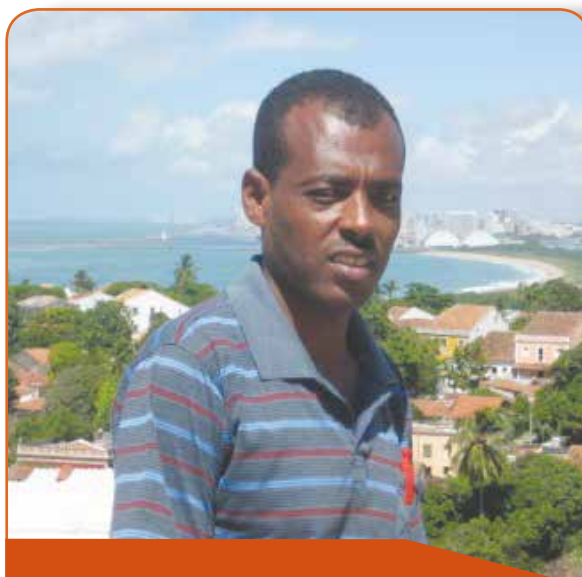




INVITED SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Dr Abate Mulugeta BESHAH is currently National Professional Officer for Neglected Tropical Diseases including Leishmaniasis, in WHO-Ethiopia. Prior to his current assignment, he served as a General Practitioner at government hospitals, and later as HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Officer in MSF-Holland and FHI-Ethiopia before joining WHO-Ethiopia as Leishmaniasis Officer.

Dr Beshah carried out his post graduate studies in public health in the University of South Africa. He has publications on leishmaniasis while serving in technical position in WHO office.



Dr Abate Mulugeta Beshah, WHO, Ethiopia

Dr. Ahmed Mudawi Musa is an Associate Professor of Immunology and Director of the Institute of Endemic Diseases (IEND), at the University of Khartoum. He is the secretary of the Leishmaniasis Research Group at the IEND. Prof. Musa is a physician and infectious and Tropical Medicine expert. He had his MBBS in 1994 from University of Khartoum. He joined the IEND as a teaching and a research assistant in 2000. His Ph D thesis was on immunology and immunochemotherapy of PKDL. He also got his MSc in tropical Medicine and International from The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a diploma of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene From the Royal College of Physicians in the UK. Professor Musa is a qualified Clinical Trials Monitor by The WHO. He participated in many GCP and ethics courses as a facilitator. His main interest is to develop new options for prevention and treatment of Leishmaniasis.

As a member of the Leishmaniasis East African Platform (LEAP), Prof Musa is the principal investigator, in Sudan, for LEAP clinical trials in the country.



Prof Ahmed Mudawi Musa

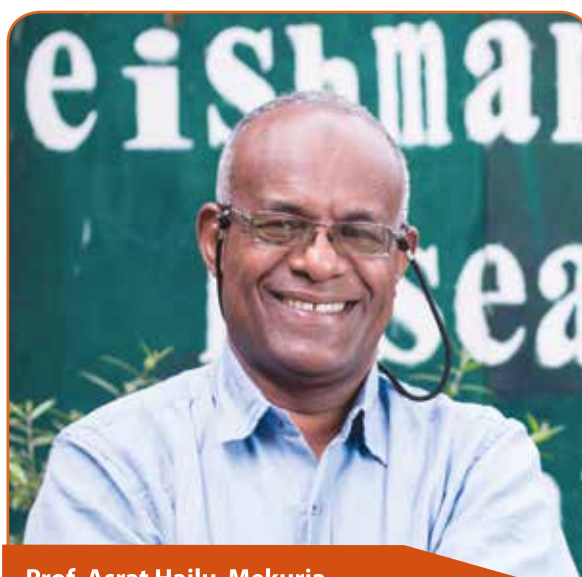
Institute of Endemic Diseases, University of Khartoum, **Sudan**

Dr. Asrat Hailu is a Professor of Immunoparasitology in the School of Medicine, College of Health Sciences - Addis Ababa University (AAU). He teaches in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Parasitology (DMIP).

Prof. Asrat holds a Ph.D degree from the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands where he studied in the Department of Infectious Diseases, Tropical Medicine and HIV/AIDS.

Prof. Asrat has over 30 years of research experience on leishmaniasis in Africa, and has published over 120 articles in peer reviewed journals. He had been leading the Leishmaniasis Research Group at the Aklilu Lemma Institute of Pathobiology (ALIPB) for several years; and later on, he also established the Leishmaniasis Research & Diagnostic Laboratory (LRDL) in the School of Medicine, AAU.

Prof. Asrat has been leading several international projects on leishmaniasis, and has been engaged in clinical trials of LEAP funded by DNDi. He is presently engaged in a multidisciplinary research on transmission dynamics of visceral leishmaniasis in Ethiopia, which is funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Prof. Asrat Hailu Mekuria,

Addis Ababa University, **Ethiopia**



Ayeligne Mulualem

Chief Head of the Health Bureau

Amhara Regional State, Federal Democratic Republic of *Ethiopia*

Ayeligne is the Amhara Regional health bureau chief head. He also the member of Amhara regional state administrative council. He takes the lead in the development, implementation and evaluation of the national and regional different development programs.

Ayeligne has over 24 years' experience in different professional and head area at governmental organization, more than half of which spent within the head of administrative area and he also served as the Amhara regional health bureau chief head for more than four consecutive years.

He holds a master of IOL (Master of International Organizational Leadership) from AZUSA Pacific University at USA and a Bachelor's degree (BSc) in Biology.



Dr Bhawna Sharma,

Director of R&D Operations, DNDi, *India*

Dr. Sharma joined DNDi as a consultant in December 2004 and served as Head of the Support office until recently, contributing to the growth of DNDi in India. She is now the newly appointed Director, R&D Operations DNDi India. In this role she coordinates clinical research projects and supports R&D initiatives in the region.

Before joining DNDi, Dr. Sharma served as a research scientist with the Indian Council of Medical Research, where she gained research and regulatory affairs experience. She also previously taught pharmacology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (A.I.I.M.S.) in New Delhi and served as an editor for the JAMA India Medical journal.

During her post graduate work, she was involved in pharmacokinetic and cardiovascular studies. Bhawna Sharma received her PhD and completed post-doctoral fellowships in pharmacology and drug assay at A.I.I.M.S.



Prof. Carlos Costa,

University of Piauí, *Brazil*

Prof Carlos Costa graduated in Medicine in 1976 from the University of Brasilia, where he trained in Internal Medicine, graduating with a Master's Degree in Tropical Medicine in 1984. As a medical student Prof Costa started his research in tropical disease, particularly epidemiology of the Chagas disease.

In 1985 Prof Costa moved back to his home town where he then began to study kala-azar. Through his research work he was able to describe the epidemiology of the first major Urban epidemic of Urban kala-azar, a phenomenon that spread to other cities of South America. Soon after this achievement Prof Costa graduated from the Harvard School of Public Health; his thesis covered the topic of the 'Human Transmission of Leishmania Infantum'. Since then he has been involved in research focusing on various aspects of kala-azar.

Presently, Prof Costa is an associated professor of Medicine at the Federal University of Piaui, at the Institute of Tropical Diseases,

Dr Daniel Argaw Dagne is currently Medical Officer and manager of the Global Leishmaniasis Control Programme, in the Department of Neglected Tropical Diseases Control, WHO, Geneva. Prior to his current assignment, he served as a director of a regional health bureau in Ethiopia and communicable disease officer at the WHO country office, in Ethiopia, with short assignments in other African countries.

Dr Dagne carried out his post graduate studies in infectious & tropical diseases epidemiology, surveillance, control and public health fields in, Japan, China, Swiss Tropical Institute and Austria. He has several publications on leishmaniasis, malaria, HIV, TB and other communicable diseases and health systems while serving in various technical positions in the government and WHO offices.



Dr Daniel Argaw Dagne,

Leishmaniasis Control Program, World Health Organization,
Switzerland

Currently the Head of Clinical Trials Section of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) which is the drug Regulatory Authority of Kenya. I am also the secretary to the Experts Committee on Clinical Trials of PPB

I am Pharmacist by training from University of Nairobi with eleven years of experience four years of which are in pharmaceutical regulation. We are currently working on how to streamline the review and approval of clinical trials applications in Kenya so as to promote clinical trials research in the country



Dr Edward Abwao,

Pharmacy & Poisons Board, Kenya

Professor Eltahir Awad Gasim Khalil graduated in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Khartoum, Sudan. He also had Post-graduate training in hematology, in Britain. Currently Prof. Eltahir is a Consultant/associated professor in hematology at the Faculty of medicine, University of Khartoum. In addition he is the Professor at the Department of Clinical Pathology & Immunology at the Institute of Endemic Diseases, University of Khartoum, Sudan.

Current position: Director General, Central Laboratory, Ministry of Science & Communications, Sudan

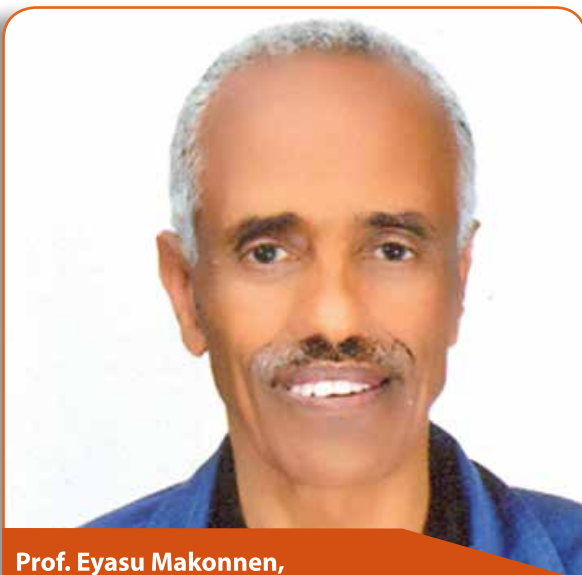
Research interest: Vaccines for visceral leishmaniasis, sickle cell anaemia, Hepatitis B, Latent TB infections.

Professor Eltahir is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Pathologists, Britain; Member of the Leishmaniasis Research Group/Sudan; Member Leishmaniasis East Africa Platform; and is well published with more than 100 publications to his name.



Prof. Eltahir Khalil Gasim,

Institute of Endemic Diseases, University of Khartoum, Sudan



Prof. Eyasu Makonnen,
Addis Ababa University, *Ethiopia*

Prof. Eyasu Makonnen got his B. Pharm from AAU in 1980, his MSc in Pharmacology from University of Ljubljana in 1985, and his PhD in Pharmacology in same University in 1987. He served as Vice President of Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Association, chair of the Ethiopian Health Science and Technology Research Council, Chair of Ethiopian National Ethics Committee, Member of Ethiopian National Drug Advisor Committee and president of Ethio-Korean Alumni Association at various occasions. He is the founding member of LEAP. Prof. Makonnen's research interests are in the area of clinical trials and Phototherapy. Over the years, he has published around 100 peer reviewed publications in reputable journals. Prof. Eyasu Makonnen has been working as a professor of Pharmacology since February 2003. He is currently heading the department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, Addis Ababa University.



Dr Fabiana Alves,
DNDi, *Switzerland*

Fabiana Piovesan Alves joined DNDi in 2008, initially as a consultant on the Chagas disease and leishmaniasis projects. She was subsequently the Leishmaniasis program manager in the Latin America region. Fabiana is now the Clinical Manager for leishmaniasis in Geneva.

Fabiana is a medical doctor, who graduated from the University of São Paulo, Brazil, with residency in Pediatrics. Her PhD thesis on the molecular epidemiology of malaria in the Amazon region was followed by a post-doctoral position at TDR/WHO. She was a professor of parasitology at the University of São Paulo, coordinated projects at research institutes and also worked as a project manager for a clinical research organization.

Fabiana has 15 years of experience in research on tropical diseases, including malaria, leishmaniasis, Chagas disease and schistosomiasis, with the last 10 years principally in clinical research for the development of new treatments for neglected diseases, managing clinical trials from Phase II through to Phase IV.



Ms. Gugu Nolwandle Mahlangu, MSc, MBA, MPS
Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe, *Zimbabwe*

Gugu Nolwandle Mahlangu is a pharmacist by profession. After completing her pharmacy training Ms Mahlangu worked in hospital pharmacy, community pharmacy and was engaged in teaching pharmacy technicians and pharmacy students. She was involved in the preparation of the Proposed Essential Drugs List for Zimbabwe.

As a pharmacist/inspector of the predecessor of the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe, Ms Mahlangu was responsible for computerisation of the Drugs Registration system and was the training officer for the WHO supported training programme for regional medicines regulatory authority personnel and local staff amongst other regulatory activities.

Ms Mahlangu has been involved in several other bodies related to the profession. She is a member and past President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Zimbabwe, former chairperson of the Pharmacists Council, Chairperson of the Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe and a board member of the National Pharmaceutical Company. She is also a member of several WHO Expert Committees

Helen Byomire Ndagije is a pharmacist and clinical epidemiologist, who currently heads the Drug Information Department at the National Drug Authority, in Uganda. She holds a Masters degree in business administration and has also been head of the National Pharmacovigilance Centre since 2006. She is known for having introduced a decentralised system of pharmacovigilance in Uganda. She has also been the Vice Chairperson of the African Vaccine Regulator's Forum (AVAREF), a network that has seen the regulatory system for clinical trials of medicines and vaccines uplifted in the last 10 years. The WHO supported AVAREF initiative of the 24 member countries meets annually and the last meeting was hosted by Uganda.

In August 2014, Helen also participated as a member of the expert panel to advise WHO of the ethical considerations for the use of unregistered interventions for the Ebola Viral disease. She is also a member of the Tuberculosis Technical Expert group and various such other groups. Currently, Helen is also part of the East African Community Pharmacovigilance Expert working group.

Previously, Helen was a clinical trial manager for a project by the Medical Research Council in Uganda; Development of Anti-retroviral Therapy, after her excellent performance and completion of a phase II microbicide project in Uganda.



Dr Helen Byomire Ndagije,
National Drug Authority, **Uganda**

John holds an undergraduate degree in human biology and was trained as a medical doctor, both at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology-Kumasi, Ghana. John also graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, USA, with an MPH in Public Health Policy and Administration and an MS in Health Services Research. Earlier this year, he completed a PhD in Health Services Research, Policy and Administration also at the University of Minnesota. In between his Masters and PhD studies, he served as head of the R&D Unit at the Komfo Anokye teaching Hospital in Kumasi, Ghana for 3 years. Dr. Amuasi has been consulted by a number of international organizations including the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), World Health Organization (WHO), Health Action International (HAI) Africa, Dalberg Global Development Partners, the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), and France Expertise Internationale (FEI) on a wide range of issues related to health services, policy and systems in Ghana and other parts of Africa. John is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Kumasi Centre for Collaborative research in Tropical Medicine (KCCR) in Kumasi, Ghana.



Dr John H. Amuasi,
University Of Minnesota, School of Public Health, **USA**



Prof. Joseph Olobo,
Makerere University, **Uganda**

Joseph Olobo is currently a professor of Immunology and Microbiology at the College of Health Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. He is a veterinarian by training and has a master's degree in Immunoparasitology and a PhD degree in Immunobiology.

His interest in Tropical Diseases spans back to late 1970's when he studied the epidemiology of Trypanosomiasis and Leishmaniasis at the ICIPE, Kenya and later an ambitious study at ILRAD (now ILRI), Kenya, in early 1980's to produce cow monoclonal antibodies against trypanosomes. Utilizing the murine model at WEHI, Australia, Prof Olobo demonstrated for the first time that antibodies had no protective role during infection with cutaneous leishmaniasis. A finding which later shifted the focus of research on immunology of leishmaniasis. While at the Institute of Primate Research, Kenya, and with funding mainly from the WHO/TDR, Prof Olobo established the non-human primate model for testing anti-leishmania vaccines.

Prof Olobo has over the years contributed to capacity building having trained young scientists from mainly Eastern Africa including Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda. He has and continues to sit on a number of international and local scientific committees and regulatory bodies including; immunotherapy of TB (TDR), Control of Leishmaniasis (TDR), National Certification Committees of Guinea Worm Disease and Onchocerciasis (Ministry of Health, Uganda).



Dr Rashid Juma,
Kenya Medical Research Institute, **Kenya**

Dr Rashid joined the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) in 1983 as an assistant research officer, during which time he contributed to research work at the institute. By 1988 Dr Rashid had obtained a certificate in tropical medicine from Nairobi University and then moved on to become a specialist in internal medicine after obtaining a Masters in Medicine (Mmed) in 1989 by obtaining.

Despite his accomplishment Dr Rashid over the years continued to participate in training, between 1990 and 2003, he signed up for several short courses in ethics, GCP and clinical monitoring; after which he proceeded to participate in several refresher courses. Then between 2004 and 2006, Dr Rashid was the Clinical Trials manager at the Drugs for Neglected Disease Initiative (DNDi), during which time he contributed immensely to the development of study trial sites in Ethiopia and Sudan and the improvement of the Centre for Clinical Research (CCR), KEMRI. Other organizations that have benefited from Dr Rashid's expertise are Glaxosmithkline (GSK), which hired him between 2009 and 2013 as one of the clinical monitors for the RTSS, malaria.

Currently, the Dr Rashid is a principle investigator (PI) of a phase I clinical trial aimed at developing an oral chemotherapeutic agent, a derivative of miltefosine, for visceral leishmaniasis and hopefully for cutaneous leishmaniasis too. He has extensively published and supervises a number of post graduate students from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

Kirana Bhatt, was born in Kenya and is a professor of internal medicine in the department of medicine of university of Nairobi. She did her masters in internal medicine from the University of Nairobi and specialized in tropical medicine from London school of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She did her training in bio Ethics from University of Washington. Currently she is the chair of National Bioethics committee of Kenya. She has also been a member of ethics committee of Kenya Medical Research institute and chair of ethics and research committee of university of Nairobi. She has been a council member of National council of science and technology of Kenya. She is a member of scientific advisory committee of Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative. Has been a recipient of staff merit award from the university of Nairobi for the out-standing contribution towards the mission of the university. She was awarded elder of the burning spear by the president of Kenya in recognition of the outstanding contribution to the Nation in the field of health. She is a recipient of Malaria Afya award for contribution towards control of malaria in Kenya. Has widely published and presented papers in numerous conferences. Her research interests are in the field of tropical disease and HIV.



Prof. Kirana Bhatt,
University of Nairobi, *Kenya*

Dr Merce Herrero (MD, MPH), is a family doctor with a master in clinical research and international health by the University of Barcelona, Spain. She has been working in the Horn of Africa for the last 10 years, since leishmaniasis became her passion after working in the VL Libo Kemken outbreak in 2006-2007 in the MSF-Spain Kalazar project.

She worked with the WHO-Ethiopia supporting the leishmaniasis national control program mainly from Ethiopia but also Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea and Kenya. She has been involved in several program activities; revitalizing the national VL taskforce and working groups, updating the VL guidelines, conducting trainings and participating in the National Master Plan for NTDs in AFRO VL countries which have allowed putting leishmaniasis in the MOH agendas of affected countries. She has collaborated on epidemiological studies and outbreak assessments of leishmaniasis in Ethiopia, resulting in publications with an international team of leishmaniasis experts. She's currently working as independent consultant with the Kalacore Consortium(funded by DFID) during the inception phase for the Ethiopia country program development.



Dr Merce Herrero,
Kalacore Consortium, *Ethiopia*



Dr Monique Wasunna,
KEMRI/DNDi, *Africa*

Dr Monique Wasunna is the Assistant Director, Research, KEMRI and the Director of Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi), Africa Regional Office.

Dr Wasunna is a physician and an infectious disease and tropical medicine specialist. She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree from the University of Nairobi. Her postgraduate training in medicine was sponsored by WHO-TDR at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London, where she obtained an MSc and a PhD in medicine and a diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the Royal College of Physicians of London. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, a member of the Kenya Medical Association and Kenya Association of Physicians.

In 2008, Dr Wasunna was appointed by the Director General, UNESCO, as a member of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), a position she holds to date. She is currently a vice Chairperson of IBC. She is a member of the National Bioethics Committee, member of KEMRI Ethics Committee and a member of Kenyatta National Hospital and University of Nairobi Scientific and Research Ethics committee.

Dr Wasunna's research interest is primarily focused on clinical trials in visceral leishmaniasis, malaria, and HIV. She has been a principal investigator in many clinical trials that have attracted funding from WHO and other international organizations. She is a member of the Expert Committee of Clinical Trials of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board and the founding Chairperson of the Leishmaniasis East Africa Platform (LEAP). LEAP is a clinical research platform that brings together scientists and institutions in Eastern Africa to develop clinical trial capacity to bring new treatment options to neglected visceral leishmaniasis patients in the region. Dr Wasunna co-ordinates all LEAP activities in the region supported by DNDi. She is well published in peer review journals



Dr Nathalie Strub-Wourgaft,
DNDi, *Switzerland*

Dr Nathalie Strub-Wourgaft joined DNDi in 2009 to supervise the clinical activities conducted by the not-for-profit organisation in the field of Neglected Diseases. Her background is of 20 years' experience in clinical development gained through senior positions in the pharma and later biotech companies. At DNDi she has also been involved with regulatory challenges and participates in working groups focusing on the ethics review of clinical trials.

Dr Strub-Wourgaft graduated as Medical Doctor from Necker Hospital, Université René Descartes in Paris, France, in 1983.

Dr Nekoye Otsyula joined DNDi as a Project Coordinator in July 2014. She most recently served as a Research Officer at the KEMRI Walter Reed Project in Kisumu, Kenya where she worked as a Co-Investigator and Principal Investigator on drug and vaccine clinical trials and epidemiological studies in HIV, malaria and other infectious diseases from 2006 to 2014

Dr Otsyula graduated as a medical doctor from The University of Nairobi in 2005 and is an infectious disease specialist having obtained a Masters in Science in Emerging and Neglected Infectious Disease from the University of Edinburgh in 2011. She recently completed a course in Advanced Vaccinology (ADVAC) at the Fondation Mérieux.



Dr. Nekoye Otsyula,
DNDi, Africa

Dr Pauline NM Mwinzi, is currently the Chief Research Officer and Head of the NTD Research Unit, Center for Global Health Research (CGHR), Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Kisumu, Kenya. Her specialization is in Parasitology and Immunology (PhD, 2005) after training at the Universiteit Utrecht Medical School in the Netherlands, CDC Atlanta on an ISID scholarship and at the Kenyatta University on a WHO/TDR scholarship.

Dr Mwinzi research interests are focused on unraveling the immune mechanisms related to development of resistance to schistosome infections, as well as operational research for the control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). She is also a Principal Investigator with SCORE (www.uga.edu/score) and with EFINTD (EFINTD.org) and currently mentoring over over 10 graduate fellows.

Dr Mwinzi was one of the founders of the Annual KEMRI NTD Conference, which is now in its 8th year, and sits as the current Chair of the KEMRI Annual Scientific Health Conference (KASH). Dr Mwinzi is also the founding Chair of the African Research Network For NTDS (www.ARNNTD.org). She also serves from time to time as a Temporary Advisor to the WHO AFRO on NTD mapping and implementation of national control programs.

In addition to her research work, Dr Mwinzi also contributes to teaching graduate Bioethics at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOUST) and Immunology at Maseno University. In addition, she also makes an effort to give back by participating in community activities especially those related to education opportunities for disadvantaged children.



Dr Pauline Mwinzi, PhD
Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya



Dr Robert Kimutai,
DNDi, Africa

Dr Robert Kimutai is a Clinical Trial Manager at the DNDi Africa Regional Office, Nairobi. He is a Paediatrician and General Public Health Specialist having trained at the University of Nairobi for Master of Medicine in Paediatrics and Master of Public Health at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp.

He has worked in KEMRI Centre for Clinical Research since 1995. He joined as Assistant Research Officer and has since worked in several clinical research projects including KEMRI Walter Reed Project as Medical Officer and Principal Investigator in HIV vaccine trial; KEMRI Wellcome Trust as Paediatrician and Clinical Trialist and currently with DNDi /KEMRI (Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative) as a Clinical Trial Manager. He has been involved in Clinical Trials Management of Leishmania protocols Phase II, III and IV trials. He has also participated in malaria and HIV clinical research. He has also participated as Safety Review Board member in HIV vaccine trials.



Simon Bolo,
DNDi, Africa

Simon is the Regional Operations Manager for the DNDi Africa Regional Office in charge finance, administration and operation functions of the Nairobi office. He also takes the lead in the development, implementation and evaluation of the Nairobi office strategy and annual action plan.

Simon has over 15 years' experience progressively gained in the private and non-profit sector, nine of which within the clinical trials sector. He has immense experience in Budget proposal development; Financial Management, Training in accounting and finance; Strategy formulation and implementation; Operations Management, Partnership Management; Human Resource Management and general administration.

Simon has been able to develop and implement a standard for financial reporting (Good Financial Practice – GFP) for DNDi implementing partners across the region as well as develop simple financial tools for non-finance professionals to assist in financial reporting.

He holds an MBA from Strathmore Business School (SBS) and a Bachelor's degree (BSc) in International Business Administration from the United States International University in Nairobi and is a qualified Accountant of Kenya – CPA.

Dr Langat is a Senior Research Officer Department of Research Development, Ministry of Finance & Planning, Kenya. In the Health Sciences Division he deals with health research issues and policy including ethics and is currently involved in the process of developing review guidelines for research involving human subjects. For his practicum project, Dr. Langat researched the practices of IRBs in Kenya with respect to access for research purposes to stored biological material, a topic of great relevance and interest both in Kenya, where a great deal of research takes place, and throughout the continent.



Dr Simon Langat,
National Commission for Science, Technology and
Innovation, *Kenya*

Prof. Yalemtehay Mekonnen joined the Addis Ababa University (AAU) in 1971 and obtained a BSc. degree in Biology in 1978. She started her career as a graduate assistant in the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science. Thereafter, she joined the first graduate programme launched in the Department obtaining an M.Sc degree in Biology in 1980. At this time she was not only part of the first batch of graduates but also the first woman in AAU. In 1988, she pursued a PhD degree at the University of Heidelberg in Germany, in the area of Human Physiology. In May 1992 she returned to AAU serving the Department of Biology at the rank of Assistant Professor. Thereafter, from 1993 to 1995 she served as the Head of the Department of Biology. By 1999, Prof Mekonnen had been promoted to the rank of Associate; I from Feb. 2003 to Oct. 2007. After she took up the role as the Director of the Akilu Lemma Institute of Pathobiology. Finally, in 2009, she was promoted to the role of full Professor.

Over the years Prof Mekonnen has received a number of awards in her field, She has also contributed to and initiated a number of national and international research networks and collaborations; serving as Vice President and President of the Biological Society of Ethiopia. In addition, she has presented numerous presentations at national, regional and international scientific and professional meetings and conferences.

Prof Mekonnen has a keen interest to encourage female students. One such activity is exemplified in my role in taking part in project development for soliciting funds for the establishment of a resource centre with computer facilities for female students of the Faculty of Science that was launched at the beginning of 2005. Currently, Prof. Mekonnen is teaching, carrying out research and is also the Head of the Gender Office of the Faculty of Science in Addis Ababa University



Prof. Yalemtehay Mekonnen,
Amhara Regional State, Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia
Addis Ababa University, *Ethiopia*