



# 1<sup>st</sup> PAMWG CONFERENCE



30<sup>TH</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2023

THEME:

Addressing Neglected  
Fungal Killer Diseases  
in Africa



SAFARI PARK HOTEL, NAIROBI - KENYA



## **BACKGROUND**

Recently, under the auspices of ISHAM, the African sub-region created a network of mycology experts called the Pan-African Mycology Working Group (PAMWG) whose goal is to organize and engage African leaders in the field of medical mycology. The aim of the PAMWG is to facilitate interaction, collaboration and synergy among regional leaders to develop educational programs for capacity building to aid in the diagnosis and care of patients with fungal infections in Africa; facilitate fungal diseases surveillance; conduct of implementation and translational research; encourage country initiatives to develop evidence-based clinical guidelines, and to support the establishment of regional reference mycology laboratories, which are particularly important to detect disease outbreaks.

To this end the PAMWG has organised the first Scientific Meeting that will be held at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya from 30th to 31st May 2023. This meeting will provide a platform for creative networks and collaborations in the field of Medical Mycology that will aid in addressing knowledge gaps, capacity building and catalysing access to fungal diagnostics and therapeutics in Africa.

### **Objectives of the meeting:**

1. To raise awareness about invasive fungal infections and start the discussion on a continental response to the recently published WHO Fungal Priority Pathogen List (FPPL) which focuses on three basic issues:
  - strengthening laboratory capacity and surveillance
  - sustainable investments in research, development, and innovation
  - public health interventions
2. To facilitate interaction and synergy among global and regional leaders to develop educational programs for capacity building to aid in the diagnosis and care of patients with fungal infections in Africa.
3. To raise awareness on the knowledge gaps on the trends of fungal infections in Africa.
4. To facilitate access to antifungal agents and diagnostics for the different countries.
5. To address the challenges regarding diagnosis and management of fungal infections through the technical sessions, proffer solutions, set up collaborations and develop a consensus document on the meeting resolutions (The Nairobi Declaration)

---

### **CONFERENCE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

1. Dr. Rita Oladele
2. Dr. Marybeth Maritim
3. Dr. Borna Nyaoke
4. Olga Mashedi
5. Carolyne Wandera
6. Bright Ocansey

# WELCOME REMARKS

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee of the 1st Pan-African Mycology Working Group Conference, we are delighted to welcome you to Nairobi, the Green City in the Sun.

This inaugural two-day conference serves as a pivotal moment in advancing medical mycology in our continent. It provides a unique platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and innovation. Under the theme “Addressing Neglected Fungal Killer Diseases in Africa”, the conference seeks to address the challenges posed by fungal infections to public health.

This conference brings together distinguished global and regional mycology leaders and experts, scientists, researchers, academics and delegates that will share their wealth of experience through original research work, expert talks in five themed sessions and insights in four technical panel sessions. Notably, a consensus document aptly called the Nairobi Declaration, will be developed and endorsed from the meeting resolutions.

This conference will offer you an opportunity to network with delegates from all over Africa and beyond as you enjoy the pleasant Nairobi weather and oasis of tranquillity at Safari Park Hotel. We invite all of you to the gala dinner, a celebration of our Kenyan hospitality.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the speakers, presenters and panellists for sharing their works and insights, the sponsors for their invaluable support and the organizing committee for a splendid meeting. To all delegates, your presence here reflects your commitment to advancing medical mycology in Africa.

Enjoy the conference, the cultural experiences, and the connections you will forge. Together, we can shape the future of medical mycology and contribute to a healthier Africa.

**Ms. Olga M. Mashedi and Dr. Marybeth C. Maritim**  
Chairs, Local Organizing Committee

---

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Tom Chiller MD MPHTM**

**Chief, Mycotic Diseases Branch; Associate Director for Global Health, Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, USA**

At the CDC, Tom Chiller provides leadership for fungal disease activities, which include detection, prevention and response activities, policy and advocacy, both nationally and internationally. He also serves as the associate director for global programs in the Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases. He remains actively involved in antimicrobial resistance, health care associated infections, molecular epidemiology and laboratory activities for fungal diseases.

Dr. Chiller is board certified in infectious diseases and is a faculty member in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Emory school of Medicine. During the past decade with the Mycotic Diseases Branch, Dr. Chiller has led efforts to end deaths from opportunistic fungal infections in HIV, control the spread of MDR *Candida auris* and azole resistant *Aspergillus*, and identify emerging mold infections.

# PLENARY SPEAKER



## **Prof. Oliver A. Cornely MD**

FACP, FIDSA, FAAM, FECMM

**Oliver Cornely is Director & Chair of Translational Research at the CECAD Institute of the University of Cologne, and Scientific Director of the Center for Clinical Trials. Clinically, he serves as Infectious Diseases Consultant at the University Hospital of Cologne, Germany.**

He is board certified in internal medicine, infectious diseases, haematology, oncology, and emergency medicine, and holds degrees in medical mycology and travel medicine.

Originating from an HIV/AIDS clinical research group, Dr Cornely's research interest centres on infections in immunocompromised hosts, including invasive fungal diseases, antimicrobial resistance, Clostridium difficile infection, and vaccine preventable infections.

Oliver Cornely is immediate-past President of the European Confederation of Medical Mycology (ECMM), the roof organization of 28 national mycology societies, and did set up the ECMM Global Guideline Program, ECMM Academy (Fellows program), and ECMM Excellence Center Initiative, designating clinical and microbiological excellence centres after an international audit procedure. He is founder and chair of the Infectious Diseases Scientific Working Group of the European Hematology Association (EHA).

Oliver Cornely is a member of the Council of the International Society for Human and Animal Mycology (ISHAM) and serves as Chair of the Infectious Diseases Working Party (AGIHO), a working group of the German Society for Haematology and Oncology (DGHO). He was recently elected as site spokesman for Bonn/Cologne for the German Center for Infection Research (DZIF).

Oliver Cornely coordinates guidelines on invasive fungal infections and currently collaborates with mycologists from in 87 countries on tailoring management guidelines to health care settings throughout the world. He intends to intensify global networking, which he regards as paramount to improve management and care of these mostly rare diseases. In September 2022, he was awarded the Johann-Lucas-Schönlein Medal by the German-speaking Mycological Society (Deutschsprachige Mykologische Gesellschaft e.V.).

In January 2021, he founded the VACCELERATE platform, which currently includes 23 countries and 29 partner institutions for the European Commission to accelerate vaccine development against COVID-19 and future pandemic pathogens.

He published over 600 peer-reviewed articles, books, book chapters, and electronic media; runs the YouTube® channel ID in Motion™, and ranks among the Top 1% most cited researchers. He is a reviewer for numerous medical scientific journals, editorial board member for Haematologica and Infectious Disease, and Editor-in-Chief of Mycoses.



# 1st Scientific Meeting of the Pan-African Mycology Working Group

## Theme: Addressing Neglected Fungal Killer Diseases in Africa

30th - 31st May 2023

Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

### Agenda

DAY 1 - 30TH MAY 2023		
Time	Programme	Speaker
Introductions and Opening Remarks		<b>Session Chairs:</b> Ahmed Fahal, Marybeth Maritim
8.30 - 8.37 am	Opening remarks	Rita Oladele (Nigeria)
8.37 - 8.45 am	Opening remarks	Oliver Cornely (ISHAM )
8.45 - 9.00 am	Keynote address	Tom Chiller (USA)
<b>Session 1: Mycoses in Africa</b>		<b>Session Chairs:</b> Alice Kanyua, Christine Bii
9.00 - 9.15 am	Fungal diseases in Africa; Closing the gaps in research, treatment and diagnosis	Felix Bongomin (Uganda)
9.15 - 9.30 am	Global invasive fungal infection capacity	Jon Salmanton Garcia (ECMM)
9.30 - 9.45 am	<i>Candida auris</i> in Africa; tracing outbreaks and management update; implementation challenges in Africa	Nelesh Govender. (South Africa)
9.45 - 9.55 am	Tracking <i>Candida auris</i> outbreak: A Kenyan experience	Loice Ombajo (Kenya)
9.55 - 10.10 am	Mucormycosis in Africa: Recognising the disease, treatment options and gaps	Iriagbonse Osaigbovo (Nigeria)
10.10 - 10.25 am	Diversity of indoor fungi and associated disorders in Nairobi and Busia counties in Kenya	Olga Mashedi (Kenya)

10.25 - 10.40 am	<b>Q &amp; A</b>	
10.40 - 11.10 am	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	
11.10 - 11.30 am	Fungal disease surveillance: Is it possible in Africa	Rita Oladele (Nigeria), Sabella Jallow (South Africa)
<b>Technical session 1: Setting up and financing a national/ regional surveillance network for mycoses</b>		<b>Panel Moderator: David Meya</b>
11.30 - 12.45 pm	Objectives, Which diseases (e.g. AIDS mycoses, other) or issues (e.g. antifungal resistance) to focus on as a starting point, Case definitions, Data systems, Resources, Support from surveillance networks elsewhere, etc	<b>Panellists: Alex Jordan (CDC), Jean-Pierre Gangneux (ECMM), Danila Seidel (ISHAM), Hatim Sati (WHO), Ahmed Fahal (Mycetoma Research Centre), Skhumbuzo Ngozwana (GAFFI)</b>
12.45 - 1.45 pm	<b>LUNCH</b>	
<b>Session 2: Aspergillosis</b>		<b>Session Chair: Jean-Pierre Gangneux</b>
1.45 - 2.00 pm	Invasive aspergillosis in Africa: A myth?	Isidore W. Yerbanga (Ivory coast)
2.00 - 2.15 pm	Which <i>Aspergillus</i> serologies (IgG, IgE, antigen), which method and which patients?	Bright Ocansey (Ghana)
2.15 - 2.30 pm	Implementation challenges of running a CPA study in Tanzania	Martha Mushi (Tanzania)
2.30 - 2.45 pm	Dilemma of diagnosing CPA in a TB endemic area: the Ugandan experience	Richard Kwizera (Uganda)
2.45 - 3.00 pm	TB and CPA: Two sides of one coin?; The Nigerian experience	Adeyinka Davies (Nigeria)
3.00 - 3.15 pm	The challenges of managing rhinocerebral fungal infections	Okezie Kanu (Nigeria)

3.15 - 3.45 pm	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
3.45 - 4.15 pm	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
<b>Technical session 2: Setting up and sustaining African-led and South-South research collaborations</b>		<b>Panel Moderator: Nelesh Govender</b>
4.15 - 5.30 pm	<p>David Meya – An African mycology trials network</p> <p>Angela Loyse – Sustaining an implementation science network beyond DREAMM</p> <p>Nelesh Govender – A global health research group for HIV fungal infections (IMPRINT)</p> <p>Alex Jordan – Future CDC research cooperative agreements</p> <p>Panel discussion</p> <p>a. “Beyond crypto” - How to build and sustain networks for future research proposals</p> <p>b. How to find funds for African-led research</p>	<b>Panellists: David Meya, Angela Loyce, Alex Jordan</b>
6.30 - 9.30pm	<b>GALA DINNER</b>	<b>Master of Ceremony: David Meya</b>
<b>DAY 2 - 31ST MAY 2023</b>		
<b>Session 3: Gilead AHD Symposium</b>		<b>Session Chairs: Alex Jordan, Marybeth Maritim</b>
8.30 - 8.45 am	Histoplasmosis and advanced HIV disease in Africa	Bassey Ekeng (Nigeria)
8.45 - 9.00 am	Cryptococcosis in Africa	Angela Loyse (UK)
9.00 - 9.15 am	Antifungals: Access and barriers	Mohammed Elkholy (Egypt)
9.15 - 9.40 am	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
<b>Session 4: Laboratory and POC tests</b>		<b>Session Chairs: Aude Sturny-Leclere, Bright Ocansey</b>



9.40 - 9.55 am	Processing samples in the lab; skin and biopsies, sputum and BAL Processing CSF: India ink or not, fungal culture or not, CrAg quantification or not, TB geneXpert or not (? ultra)	Rebecca Peters (Nigeria)
9.55 - 10.10 am	AFST - which bugs and which methodology?	Ruth Mpembe (SA)
10.10 - 10.25 am	Diagnosing histoplasmosis with confidence and TB co-infection	Christine Mandengue (Cameroon)
10.25 - 10.40 am	Where should point of care (POC) tests be done, by whom and how do the results get recorded?	Iriagbonse Osaigbovo (Nigeria)
10.40 - 11.00 am	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
11.00 - 11.30 am	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	
<b>Technical session 3: Expanding Laboratory/ POC diagnostic capacity across the continent</b>		<b>Panel Moderator: Olga Mashedi</b>
11.30 - 12.45 pm	Focus on 1-3 simple diagnostics (perhaps fungal microscopy, CrAg, Histoplasma Ag) Online consultations – how practical? The place of telemedicine in hard to reach areas	<b>Panellists: Iriagbonse Osaigbovo (MMSN), Ruth Mpembe (NICD), Aude Sturny-Leclere (Pasteur), Alex Jordan (CDC), Bright Ocansey, Doudou Sow</b>
12.45 - 1.45 pm	<b>LUNCH</b>	
<b>Session 5: Capacity Building and Infrastructure</b>		<b>Session Chairs: Doudou Sow, Angela Loyse</b>
1.45 - 2.00 pm	Capacity building; The knowledge gaps, experience from Nigeria	NIFUSCAB
2.00 - 2.15 pm	Diagnosing invasive fungal infections in Africa; diagnostic lab hubs vs reference labs	David Denning (UK)
2.15 - 2.30 pm	Running a mycology laboratory service	Maha Soussi (Morocco)
2.30 - 2.45 pm	Research & development in neglected tropical diseases - The unique case of mycetoma	Borna Nyaoke (Kenya)
2.45 - 3.00 pm	Fungal diseases registry	Oliver Cornely/ Danila Seidel (ISHAM)

3.00 - 3.15 pm	Challenges with diagnosis and treatment of mycetoma; setting up a registry. What is the lab solution for identifying the pathogens causing mycetoma? Training? Molecular ID? Setting up a molecular ID service would be interesting	Ahmed Fahal (Sudan)
3.15 - 3.35 pm	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
3.35 - 4.00 pm	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
<b>Technical session 4: Planning a new mycology reference laboratory service and network in Africa</b>		<b>Panel Moderator: Oliver Cornely</b>
4.00 - 5.15 pm	Staff training/ competencies, Infrastructure, Essential services, Progress to accreditation, Support from reference labs on the continent and WHO Coordinating Centres	<b>Panellists: David Denning (Manchester), Hatim Sati (WHO), Nelesh Govender (NICD/WHO Collaborating Centre), Ahmed Fahal (Mycetoma Research Centre), Danila Seidel (ISHAM), Skhumbuzo Ngozwana (GAFFI)</b>
<b>Closing Remarks</b>		<b>Session Chairs: Alex Jordan, Skhumbuzo Ngozwana</b>
5.15 - 5.45 pm	Meeting resolutions and next steps: The Nairobi declaration	Marybeth Maritim (Kenya)
5.45 - 6.00 pm	Closing remarks	Olga Mashedi (Kenya)

# CREATING POSSIBLE

We are committed  
to a better,  
healthier world  
for everyone







**ISHAM**   
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR  
HUMAN AND ANIMAL MYCOLOGY

