



Annual Conference

📍 Sarova Whitesands Hotel, Mombasa, Kenya

📅 21st-24th August 2024

Implementing Partners



OUR VISION

In 2020, the Africa HepatoPancreatoBiliary Cancer Consortium (AHPBCC) was organized to harness resources and expertise across the African Continent, the United States, and Europe to investigate the influences of lifestyle, environment, viral and host biological factors on the development of HPB cancers. Today the Consortium has more than 200 clinicians and research investigators who inform new strategies for risk prevention, early detection, and improved survival of patients with these cancers.

To expand the overall knowledge of HPB cancers, the Consortium members present an Annual Conference. This forum provides a framework for discussion, development, and pursuit of new research directions, fosters collaborations among the academic, medical, and scientific communities, and supports the development of early career physicians and clinicians.

The AHPBCC is a program administered by the WAILD Foundation Inc., a 501c3 organization registered in the United States and Ghana. The Foundation has secured a 3-year grant from the US National Institutes of Health to support the 2022, 2023 and 2024 AHPBCC Conference activities.

OUR MISSION

- Develop and support collaborations between member groups
- Identify factors that influence the epidemiology, etiology, pathobiology, and prognosis of liver, biliary tract and pancreatic cancers
- Encourage free exchange of results (published or unpublished) and ideas in a collegial environment without fear of competition.



KESHO
Kenya Society of Haematology & Oncology

The Kenya Society of Haematology and Oncology (KESHO) was founded in 2002 with the objective of carrying out research in cancer and blood diseases, improving patient care and providing physicians with fora to discuss ideas for purposes of improving practice and outcomes.

KESHO is a professional society of haematologists and oncologists who through its members: Provides the necessary clinical care and treatment to all cancer patients in the country. Is heavily involved in the training of medical oncologists, oncology nurses, clinical oncologists, gynaecology oncologists, medical physicists and radiation technicians as well as enhancing medical knowledge of cancer to all cadres of health care workers such as clinical and medical officers as well as nurses. Is actively engaged in cancer research in the country and the region for improvement of outcomes for cancer patients. Is also a key stakeholder to national policies around cancer. Its members are involved in all five pillars of the National Cancer Control Program, committee for National Cancer Guidelines, National Screening guidelines as well as Standardized Curriculum on training health care workers on cancer among other committees. Its members were instrumental in the document behind the National Cancer Act.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Wednesday, August 21st, 2024

8:00am - 10:00 am

Pre-conference, Grant Writing

Chairs: Prof Mohamed El-Kassas - Egypt

10:00am - 4:00 pm

HPB Cancer Diagnosis and Monitoring for Pathologists - BARAZA 1

Chairs: Dr. Abidemi Omonisi - Nigeria, Dr. Ernest Adjei - Ghana and
Dr. Edwin Walong - Kenya.

Advanced Endoscopy - Coast General Teaching & Referral Hospital

Chairs: Dr. Akwi Asombang - USA, Prof Elly Ogutu - Kenya, Dr. Eric Murunga - Kenya,
Dr. Abdi Hakin Mohamed - Kenya, Dr. Vinay Chandrasekhara - USA,
Dr. Ahmad Madkour - Egypt

Surgical Skills Worksop - TAMANISHA

Chairs: Dr. Jackson Chipaila - Zambia, Dr. Karan Gandhi - Kenya, Dr. John Devar - South Africa,
Dr. Mike Okello - Uganda

Lunch and Networking (12:00 - 1:00 pm)

Patient Advocacy in Africa - BARAZA 2

Chairs: Dr. Njoki Njiraini - Kenya, Danjuma Adda - Nigeria, Kenneth Kapagambe - Uganda,
Dr. Nseabasi Ekanem - Nigeria, Bisi Bright - Nigeria, Pelisa Ford - South Africa,
Mercy Nyakowa - Kenya, Dr. Riaz Kasmani - Kenya, Jackie Wambua - Kenya,
Dr. Helena Musau - Kenya, Stacie Lindsey - USA, Dr. Adamu Umar - Nigeria,
Arafat Bwambale - Uganda.

Ultrasound and Fibroscan Techniques for HPB Cancer Screening - BARAZA 3

Chair: Prof Ashraf Omar - Egypt, Dr. Yaw Wiafe - Ghana, Prof. Mitchell
Mahmoud - USA

CONFERENCE AGENDA

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Conducting Basic and Translational Research in Africa - Johari 1

Dr. Marius Nagalo (USA), Ms Stacey Gondi (Kenya), Ms. Noureen Kamani (Kenya)

Mr. Daniel O'Brien (USA), Dr. Jean Pierre Kocher (USA), Prof Kurt Sartorius (South Africa),

Prof Tushar Patel (USA).

4:30pm - 5:45 pm

MSK Sponsored Session - Active Efforts to Enhance Access To Care for HCC Patients in Africa" - Johari 1

Prof Ghassan Abou-Alfa (USA)

SESSION 1

Opening Preliminary Session

Thursday, August 22nd, 2024

8:00 – 9:00 am **AHPBCC Biorespository Training Session**
Dr. Fowsiyo Ahmed (USA), Nellie Campbell M.S (USA),
Dr. Nasra Giama (USA), Dr. Yvonne Nartey (Ghana)

Chair: Dr. Riaz Kasmani and Dr. Karan Gandhi

9:00 – 9:10 am **Welcome Remarks**
Dr. Helena Musau

9:10 – 9:30 am **Cultural Presentation**

9:30 – 9:40 am **AORTIC**
Dr. Sitna Ali

9:40 – 10:00 am **AHPBCC**
Dr. Lewis Roberts, Dr. Matthew Cooley

10:00 – 10:45 am **Plenary**
Dr. Elias Melly

10:45 – 11:00 am **Plenary Questions**

11:00 – 11:10 am **10 Minutes Break**

11:10 – 11:25 am **African Academy of Sciences Presents: Research
and Innovation in Health Sciences and Higher Education Training**
Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng

11:25 – 11:40 am **AHPBCC Working Group Updates**
Mrs. Caitlin VanLith, Dr. Matthew Cooley

11:50 – 12:00 pm **Group Photo**

12:00 – 1:00 pm **Lunch**

SESSION 2

Developing and Supporting the Next Generation of Cancer Researchers and Clinicians in Africa

Thursday, August 22nd, 2024

Chair: Dr. Michael Okello or Dr. Eric Mbuguje

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1:00 – 1:15 pm | Career Development, African STARS Program
Prof Tim Rebbeck |
| 1:15 – 1:30 pm | Career Development, Global Bridges
Dr. Kenneth Merrell |
| 1:30 – 1:45 pm | Grantsmanship – Funding Cancer Research Efforts in Africa
Prof Regina Appiah-Oppong |
| 1:45 – 2:00 pm | The New Era of Academic Publishing
Prof Tushar Patel |
| 2:00 – 2:20 pm | Q&A Panel Session |
| 2:20 – 2:30 pm | 10 Minutes Break |
| 2:30 – 2:50 pm | Bioethics and Health Policy Considerations for Clinical Researchers in Africa
Dr. Akwi Asombang |
| 2:50 – 3:00 pm | Implementation of Clinical Research in Africa-Victoria Biomedical Research Institute Africa
Dr. Diana Odhiambo |
| 2:50 – 3:10 pm | CITP
Dr Mansoor Saleh |
| 3:10 – 3:25 pm | The role of private biotech in kickstarting sustainable scientific discovery in Africa
Dr. Yaw Bediako |

SESSION 2

Roche Africa Sponsored Symposium

Thursday, August 22nd, 2024

- 3:25 – 3:40 pm** **Preparing your Team to Conduct Clinical Research/Clinical Trials**
Dr. Njoki Njiraini
- 3:40 – 4:00 pm** **Q&A Panel Session**
- 4:00 – 5:30 pm** **Case Presentations in Combination Therapy
(Atezo+Bev) and High-Risk Patients**
Dr. Ashraf Omar, Dr. Gladwell Kiarie and Dr. Asare Offei.

Poster Session And Vendor/Exhibit Hall

Friday, August 23rd, 2024

Moderator: Dr. Abidemi Omonisi

9:00 – 10:20 am

Poster Session And Vendor/Exhibit Hall

Dr. Sitna Ali, Dr. Shafi Mohamed, Dr. Nnenna Elebo,
Dr. Pap Acheampong Daaku, Dr. Enoch Syabbalo,
Dr. Wamundila Kawana, Ms. Oluwatosin Adeosun,
Dr. Gloryanne Aidoo-Micah, Dr. Ampem Darko Siaw Jr.,
Dr. Lassina Traore, Dr. Abubakar Bala Muhammad,
Dr. Kirk Wangensteen, Dr. Brian Misoi, Dr. Deddeh Supuwood,
Mr. Atalay Mulu.

10:20 – 10:30 am

10 Minutes Break

10:30 – 11:20 am

Continuation Of Poster Session And Vendor/Exhibit Hall

Dr. Sitna Ali, Dr. Shafi Mohamed, Dr. Nnenna Elebo,
Dr. Pap Acheampong Daaku, Dr. Enoch Syabbalo,
Dr. Wamundila Kawana, Ms. Oluwatosin Adeosun,
Dr. Gloryanne Aidoo-Micah, Dr. Ampem Darko Siaw Jr.,
Dr. Lassina Traore, Dr. Abubakar Bala Muhammad,
Dr. Kirk Wangensteen, Dr. Brian Misoi, Dr. Deddeh Supuwood,
Mr. Atalay Mulu.

11:20 – 12:30 pm

Oral Presentations

Moderator: Dr. Abidemi Omonisi

Poster Presenters: Dr. Lassina Traore, Dr. Abubakar Bala Muhammad,
Dr. Kirk Wangensteen, Dr. Brian Misoi, Dr. Deddeh Supuwood,
Mr. Atalay Mulu.

SESSION 3

Special Session: A Roadmap To Viral Hepatitis Elimination

Friday, August 23rd, 2024

Chair: Dr. Michael Okello or Dr. Eric Mbuguje

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|-------------------------|---|
| 8:00 – 9:00 am | AZ sponsored symposium - The Role of Immunotherapy Agents in the Management of Hepatocellular Carcinoma
Dr. Andrew Odhiambo (Kenya) |
| 9:00 – 9:05 am | Session Introduction
Dr. John Ward-USA |
| 9:05 – 9:20 am | Viral Hepatitis Elimination in Africa; Where do we stand
Prof Wendy Spearman-South Africa |
| 9:20 – 9:35 am | 2024 Viral Hepatitis Guidelines
Prof Wendy Spearman-South Africa |
| 9:35 – 9:50 am | A simplified research roadmap to expand viral hepatitis care in Africa
Dr. John Ward (USA) |
| 9:50 – 10:05 am | Hepatitis B in Africa – HEPSANET Experience
Prof Hailemichael Desalegn (Ethiopia) |
| 10:05 – 10:20 am | African Hepatitis B Network
Dr. Jose Debes (USA) |
| 10:20 – 10:30 am | 10 Minutes Break |
| 10:30 – 10:45 am | Hepatitis C awareness and elimination campaign in Ghana – STOP HEP C
Dr. Yvonne Nartey (Ghana) |
| 10:45 – 11:00 am | Clinical management of HBV/HCV for the general practitioner
Dr. Teresa Fowler (USA) |
| 11:00 – 11:15 am | Kenya's viral hepatitis elimination program
Dr. Mercy Nyakowa (Kenya) |

SESSION 3-4

Special Session: A Roadmap To Viral Hepatitis Elimination.

Friday, August 23rd, 2024

- 11:15 – 11:30 am** **Breaking the Stigma and Discrimination for People Living with Viral Hepatitis**
Danjuma Adda
- 11:30 – 11:45 am** **Empowering Women to Lead Elimination Efforts**
Dr. Bisi Bright (Nigeria)
- 11:45 – 12:00 pm** **Community mobilization for viral hepatitis elimination – Uganda’s experience**
Bwambale Arafat (Uganda)
- 12:00 – 12:00 pm** **Community mobilization for viral hepatitis elimination – Uganda’s experience**
Kenneth Kabagambe (Uganda)
- 12:00 – 12:30 pm** **Q&A Panel Session**
- 12:30 – 1:30 pm** **Lunch Break**

SESSION 4 - Clinical Care for HPB Cancers in Africa

Special Session- Clinical Care for HPB Cancers in Africa

Chairs: Dr. Abdi Hakin Mohamed and Dr. Njoki Njiraini

- 1:30 – 1:45 pm** **NASH in Africa: Findings in the Diabetic Population in Ghana**
Dr. Yaw Wiafe (Ghana)
- 1:45 – 2:00 pm** **MAFLD in Africa**
Prof Ashraf Omar (Egypt)
- 2:00 – 2:15 pm** **Innovations in the Management of MASH**
Prof. Mitchell Mahmoud (USA)
- 2:15 – 2:30 pm** **Acute Liver failure: A Global Perspective**
Dr. Jody Olson (USA)

SESSION 4

Special Session, Clinical Care for HPB Cancers in Africa

Friday, August 23rd, 2024

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|-----------------------|---|
| 2:30 – 2:45 pm | Artificial Intelligence in Advanced Endoscopy
Dr. Vinay Chandrasekhara (USA) |
| 2:45 – 3:00 pm | Q&A Panel Session |
| 3:00 – 3:10 pm | 10 Minutes Break |
| 3:10 – 3:25 pm | Surgical Advances in HPB Cancer Care in Africa
Dr. Michael Okello (Uganda) |
| 3:25 – 3:40 pm | Palliative Care for HPB Cancers in Africa
Dr. Helena Musau (Kenya) |
| 3:40 – 3:55 pm | Metastatic Colorectal Cancer- Not quite the end of the road
Dr. Karan Gandhi (Kenya) |
| 3:55 – 4:10 pm | Current Trends in the management of Gallbladder malignancy
Dr. Anand Ramamurthy (Egypt) |
| 4:10 – 4:25 pm | Integration of immunotherapy into HCC management of early stage HCC
Dr. Ahmed Kaseb (USA) |
| 4:25 – 4:40 pm | Interventional Radiology Approaches to HPB Cancer Management
Dr. Eric Mbuguje (Tanzania) |
| 4:40 – 4:55 pm | Radiation Oncology Approaches to HPB Cancer Management
Dr. Kenneth Merrell (USA) |
| 4:55 – 5:10 pm | Percutaneous Ablation for Hepatocellular Carcinoma
Prof. Mohamed El-Kassas (Egypt) |
| 5:10 – 5:25 pm | Novel Biomarkers for Liver Cancer Early Detection in Africa
Dr. Ju Dong Yang |
| 5:25 – 5:40 pm | Q&A Panel Session |

**Note: This session is concurrent with another session
(Special Session- HPB Cancer Research Basic and
Translational Research - Session 5)**

SESSION 5

Special Session- HPB Cancer Research Basic and Translational Research

Friday, August 23rd, 2024

Special Session- HPB Cancer Research Basic and Translational Research

Moderator: Dr. Solomon Rotimi and Emmanuel Nweke

- 1:30 – 1:45 pm** **A Review In Systematic Therapies In HCC**
Kurt Sartorius (USA)
- 1:45 – 2:00 pm** **Using Genomic and Methylation Signatures From
Esophageal Cancer To Provide Insights Into
Biliary Cancer: Lessons learned**
Dr. Mohammed Orloff (USA)
- 2:00 – 2:20 pm** **“-omics” Approaches to Understand Cancer in Africa**
Prof Solomon Rotimi (Nigeria)
- 2:20 – 2:40 pm** **Bioinformatically Analyzing HBV Intergrations in HCC**
Mr. Daniel O'Brien (USA)
- 2:40 – 3:00 pm** **Bioinformatics Solutions for Translational Science Investigators**
Dr. Romuald Palwende Boua (Burkina Faso)
- 3:00 – 3:20 pm** **Q&A Panel Session**
- 3:20 – 3:30 pm** **10 Minutes Break**
- 3:30 – 3:50 pm** **Novel immune markers for HCC diagnosis and prognosis**
Dr. Manal Hassan (USA)
- 3:50 – 4:10 pm** **Models for Discovery: Human to Mouse back to Human**
Dr. Kirk Wangenstein (USA)
- 4:10 – 4:30 pm** **Training laboratory-based techniques for research success:
Way forward for Africa**
Babs Duduyemi (Sierra Leone)

SESSION 5

Special Session- HPB Cancer Research Basic and Translational Research

Friday, August 23rd, 2024

**4:30 – 4:50 pm Potentiating Anti-Tumor Immune Responses with
Cancer Vaccine in Liver Cancer**

Dr. Marius Nagalo (USA)

**4:50 – 5:10 pm Targeting Signaling Pathways in Pancreatic
Ductal Adenocarcinoma**

Dr. Emmanuel Nweke (South Africa)

5:10 – 5:30 pm Q&A Panel Session

**Note: This session is concurrent with another session
(Special Session, Clinical Care for HPB Cancers in Africa
Session 4)**

SESSION 6

Closing Session, Looking Forward: Next Steps in HPB Cancer Research and Clinical Care in Africa

Saturday, August 24th, 2024

8:00 – 8:30 am AHPBCC Biorespository Training Q&A
Dr. Fowsiyo Ahmed (USA), Nellie Campbell M.S (USA),
Dr. Nasra Giama (USA), Dr. Yvonne Nartey (Ghana)

Moderators: Dr. Abidemi Ominisi and Dr. Samuel Antwi

**8:30 – 8:45 am Cancer Registry Establishment and Expansion in Africa:
The ABC's to building a sustainable program**
Dr. Abidemi Omonisi (Nigeria)

8:45 – 9:00 am National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (NICRAT)
Dr. Usman Malami Aliyu

9:00 – 9:15 am Clinical Trials: Where are we now, and where are we going?
Dr. Ahmed Kaseb (USA)

9:15 – 9:30 am Cancer Prevention Through Viral Hepatitis Elimination
Dr. Wendy Spearman (South Africa)

9:30 – 9:40 am Advancing Advanced Endoscopy Efforts in Africa
Dr. Akwi Asombang (USA), Prof Elly Ogutu (Kenya),
Dr. Jackson Chipaila (Zambia)

9:40 – 10:00 am Expanding Liver Transplant Availability in Africa
Prof Ashraf Omar (Egypt)

10:00 – 10:10am 10 Minutes Break

10:10 – 10:30 am Civil Society Role in Improving Cancer Care and Research in Africa
Nigerian Cancer Society / African Cancer Registry Network

**10:30 – 10:45 am Cancer Center to Cancer Center Relationship Establishment:
Building Collaborative Relationships**
U.S Based Cancer Centers

SESSION 6

Closing Session, Looking Forward: Next Steps in HPB Cancer Research and Clinical Care in Africa

Saturday, August 24th, 2024

- 10:45 – 11:00 am** **Why our Efforts Cannot Fail: A Patient Perspective**
Danjuma Adda (Nigeria)
- 11:00 – 11:05 am** **Working group updates and announcements**
Caitlin VanLith and Dr. Matthew Cooley
- 11:05 – 11:50 am** **Biospecimens Updates**
Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Ghana.
- 11:50 – 12:40 pm** **Beginning Investigator Grant for Catalytic Research (BIG Cat) Award**
Dr Tegwinde Rebeca Compaore (Burkina Faso)
- 12:40 – 1:00 pm** **Leveraging Basic Science in Africa: Enhancing the Partnership Between ILCA, AHPBCC, and the Egyptian Higher Institutions as an example**
Dr. Marco Zaki (Egypt)
- 1:00 – 1:10 pm** **Conducting And Supporting Clinical Trials In Africa**
Dr. Mansoor Saleh

SESSION 7

Conference Highlights, Awards, 2025 Announcement, Closing Ceremony

- 1:10 – 1:30 pm** **Conference Highlights, Awards, 2025 Announcement, Closing Ceremony.**
Dr. Matt Cooley (USA)

ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE



Dr. Lewis R. Roberts, MB



Dr. Matt Cooley,
PHD,MS,MLS(ASCP)CM



Caitlin Van Lith



Tayla Brooks



Dr. Akwi Asombang,
MD, MPH



Dr. Mohamed El-Kassas,
MD, PhD



Dr. Michael Okello,
MD



Dr. Karan R. K. Gandhi,
MBChB



Dr. Bolni Marius Nagalo,
MSc, Ph.D



Mel Goodwin,



Dr. Yvonne Nartey,
MBChB, PhD



Dr. Ashraf Omar
MD



Dr. Hailemichael Desalegn
-MD, PhD



Dr. Jackson Chipaila
-MBBS, PhD



Riaz Kasmani-
MD



Dr. Abidemi Omonisi



Dr. Mohammed S. Ezzi,
MBBS



Geovision



Amerti Guta



Dr. Njoki Njirani



Zamzam Ali



Dr. Mitchell Mahmoud



Dr. Sitna Ali



Dr. Helena Musau, Kenya



Dr. Gloryanne Aidoo- Micah (UK),

SPEAKERS



NAME: Dr. Regina Appiah-Opong

Institution: University Of Ghana

Country: Ghana

Biography: Regina Appiah-Opong is a Professor of Toxicology at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, University of Ghana

Her research areas include anticancer and antimalarial drug discovery, cytochrome P450-mediated drug interaction, cancer biology and aflatoxin studies.

Her ongoing work on anticancer activities of medicinal plants has established the anticancer properties of several medicinal plants used by Traditional Medicine Practitioners to manage cancer.

She has taught and mentored several people including BSc, MPhil and PhD students and Postdoctoral fellows in the University of Ghana, other local universities and other African universities.



NAME: Dr. Karan R. K. Gandhi

Institution: Cert Gastro (SA) Surg
Consultant Hepatobiliary Surgeon

Country: Kenya

Biography: Dr. Gandhi completed his subspecialist certificate training in Surgical Gastroenterology, specifically Hepato-Pancreatico-Biliary (HPB) Surgery, in 2020, at the University of Cape Town.

He is passionate about teaching and training of young surgeons in Kenya and sees himself as a pioneer in the Kenyan HPB scene.

Dr. Gandhi looks forward to creating a network of young HPB surgeons to help change the situation in SSA, where delivering a surgical service is hampered by various factors.

Dr. Gandhi currently serves on 2 committees of the IHPBA, (Education and Training Committee and the Early Career Group Leadership council) and is also the Kenyan representative in the HPBridge (HPB International Bidirectional engagement and collaboration)

With his solid background, training, passion and networking, Dr. Gandhi believes he is a key player in taking HPB surgery forward on the continent of Africa.

SPEAKERS



NAME: Dr. Jody C. Olson,

Institution: Mayo Clinic

Country: USA

Biography: Associate Professor of Medicine

Practicing Transplant Hepatologist and Intensive Care Physician

Previously trained in the University of Minnesota-Centers For Disease Control Global Health Program

Worked internationally with developing liver transplant programs with ongoing interest in improving care of liver disease across the globe.



NAME: Dr Tegwinde Rebeca COMPAORE

Institution: Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé

Country: Burkina Faso

Biography: Dr Tegwinde Rebeca COMPAORE, MSc, PhD., is a senior researcher in the Biomedical and Public Health Department at the "Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé (IRSS/CNRST)". She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and a PhD from the University of Ouagadougou Pr Ki-Zerbo. Dr Compaore completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Pietro Annigoni Biomolecular Research Center (CERBA) and is now affiliated with the center.

Her current research focuses on gastrointestinal cancers related to infectious agents such as hepatitis B, C, D, and Helicobacter pylori. And so, by contributing to the conception of early detection tools using biomarkers to fight against infectious disease and their related cancers using cutting-edge technologies.

Dr Compaore has received several distinctions, including the Beginning Investigator Grant for Catalytic Research (BIG CAT) award, the "Towards Leadership Program" from the African Research Excellence Fund (AREF) fellowship, and The World Academy of Science award.

SPEAKERS



NAME: Dr. Tushar Patel

Institution: Mayo Clinic

Country: USA

Biography: Tushar Patel is a hepatologist at the Mayo Clinic and the emeritus dean for research at Mayo Clinic.

He is an accomplished physician-scientist with clinical expertise in transplant hepatology and hepatobiliary cancers.

He is a highly cited researcher with recognized global impact who has been a pioneer in the emerging disciplines of RNA nanotechnology, and nanovesicle therapeutics.

He is passionate about advancing new knowledge to tackle areas of unmet need that will advance patient care.



NAME: Dr. Yaw Bediako, PHD.

Institution: Yemaachi Biotech

Country: Ghana

Biography: Ghanaian immunologist and entrepreneur, with PhD from Northwestern University (USA) and post-doctoral fellowships in Kenya and London.

Founded Yemaachi Biotech in 2021.

Calestous Juma Science Leadership Fellow (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), a fellow of the Ghana Young Academy and an affiliate member of the African Academy of Sciences.

Selected as one of the 100 most influential Africans by the New African magazine (2023).

SPEAKERS



NAME: Dr. Yaw Amo Wiafe

Institution: Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

Country: Ghana

Biography: Dr. Yaw Amo Wiafe is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medical Imaging at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana.

He is an Advanced Practice Sonographer with over 19 years of experience in clinical ultrasound. He holds a Graduate Diploma in Medical Ultrasound from Monash University, an MSc, and a PhD from the University of Derby, and is a Fellow of the American Society of Echocardiography (FASE).

His research currently centers on investigating the connection between metabolic associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) and cardiovascular disease



NAME: Dr. Bolni Marius Nagalo

Institution: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Country: USA

Biography: Bolni Marius Nagalo, MSc, Ph.D., is a faculty member in the Department of Pathology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and co-leader of the Cancer Therapeutics program at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute. He earned his bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. from the University of Ouaga I Joseph Ki-Zerbo in Burkina Faso. Dr. Nagalo completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Mayo Clinic and later joined their faculty in Arizona.

His laboratory focuses on drug development, particularly virus-directed evolution to create selective oncolytic viruses and gene therapy vectors for hepatobiliary and pancreatic cancers. Additionally, he is interested in biomarker discovery for early detection of liver, pancreatic, and biliary tract cancers.

Dr. Nagalo has received several awards, including the NCI K01 Career Development Award, NCI EIAP Scholar recognition, AACR Career Development Award, Wellcome Trust Faculty Mobility Award, and the UAMS Cancer Institute Director's Spotlight.

SPEAKERS



NAME: Dr. Jose Debes

Institution: University of Minnesota

Country: USA

Biography: Associate Professor, University of Minnesota, USA. Adjunct Associate Professor Erasmus University in the Netherlands and UFCSPA in Brazil

Director of the H2U and International Hepatitis Programs both at UMN

Founded and coordinates three multinational research network in Latin America and Africa.



NAME: Dr Akwi W. Asombang

Institution: Massachusetts General Hospital

Country: USA

Biography: Dr Akwi W. Asombang is an interventional gastroenterologist and the Director of Global Health Programs in Gastroenterology at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), Harvard Medical School.

Beginning in 2018, she co-founded and served as the first trainer for the endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) services in Nigeria which also currently serves as the only center in the country with consistent ERCP services.

She has extensive service to multiple national professional societies and experience in global health including clinical experience in Zambia, Nigeria, Tanzania, and India.

She is the co-founder of Pan-African Organization for Health, Education and Research (POHER) - a non-governmental organization and the founder of The African Association of Future gastroenterologists (AAFAG), serving as a mentor for medical students, trainees, and consultants, with recognition for her work as a recipient of the 2024 global mentorship recognition award from the Medical Women's international Association presented in Zambia.

SPEAKERS



NAME: Dr. Okello Michael

Institution: Makerere University College of Health Sciences

Country: Uganda

Biography: Dr. Okello Michael is a Hepatopancreatobiliary surgeon and the current President of the Society of Uganda Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SUGES).

He is a senior lecturer at Makerere University College of Health Sciences, School of Biomedical Sciences, Department of Human Anatomy.

He has special interest in advancing laparoscopic general and HPB surgery in Uganda.

He also has interest in interventional endoscopy especially ERCP.



NAME: Dr. Erick Michael Mbuguje

Institution: Muhimbili National Hospital

Country: Tanzania

Biography: Erick Michael Mbuguje, MD is an Interventional Radiologist and Head of section at Muhimbili National Hospital, Dar es salaam, Tanzania.

He obtained his Medical Doctor (MD), Masters of Medicine (Radiology) and Master of Science Super specialization in Interventional Radiology degrees from the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) in 2011, 2019 and 2021 respectively. A member of Medical Council of Tanganyika (MCT), the Medical Radiology and Imaging Professional Council (MRIPC), a trainee member of Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR), and represent Tanzania in the Society of African Interventional Radiology and Endovascular Therapy (SAFIRE).

He is a co-founder of Road2IR foundation which participated in establishment of the first Interventional Radiology training programs in East Africa. This was made possible through the Road2IR consortium by close collaboration of MNH, MUHAS, Yale, Emory, and other institutions from the United States and Canada

He is a co-founder of Tanzania Liver Cancer group which also organized the First Liver Cancer Conference in Tanzania March 2023. He is also a member of National Hospital Multidisciplinary Liver Cancer Tumor Board.

He is so passionate into establishing IR services in Sub-Saharan Africa with more interest in interventional oncology especially liver intervention and venous work.

SPEAKERS



NAME: Dr. Ahmed Kaseb

Institution: GI Medical Oncology

Country: USA

Biography: Dr. Kaseb is a Professor of GI Medical Oncology and Program Director of the HCC program at MD Anderson and is the Clinical PI and Director of MD Anderson SPORE NCI grant in HCC. His multidisciplinary teamwork has received multiple FDA-approval of systemic therapies and several federal, foundation and pharmaceutical funding for dozens of projects and clinical trials, authored and co-authored over 200 papers, book chapters, and editorials.

He currently serves on National Hepatobiliary Task Force, NCI, USA, and serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the international journal; "Journal of Hepatocellular Carcinoma".



NAME: Dr. Mohammed El-Kassas

Institution: Helwan University

Country: Egypt

Biography: Mohamed El-Kassas is a professor and chief of Endemic Medicine and HepatoGastroenterology at Faculty of Medicine, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt.

A board member of: Global Council of International Association for Study of Liver (IASL), Africa Hepatopancreatobiliary Cancer Consortium (AHPBCC), Hepatology Committee, (WGO), Global NASH Council, President of Steatotic Liver Diseases Study Foundation in Middle East and North Africa (SLMENA), Past-President of Egyptian Association for Research and Training in Hepato-Gastroenterology (EARTH), and member of the Executive Council of Egyptian National Committee for Control of Viral Hepatitis.

Professor El-Kassas had PG Diploma of Clinical Research, University of Liverpool, and is the winner of the Egypt's State Encouraging Award in Medical Sciences for the year 2016, State Medal of Excellence of the first class, 2017, and the best Arab researcher prize in Natural sciences for the year 2019.

Professor El-Kassas has participated in several international collaborative research works. Also, he has involved in several clinical trials, authoring, and co-authoring more than 220 peer-reviewed manuscripts in the field of Hepatology, with a focus on Viral hepatitis, steatotic live diseases, and hepatocellular carcinoma.

SPEAKERS



NAME: Dr. Wendy Spearman

Institution: University of Cape Town and Groote Schuur Hospital

Country: South Africa.

Biography: Wendy Spearman is Professor of Medicine and Specialist Hepatologist in the Division of Hepatology, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town and Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa.

Vice-president of Society of Liver Disease in Africa (SOLDA).
Medical Director of the 'Viral Hepatitis in sub-Saharan Africa' Project ECHO Clinic programme promoting delivery of care for patients with viral hepatitis in under-resourced regions in SSA.

Appointed by WHO Africa as Lead consultant to develop the National Guidelines on the management and prevention of viral hepatitis in South Africa
Co-chair of WHO 2024 Hepatitis B Guidelines Development Group.



NAME: Dr. Palwende Romuald Boua

Institution: Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé

Country: Burkina Faso

Biography: He is a Researcher, Clinical Research Unit of Nanoro (CRUN)/Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé (IRSS), Burkina Faso; Assistant Professor/Lead Human Genetic Epidemiologist, MRC Unit The Gambia at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, The Gambia; and Senior Researcher (Honorary), Sydney Brenner Institute for Molecular Biosciences (SBIMB), University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

He is experienced in cardiometabolic phenotypes and genetics, after extensive work in genetics of atherosclerosis in African. His aim is to contribute in statistical genetics methodological approach, analysis and precision public health translation/impact. Dr Boua is also working on nutrition within the First 1000 Days, and on the use of machine learning to understand nutrition and NCDs mortality.

He is contributing to multiple training in genomics and bioinformatics in Africa. He has been an active member of the H3Africa Consortium, CHARGE Gene-Lifestyle Interaction Consortium, PRIMED Consortium, Africa HepatoBiliaryPancreato Cancer Consortium, and others.

SPEAKERS



NAME: Dr. Mohammed Orloff

Institution: Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health

Country: USA

Biography: Dr. Orloff is an Associate Professor at Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, an Associate Member of Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute; a member of the Tobacco Research Center; Director of the PhD Program and the Director of the Arkansas Center for Birth Defects Research and Prevention Biorepository.

Dr. Orloff is a genetic epidemiologist with experience in molecular and bench-genomics, biotechnology, genomics, and bioinformatics.

His research for over 15 years focuses on understanding the interplay of multiple genetic, epigenetic, environmental, and social structural factors that influence cancer risk. Currently, he applies these approaches to rural Arkansas communities.

His cross-disciplinary training has facilitated the identification of potential candidate genetic biomarkers for cancers such as lung cancer, endometrial cancer, and esophageal adenocarcinoma in populations of European and African ancestry.



NAME: Dr. Bisi Bright

Institution: LiveWell Initiative

Country: Nigeria

Biography: Dr. Bisi Bright is a multifaceted healthcare professional, serving as CEO of LiveWell Initiative and Founder of Women in Hepatitis Africa, with additional roles as a Consultant Clinical Pharmacist, Public Health Practitioner, Lecturer, and Researcher.

She is a Founding Member of the African Hepatitis Patient Board Coalition, Practicum Trainer at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Doctoral Research Opponent at the University of Helsinki.

Recently appointed to the African Union's Public Health Intelligence Report Subcommittee, she also holds board membership with the International Alliance of Patients' Organisations and an ambassadorial role in Egypt's healthcare space.

SPEAKERS



NAME: Dr. Lewis R. Roberts

Institution: Mayo Clinic

Country: USA

Biography: Lewis R. Roberts, is the Peter and Frances Georgeson Professor in Gastroenterology Cancer Research and Consultant in Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the Mayo Clinic, where he is Co-Principal Investigator of the Mayo Clinic Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE) in Hepatobiliary Cancers.

Dr. Roberts' research focuses on mechanisms of liver and biliary carcinogenesis; biomarkers for liver, biliary and pancreas cancers; and prevention, diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis and liver cancer, with a particular interest in Africa as well as in immigrant African and Asian communities in the USA.

Dr. Roberts serves on the Boards of Scientific Counselors of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) and on the NCI GI Steering Committee.

He has authored over 500 articles, book chapters and letters, and co-edited the book "Evaluation and Management of Liver Masses". He has mentored over 200 trainees at all levels, particularly focusing on persons from communities underrepresented in science.

He is a founding member of the Africa HepatoPancreatoBiliary Cancer Consortium, and serves as Chair of the Research Committee and the HepatoPancreatoBiliary Cancer Special Interest Group of the African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC), and as Ambassador for Africa for the International Liver Cancer Association (ILCA).



NAME: Mr. O'Brien, Daniel R.

Institution: Mayo Clinic

Country: USA

Biography: Mayo Clinic Bioinformatics Core Supervisor
15+ years of professional bioinformatics experience
expertise in genomics, transcriptomics, and metagenomics
special interest in investigating how HBV genetically contributes tumorigenesis in the liver

SPEAKERS



NAME: Dr. Abidemi Omonisi

Institution: Ekiti State University of Teaching Hospital

Country: Nigeria

Biography: Dr. Abidemi Omonisi is a Medical Practitioner of over 23 years of experience, cancer researcher, and a medical teacher who has been mentoring junior medical doctors and scientists across the world. He is the Founder and Pioneer Director of Ekiti Cancer Registry, Immediate Acting Director of the Nigerian National System of Cancer Registries (NSCR-NICRAT), and a past member of the Ministerial Committee of the Federal Ministry of Health, National Committee on Cancer Prevention and Control in Nigeria. He is the incumbent Vice-President of Nigerian Cancer Society (NCS).

He is a lecturer and Consultant Anatomic Pathologist with Ekiti State University and Ekiti State University of Teaching Hospital, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. A visiting lecturer at the University of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia. He was actively involved in both Universities in the curriculum development in Anatomic Pathology and Laboratory Medicine respectively.

Prof. Omonisi represents all West African countries on the Research Committee of African Cancer Registry Network (AFCRN), University of Oxford, UK since 2018. He is the Director of Strategic Planning and Advocacy, Prostate Cancer Transatlantic Consortium (CaPTC) West Africa. He is an Executive member of Africa HepatoPancreatoBiliary Cancer Consortium (AHPBCC) with international headquarter based in Mayo Clinic, USA. He previously served a lecturer at Yale University global health program.

He is also a Fellow, Resource Person, and Examiner of the West African College of Medicine, Faculty of Laboratory Medicine, and also founding Fellow of the College of Pathologists of East, Central and Southern Africa (COPECSA).

The primary research interest is Oncology and his research focus has on HPB cancers, breast, cervical, prostate, liver cancers, and cancer registration.

Prof. Omonisi is an award winning scholar who have served as speakers at both local and international conferences, he has authored over 80 articles in peer-reviewed local and international journals with over 10,700 citations.

SPEAKERS



NAME: Dr John W. Ward

Institution: Director Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination

Country: USA

Biography: Dr. John W. Ward created and directs the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination of the Task Force for Global Health.

Modelled after other Task Force programs to eliminate disease, the Coalition is a community of practice strengthening the capacity of national and sub-national hepatitis elimination programs through funding, advocacy, technical assistance, operational research and monitoring progress toward hepatitis elimination in >190 countries.

Globally, Dr. Ward is an advisor to the African Union Hepatitis Technical Working Group, and WHO including the PAHO technical advisory committee on disease elimination and the WPRO Hepatitis B Expert Resource Panel.

Dr. Ward chairs the AASLD Task Force for Hepatitis Elimination. Over a 13-year tenure, Dr. Ward directed the US CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis with responsibilities for viral hepatitis surveillance, prevention, and research.

At the national level, Dr. Ward developed recommendations for hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccination, hepatitis B and hepatitis C screening, authored the first action plan for viral hepatitis prevention. Dr. Ward initiated the US Academies of Sciences recommendations for viral hepatitis elimination and guided the launch of pioneer HCV elimination programs.



NAME: Dr. Ashraf Omar

Institution: Cairo University

Country: Egypt

Biography: Prof of Hepatology & Tropical Medicine Faculty of medicine Cairo University. Liver Transplant Consultant Cairo University & Dar Al-Fouad Hospital Fellow AASLD FAASLD. President of the Egyptian Society of Liver Cancer (ESLC) Founder and Director of the Multidisciplinary Liver Cancer Clinic Cairo University. Board editor of Hepatocellular carcinoma journal. Chairman of MENA NCCN committee of Hepatobiliary cancer. IC-HEP council member. Founder of Path program of HCC sponsored by Bayer company ..Egyptian version. Board editor for hepatocellular Carcinoma journal. Peer reviewer for international journals (lancet gastroenterology). Member of the board of Africa HepatoPancreatoBiliary Cancer Consortium (AHPBCC) Member of the board of Society of Liver Disease in Africa (SOLDA). Member of the Global NASH Council (GNC). Member of the Global Liver Council (GLC).

SPEAKERS



NAME: Dr. Andrew Odhiambo

Institution: Consultant Physician & Medical Oncologist – The Nairobi Hospital.

Country: Nairobi

Biography: Dr. Andrew is a board-certified Consultant Physician & Medical Oncologist at the Nairobi Hospital. He is the Unit Head for Medical Oncology at the University of Nairobi (UON).

Dr. Andrew holds a master's degree in Internal Medicine from the UON. He later did his Fellowship in Medical Oncology in the United Kingdom and is certified by the Federation of Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom (RCP-UK), The Association of Cancer Physicians (ACP) and the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO). He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh as well as the East, Central & Southern Africa College of Physicians.

He is a former Secretary & Treasurer of Kenya Society of Haematology & Oncology (KESHO). Dr Andrew is a member ASCO, ESMO & AORTIC. He serves as an expert advisor for local and international bodies i.e. Ministry of Health, Kenya Cancer Prevention TWG, various international Cancer Treatment Guidelines Committees including NCCN & ASCO. He has published several articles on cancer in both international and local peer reviewed scientific journals. Dr Andrew has attended over 70 oncology meetings both local and international. He has made over 70 oral presentations and continuously supports Oncology Multidisciplinary team meetings in various top hospitals in Nairobi, Kenya.

Dr Andrew was awarded the prestigious Business Daily Africa Top 40 under 40 men in the year 2017. He is passionate about cancer education and awareness especially through digital platforms. He has over 70 appearances in mainstream local and international TV, Radio and print media promoting cancer awareness. Key areas of sub-specialization and interest include GI cancers, Pancreatic, Liver & Bile Duct cancer, Metastatic Breast Cancer, Metastatic Lung Cancer, Cancer of Unknown Primary as well as newer treatments i.e. Immunotherapy, Targeted therapy & precision oncology.

SPEAKERS



NAME: Dr. Vinay Chandrasekhara

Institution: Mayo Clinic

Country: USA

Biography: Dr. Chandrasekhara currently serves as the head of the advanced endoscopy and pancreas groups at Mayo Clinic, Rochester. He is a fellow of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) and the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA).

He has served as a member of the ASGE Standards of Practice Committee and Technology Committees, where he authored numerous clinical guidelines and comprehensive technology reviews. He is also Co-Editor-in-Chief for the AGA journal Techniques and Innovations in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

His research and clinical interests include the endoscopic management of pancreatobiliary disease with a special focus on artificial intelligence and genomic marker discovery.



NAME:

Institution: University of Sierra Leone Teaching Hospitals

Country: Sierra Leone

Biography: Professor, Consultant & Chair,
Department of Pathology
University of Sierra Leone Teaching Hospitals Complex &
College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Research interest: GI/HPB, Cancer Epidemiology
and Molecular diagnosis

Beating Liver Cancer in Africa

Liver cancer is the third leading cause of cancer related death in the world and in Africa, research has found that hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)—the most common form of liver cancer—occurs at an earlier age.

Beating liver cancer will take a broad network of partners across the health ecosystem. Roche is committed to working together to reach this goal and we will contribute our experience, expertise, resources and talent to the effort.

Now is the time to work together to fight liver cancer in Africa and improve health for all.



Together, we can beat liver cancer in Africa

Small steps to improve awareness, prevention, surveillance and care can go a long way to reduce the impact of liver cancer across Africa.

Geo vision

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Event Management | Branding | Rentals

OUR OFFICES

GHANA



IVORY COAST



NIGERIA

KENYA



SOUTH AFRICA





Cancer in Africa
IMPLEMENTATION, WORKFORCE, OPPORTUNITIES

Join us for AORTIC's 14th International Conference on Cancer in Africa.

The African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer is pleased to host this conference in Dakar, Senegal at the CICAD (Abdou DIOUF International Conference Centre).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The scientific programme features an *international faculty* and will promote the exchange of research and practical information among *diverse cancer care practitioners* in Africa and around the world. Learn from *multidisciplinary* specialists, stay up-to-date on cancer in Africa, and *expand your clinical networks* for support and collaboration at this *accredited conference*.

AORTIC TOPICS

Access to Medicine • Advocacy • Cancer Genetics • Cancer Health Disparities • Early Detection & Prevention • Grant-writing Skills • Journalism & Cancer Reporting • National Cancer Control Plans
Paediatric Oncology • Palliative Care • Radiation Oncology • Site-specific Cancers
Basic Translational Science • Biobanking • Cancer Screening • Clinical Trials • Haematology
Implementation Science • Nutrition & Cancer • Oncology Nursing • Pathology • Psycho-oncology
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