulzaman is a Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases and Pro Vice Chancellor and President of Monash University, Malaysia. Prior to this appointment, she served as Dean of Medicine at the University of Malaya. She is also the Immediate Past President of the International AIDS Society, and currently Co-Chair of the WHO Science Council.

Workshop Chair

Dr Violet Kayamba

African Academy of Sciences, Zambia



Biography

Dr Violet Kayamba is a medical gastroenterologist and senior faculty member of the University of Zambia School of Medicine. She is a founding fellow of the East, Central, and Southern African College of Physicians and current president of the Zambia College of Gastroenterology and Nutrition. She is also a member of the African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer and is one of the founding members of the African Oesophageal Cancer Consortium. Her main research interest is in upper gastrointestinal cancers and as an early career researcher, she has published several peer-reviewed original articles highlighting different facets of these cancers in Zambia.

Working group



Workshop chair: Dr Violet Kayamba
African Academy of Sciences, Zambia



Dr Musa Kana
African Academy of Sciences, Nigeria



Professor David Laloo FMedSci
Academy of Medical Sciences, UK



Professor Kathryn Maitland OBE FMedSci
Academy of Medical Sciences, UK



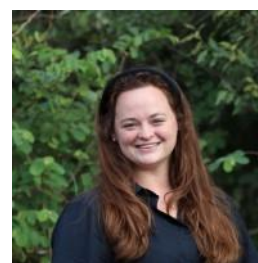
Professor Fanuel Lampiao
Academy of Sciences in Malawi



Dr Kondwani Katundu
Academy of Sciences in Malawi



Professor Francois Venter
Academy of Sciences of South Africa



Dr Gabriela Cromhout Academy of Sciences of South Africa



Dr Suraj Bhattarai



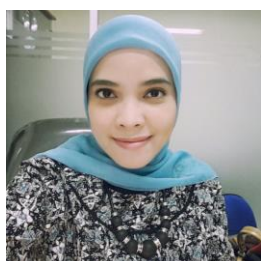
Professor Marcello Barcinski FMedSci
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Professor Jackeline Alger



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Siti Rizny F. Sald
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Dr Charlotte Chiong
National Academy of Science and Technology Philippines



Dr Camilo Roa
National Academy of Science and Technology Philippines



Professor Venkatasubramanian

AMS Representatives

Dr Suzanne Candy

Director of Biomedical Grants and Policy, The Academy of Medical Sciences, UK



Fern Brookes

Senior International Policy Manager, The Academy of Medical Sciences, UK



Chloe Wood

Senior International Policy Officer, The Academy of Medical Sciences, UK



AAS Representatives

Dr Peggy Oti-Boateng

Executive Director, African Academy of Sciences



Dr Rowland Opisa

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, African Academy of Sciences



Dr Obed Ogega

Programme Manager, African Academy of Sciences



Dr Nkem Nkumbah

Head of STI Policy Systems, Governance and Partnerships, African Academy of Sciences



Dorcas Waithaka

Executive Administrator, African Academy of Sciences



Speakers

Dr Florah Katanu Karimi

Head of Research and Related Capacity Building at
African Population and Health Research Center, Kenya



Biography

Florah is the Head of the Research and Related Capacity Strengthening program. She also manages two successful programs – the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) and the fund management for the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR).

She holds a Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degree in Education, with a focus on Educational Psychology. She has more than 20 years of vast experience in higher education, research, and research capacity strengthening. Florah is a higher education quality assurance expert within the East African Region. Over the past six years, she has successfully managed individual and institutional research and related capacity strengthening projects, interventions, and partnerships, including fellowships, training courses, institutional mainstreaming, and fund management.

Speakers

Dr Assan Jaye

Head of Research Training and Development at MRC the Gambia Unit of LSHTM, Gambia



Biography

Dr Assan Jaye is the Head of Research Training and Career Development at MRC the Gambia Unit of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. As Head of Training, he implemented strategic innovative training programs that deliver and evaluate researcher leadership trainings. Thus, yielding capacity that would impact on the Unit's scientific output; and to contribute to developing researcher talents in Sub-Saharan Africa that allow multicentre collaboration. Dr Jaye obtained a Veterinary Medicine degree from Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria in 1988 and a PhD on Immunogenetics from Brunel University, UK in 1993. Dr Jaye is a Gambian and has worked at MRC for 25 years as a viral immunologist. He headed the then Viral Diseases Program when his group investigated the underlying mechanisms of HIV-2 non-progression to inform HIV-1 vaccine design.

Lara Pandya

Team Leader Strategic Partnerships and Communications, Global Health EDCTP



Biography

Lara Pandya is responsible for building joint initiatives and managing partnerships with key public and private stakeholders. She is also responsible for relationship management with EDCTP Association member states and for facilitating the coordination and alignment of European and African national research programmes on infectious diseases. Lara initially joined EDCTP as a Project Officer in 2007.

Lara represents EDCTP in multiple cross-funder and partner initiatives and working groups, including the Product Development Partnerships Funders Group (PFG), the Clinical Research Initiative for Global Health (CRIGH), the UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR) Equitable Partnerships Task Force, the UKCDR Expert Group on Equity in Funder-Level Research Partnerships for Development, the COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition, and the International Research Development Funders Forum (IRDFF). Since 2019, she has been a member of the Advisory Group for the Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research (CIPHER) Grant Programme. Since 2021, she has represented EDCTP on the ESSENCE on Health Research initiative Steering Committee. In 2023 she will also join the ERA4Health Partnership Synergies Working Group.

Speakers

Dr Catherine Kansiime

Africa Research Excellence Fund – Medical Research Council
The Gambia



Biography

Dr. Catherine Kansiime joined AREF in April 2023 as a Researcher Development Manager. She is responsible for the delivery of the portfolio of Academy programmes that includes providing training, developing and delivering professional development for African post-doctoral researchers and early career researchers (ECRs). Catherine holds a BA Social Sciences, MSc Epidemiology and Biostatistics and a PhD in Public Health from Makerere University in Uganda. She has 10 years of experience leading research teams and projects. Before joining AREF, she was a Trial Manager leading 60 researchers on Menstrual health interventions, schooling and mental health symptoms among Ugandan students (MENISCUS).

Dr Mahnaz Vahedi

WHO/TDR



Biography

Dr Mahnaz Vahedi manages WHO/TDR programme on providing Postgraduate Training Scholarship across eight universities in the Low-and Middle-Income Countries across the globe.

Speakers

Dr Peter Kilmarx

Deputy Director, Fogarty International Center



Biography

Dr. Kilmarx is deputy director of the Fogarty International Center. He joined Fogarty on July 1, 2015; he was acting director of the Fogarty International Center and acting associate director for international research at the National Institutes of Health from January 2023 to May 2024.

Dr. Kilmarx is an expert on infectious disease research and HIV/AIDS prevention. During his tenure at Fogarty he has led analysis of NIH global health activities, built coalitions with high-level NIH and external stakeholders, and represented the Center and NIH in national and international forums. He co-lead an initiative to transform African health professional education and research as well as the [African Postdoctoral Training Initiative \(APTI\)](#), which brings African postdoctoral fellows to NIH.

Group 1: Infrastructure



Breakout chair:
Dr Musa Kana



Secretariat:
AMS/AAS staff member



Dr Marriott Nliwasa
Kamuzu University of Health
Sciences, Malawi



Gisele Umviligihozo
Rwanda Zambia Health
Research Group/Emory
University



Professor Sam Newton
Kwame Nkrumah University
of Science & Technology,
Ghana



**Professor Sheila Nina
Balinda**
Medical Research
Council/Uganda Virus
Research Institute
(MRC/UVRI)



Dr John Amuasi
Executive Director, African
Research Network for NTDs



Dr Elizabeth Bandason
Academy of Sciences in
Malawi



Dr Khalid Sadki
Mohammed V University of
Rabat

Group 2: Training, roles, and career opportunities within African institutions



Breakout chair:
Dr Kondwani Katundu



Secretariat:
AMS/AAS staff member



Dr Assan Jaye
MRC-Unit the Gambia



Dr Solomon Mequanente Abay
College of Health Sciences,
Addis Ababa University,
Ethiopia



Dr Marlen Stacey Chawani
Malawi Liverpool Wellcome
Research Programme.
Malawi



Dr Evans Kituzi Avedi
Network of African Science
Academies, Kenya



Valerie Makoge
Institute of Medical Research
and Medicinal Plants Studies
(IMPM), Cameroon



Professor Seydou Doumbia
West African Consortium
Clinical Research on
Epidemic Pathogens &
Director of University Clinical
Research Center in Mali



Dr Catherine Kansiime
Africa Research Excellence
Fund – Medical Research
Council The Gambia

Group 3: Funding for the promotion and formation of clinical research career pathway



Breakout chair:
Dr Gabriela Cromhout



Secretariat:
AMS/AAS staff member



Professor Alisha Wade
Department of Internal
Medicine, School of Clinical
Medicine, University of the
Witwatersrand, South Africa



Professor Alhaji N'jai
Co-chair of the West African
Consortium Clinical Research
on Epidemic Pathogens &
University of Sierra Leone



Dr Halima Bello-Manga
Barau Dikko Teaching
Hospital/Kaduna State
University



**Professor Catherine
Olufunke Falade**
University of Ibadan, Nigeria



Lara Pandya
Team Strategic
Partnerships and
Communications, Global
Health EDCTP3



Professor Anthony Etyang
Associate Professor, KEMRI-
Wellcome Trust



Professor Aster Tsegaye
Addis Ababa University

Group 4: Research governance



Breakout chair:



Secretariat:
AMS/AAS staff member



**Mr. Cheick Oumar
Tangara**
Secretary General of the West
African Consortium Clinical
Research on Epidemic
Pathogens



**Dr Khutso Phalane-
Legoale**
Academy of Science of South
Africa



**Professor Pontiano
Kaleebu**
Uganda Virus Research
Institute



**Professor Kathryn
Maitland**
KEMRI-Wellcome Trust



Dr Teresia Muhomah
KAVI-Institute of Clinical
Research



**Professor Fanuel
Lampiao**
Kamuzu University, Malawi

Workshop Venue

Key details

Tuesday 15 October 2024, 09:00 – 20:00

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Notes



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