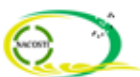


Kenya Science Journalists Congress 2013



Venue:
Kenya Medical Research Institute,
Mbagathi, Nairobi
September 25-27, 2013



Kenya Science Journalists Congress 2013

Time		Wednesday, September 25, 2013	
8.30am to 10.30am	DAY ONE Wednesday, September 25, 2013 Opening Plenary Session 1 Venue: Training Centre Lecture Room 1		
	Opening Remarks MESHA, Internews, KEMRI, NACOSTI		
	Keynote address: Dr. Catherine Kyobutungi, Director of Policy Engagement, APHRC		
	Official opening by Dr Shahnaz Sharrif, Director, Public Health		
	Panel discussion: <i>Positioning science journalism in promoting devolution</i> <i>Mr Wycliffe Muga, The Star; Paddy Onyango, National Devolution Working Group; Martin Mutua, The Standard Group</i>		
10.30am to 11.00am		HEALTH BREAK	
11.00am to 12.45pm	Breakaway Session 1 Venue: Conference Hall Public Health <i>Left by the hospital gate</i> - Noreen Hungu - KCBHFA <i>Mothering our way to an HIV-free generation: The Mentor Mother model</i> - Dr Maxwel Omondi, Senior Advisor m2m <i>Real Life Experience of a mentor mother</i> - Jane Peris Njoki Chair: Violet Otindo Rapporteur: Phillip Muasya	Breakaway Session 2 Venue: Training Centre, Lecture Room 3 Agriculture <i>Leading the pack: The case of seed production in Kenya</i> - Dr Evans Sikinyi, CEO, STAK <i>The landscape of the seed industry in Africa</i> - Ms Grace Gitu, Technical Officer, AFSTA Chair: Geoffrey Kamadi Rapporteur: Diana Wanyonyi	Breakaway Session 3 Venue: Training Centre, Lecture Room 1 Environment <i>The Kenya Coastal Development Project: Opportunities for the Coastal Counties</i> - Dr Jackline Uku <i>Building the capacity of journalists to cover marine ecosystem issues</i> - Joseph Ngome, Chairman HEMNET Chair: John Riaga Rapporteur: Agatha Ngotho
	12.45pm to 2.00pm		
	OFAB LUNCHEON Genetic Engineering of maize for drought tolerance in Eastern and Central Africa Dr Steve Runo, Kenyatta University Venue: Training Centre, Lecture Room 1		

Kenya Science Journalists Congress 2013

<p>2.00pm to 3.00pm</p>	<p>Breakaway Session 4 Venue: Conference Hall</p> <p>Health Commodity Management</p> <p>A panel discussion on access to medication MSH</p> <p>Chair: Yvonne Otieno</p>	<p>Breakaway Session 5 Venue: Training Centre, Lecture Room 1</p> <p>Livestock Health <i>Developing vaccines for animals; the case of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia vaccine in Africa</i> - Dr. Hezron Wesonga, KARI</p> <p><i>Using the maggot therapy to treat chronic diseases</i> - Dr. Phoebe Mukiria TRC, KARI</p> <p>Bio-banking - Dr. George Gichuki, ILRI</p> <p>Chair: Virginia Wangari Rapporteur: Reuben Turgo</p>	<p>Breakaway Session 6 Venue: Upper Canteen</p> <p>Research ethics of clinical trials in Kenya - Ms. Caroline Kithinji, Deputy Head, Grantsmanship, KEMRI</p> <p>Impact of Deworming on the health and academic performance of school age children - Dr. Charles Mwandawiro, Chief Research Officer and Assistant Director Partnership and Collaboration, KEMRI</p> <p>Chair: George Kebaso Rapporteur: Amina Kibirige</p>
--------------------------------	--	--	---

<p>3.00pm to 5.00pm</p>	<p>Plenary Session Two</p>
<p>Venue: Training Centre, Lecture Room 1</p>	
<p>Food Security in Kenya - Simon Muhindi - FAO</p>	
<p>The nexus: Water, food security and energy – Eng Ndirangu Wangai</p>	
<p>Chair: Sandra Chao</p>	
<p>Rapporteur: George Achia</p>	

<p>5.00pm to 5.30pm</p>	<p>HEALTH BREAK</p>
--------------------------------	----------------------------

<p>5.30pm – 8.00pm</p>	<p>MESHA AGM and DINNER Kimani/ Violet/ Aghan</p>
-------------------------------	--

<p>8.00pm – 11.00pm</p>	<p>Production of Day One bulletin led by Geoffrey Kamadi</p>
--------------------------------	---

DAY TWO
Thursday, September 26, 2013

7.30am to 8.30am	KARI Breakfast Venue: Training Centre, Lecture Room 1		
8.30am to 10.15am	PLENARY SESSION THREE Venue: Training Centre, Lecture Room 1		
10.15am – 10.45am	<i>Financing Science Communication</i> Jacky Olang, <i>Programme Director, Network of Science Academies (NASAC)</i> Robert Kimutai, <i>Clinical Trial Manager, DNDi Africa</i> Simon Bolo, <i>Finance and Administration Manager, DNDi Africa</i> Ruthpearl Ng'ang'a, <i>Communication Manager, African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC)</i>		
	<i>Science reporting: The experience of the Media Council of Kenya</i> Abraham Kisang, <i>Media Council of Kenya</i>		
	Chair: Aghan Daniel Rapporteur: Sheila Wangui		
10.15am – 10.45am		HEALTH BREAK	
10.45am – 12.00pm	PLENARY SESSION FOUR INTRAHEALTH TALK: Equipping the health worker for quality service delivery Meshack Ndolo Rapporteur: Wycliffe Omanyia		
12.00pm – 1.15pm	Breakaway Session 7 Venue: Conference Hall Data Clinic <i>Internews in Kenya</i> Chair: John Muchangi Rapporteur: Maryanne Waweru	Breakaway Session 8 Venue: Training Centre, Lecture Room 3 Biotechnology <i>Bridging the Research-Private Sector Divide for Efficient technology Commercialization</i> Gospel Omanyia, <i>African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)</i> <i>Effects of the GMO Food imports on training and research</i> Dr Douglas Miano, <i>Kenya National Academy of Sciences</i> Chair: Sam Otieno Rapporteur: Sheila Wangui	Breakaway Session 9 Venue: Training Centre, Lecture Room 1 Climate Change <i>Climate hazards and climate change projections in the Kenyan highlands</i> Dr David Gikunga, <i>Assistant Director of Meteorological Services</i> <i>Climate-smart technologies for agriculture-water management for food security</i> Dr. Evans Kituyi, <i>IDRC</i> Chair: Allan Obiero Rapporteur: John Shilita

Kenya Science Journalists Congress 2013

1.15pm to 2.00pm		LUNCH BREAK	
2.00pm – 3.30pm	<p>Breakaway Session 10 (a continuation of breakaway session 7)</p> <p>DATA Clinic</p>	<p>Breakaway Session 11 TV/ Radio Journalists' Workshop Venue: Training Centre Lecture Room 1</p> <p><i>Citizen Journalism and day two journalism</i> – John Mwendwa, K24</p> <p><i>Are Agriculture Stories all about farming?</i> - Pamela Mburia</p> <p><i>Making TV/Radio Stories interesting: Other tools available (multi-media)</i> Dolphin Emali and Benjamin Kiplagat</p> <p>Chair: Ingolo wa Keya Rapporteur: Jeremiah Orondo</p>	<p>Breakaway Session 12 Venue: Training Centre Lecture Room 3</p> <p><i>Do journalists over rely on media releases?</i> <i>Writing media releases that sell</i> - Otula Owuor</p> <p><i>Beyond the media release</i> - John Muchangi, The Star</p> <p>Chair: Peter Orengo Rapporteur: Martha Wairimu</p>
	<p>PLENARY SESSION FIVE Venue: Training Centre, Lecture Room 1</p> <p>Presentation: Science Communication and Public Policy Development George Kalerwa, National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI)</p> <p>Communication professionals: Lowering or raising the authenticity of content?</p> <p>Panel Discussion: Macharia Gaiho, Chairman Editors Guild; Davies Mkoji, Communication Officer, KEMRI</p> <p>Chair: Cosmas Butunyi Rapporteur: Grace Wekesa</p>		
5.00pm – 5.30pm		<p>CLOSING SESSION Venue: Training Centre, Lecture Room 1</p>	
5.30pm – 10.00pm		Production of the Daily Bulletin led by Geoffrey Kamadi	

DAY THREE
Internews Health Day
Friday, September 27, 2013

08:30 – 10:00	Venue: Training Centre, Lecture Room 1
	<i>Long form vs Short form storytelling: Are journalists missing opportunities?</i> Boni Odinga, Marie Yambo, William Inganga
10:00 - 10:30	HEALTH BREAK
11:00 – 12:00	<i>Digitech Journalist: Free digital tools that will make your work easier</i> James Ratemo
12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH BREAK
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Grand graduation ceremony</i> Ann Mikia, Patrick Rukwaro
18.00 - 21.00	Internews Storyfest 2013 awards Venue: Training Centre, Lecture Room 1
	<i>18.00 Arrival & registration</i> <i>18.30 Dinner is served</i> <i>19.30 MC call house to order</i> <i>19.33 Sandra Ndonye - Welcome note</i> <i>19.40 Sarah Kimani – Judges report</i> <i>19.47 Winners announcement</i> <i>20.50 Guest of honour- Key note speech</i> <i>21.00 Dolphine Emali - Vote of thanks</i>
	<i>End of Storyfest awards 2013</i>



SPEAKERS PROFILES



Wycliffe Muga

Wycliffe Muga is the Weekend Editor, as well as a columnist for The Star (Kenyan newspaper). He also contributes a regular "Letter from Africa" to the BBC World Service (Business Daily) and is a former columnist of the monthly magazines, Nairobi-based Diplomat East Africa, and the London-based African Business.

In the 2011 Diageo Africa Business Reporting Awards, he won the prize for 'Best Tourism Feature', and has also been a finalist for this award several times both in print for magazine articles and for his work with the BBC World Service.

In addition, he is a previous winner (2004/5) of the Peter Jenkins Awards for East African Conservation Journalism, and was also listed by the Financial Times in its 'world's most influential media commentators' feature (2006) as Kenya's most influential newspaper columnist.

Muga is a Fellow of the Knight Science Journalism Fellowship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); a Media Fellow of the Property and Environment Research Centre (PERC) in Bozeman, Montana; a Fellow of the International League of Conservation Writers (ILCW) and also a Contributing Editor (Science & Technology) at Aviation East Africa magazine.

He serves on the International Advisory Boards of the Boston-based non-profit, Global Medical Knowledge, and the Tanzania-based, SerengetiWatch.

In 2012, he was awarded an AIDS Vaccine Journalist Fellowship by the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI).

Abraham Kisang

Abraham Kisang is a Media Analyst with over 4 years work experience in monitoring and analysing media content while reporting the findings. While at Media Council of Kenya, he has contributed immensely to the growth of media monitoring department particularly in publishing reports on various topics in media environment. Prior to the current duties, Kisang worked as an assistant communication officer at Kerio Development Assistance and assisted in the production of communication resources for organization's web and social media outlets. He earned his BA Sociology and Communication from the University of Nairobi and currently a student of MA Peace and conflict Management at Kenyatta University.



Ms Noreen Hungu

Ms Noreen Hungu has worked with KCBHFA since January 2010. She has supported and seen improvement in lobby and advocacy work in the CBHF arena. This has been especially through the establishment of a lobby group that saw to the recognition of CBHF schemes in the current final Kenya Health Policy Framework II, as well as the Kenya Health Sector Strategic & Investment Plan 2012 – 2017. She has very good theoretical and practical experience in project management and development, organizational renewal and strategic learning and planning, website development, organizational development, and gender development and management. Ms. Hungu has been involved in the development of strategic plans that have been implemented successfully in two organizations.

She has worked with various health organizations in Germany, where she obtained her Masters Degree in Public Health at the University of Applied Sciences, Hamburg.

Kituyi, Evans

Evans Kituyi oversees research that supports African countries in their efforts to help their most vulnerable people cope with climate change and its impacts. His expertise is in the field of climate change and energy policies in East Africa as well as in the entire continent. Before joining IDRC, he taught environmental chemistry at the University of Nairobi. He has considerable experience in project management in the fields of energy, environment, and development.



SPEAKERS PROFILES

As an expert on climate change, he has worked on both emissions reduction and adaptation projects. Prior to joining IDRC, he served on various national, regional and international advisory boards on environment and energy policy. He has also participated in several sessions of international negotiations on climate change. Kituyi holds a PhD in Atmospheric Chemistry from the University of Nairobi in collaboration with the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry (Germany).

John Mwendwa

John Mwendwa, a five time award winning journalist is currently the Editorial Director at K24 Television, part of the Mediamax Group. He previously worked at KTN where he started his career in Television as a Reporter before rising through the ranks to the position of News and Output Editor before moving to K24, initially as Head of News.



John's expertise includes script writing, editing and producing news stories, shows, documentaries and programs that reflect and impact on community life in all its spheres. He has taken an active role in developing and supporting news segments and reporting on health, environmental and scientific issues.

John holds a degree in Communication from Daystar University in Nairobi and is a Catherine W. Fanning Research Fellow in Journalism and Democracy. He has undertaken numerous courses in Media and management including an Editorial Management Fellowship at CNN Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

He has received the CNN Africa Journalist of the Year in Television News, won first prize for the prestigious Peter Jenkins East Africa Award for Conservation and Environment for Eastern Africa, and the UNESCO Red Ribbon Award on HIV/AIDS for East, Central and Southern Africa. He has also scooped the Kenya Media Trust Journalist of the Year for TV Magazine reporting and won a honorary Marekebicho Award under Kenya's GJLOS programme.



Patrick Onyango - Paddy

A political Science graduate from the University of Nairobi and Law from the University of London, Paddy is currently a Convener of the National Devolution Working Group (Professional Technical Think Tank), gender and disability. He is a former member of the Task Force on Devolved Government (TFDG) appointed to advise the Government of Kenya on how to operationalize Devolution as prescribed by the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

He has 10 years' experience in Civil Society on Democracy, Governance and Human Rights and a wide experience in Kenya constitutional reforms and development and devolved governance systems. He is a former Chief Executive Officer of Citizens Coalition for Constitutional Culture (4Cs). He is the Deputy Director/Senior Programme Officer, Education Centre for Women in Democracy (ECWD) and a Non-Executive member of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWDs).

He was part of international expert team monitoring and advising on the constitutional negotiations at Kempton Park, South Africa (1992-1994). He is a Nyayo House Torture Chamber Survivor and former Prisoner of Conscience, i.e. a political detainee, having been detained without trial for agitating for reforms in Kenya (1985 -1989).

Simon Muhindi

Mr Simon Muhindi is the National Food Security and Information Systems Officer at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) office in Nairobi, Kenya. He holds a M.Sc. in Disaster Management in Sustainable Development from Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) Kenya and a B.Sc. in Agriculture (Crop production) from the University of Nairobi, Kenya.



Mr. Muhindi has a vast experience in the field of agriculture, having worked for the Government of Kenya in the Ministry of Agriculture as a project manager in soil fertility implementation for 21 years. He has seasoned skills in food security assessment methodologies; Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis; marketing information systems and data analysis; development of food security capacity building programmes; and, gender issues in the food security sector.

SPEAKERS PROFILES

He is affiliated to various professional bodies and currently chairs the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG). He is a policy analyst and the convener of a research and extension task force and commands excellent public speaking skills

Jane Peris Nyoki

Based on her personal journey, Jane Peris Njoki is passionate about empowering those affected by HIV to live fulfilling lives. She currently works with mothers2mothers Kenya and serves in the position of Mentor Mother Team Leader at Mathare North Health Centre. With its global headquarters in Cape Town, South Africa, m2m provides peer-based psychosocial support to HIV-positive pregnant women and new mothers to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. m2m currently operates in 30 health facilities throughout Kenya. Jane's role is to coordinate and oversee the provision of m2m services at the facility level and manage a group of Mentor Mothers. Mentor Mothers are HIV-positive mothers hired from local communities to provide mentorship and support to their peers.



Dr. Maxwell Omondi



Dr. Omondi is a medical doctor with over eight years covering public health, reproductive health and HIV in both development and humanitarian settings. Dr. Omondi has gained valuable experience working in Kenya, East Africa, the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. He joined mothers2mothers in May 2013 in the capacity of Senior Advisor where part of his role includes supporting the Ministry of Health in institutionalizing the Kenya Mentor Mother Program, a component of elimination of mother-to-child transmission (eMTCT) of HIV.

David Gikungu

David Gikungu is an Assistant Director of Meteorological Services at the Kenya Meteorological Service (KMS), where he coordinates the Division of Biometeorology and Air Quality Forecasting Services.

Mr. Gikungu holds a Master of Arts degree in Communication Studies, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology, both from the University of Nairobi. He is presently pursuing a doctorate degree at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology.



Mr. Gikungu is also the focal person for Climate and Health for the Kenya Meteorological Service. Mr. Gikungu is the current Vice Chairman of KMS. His tasks within KMS include coordination of events such as conferences, workshops and the Save the Earth Expo. The Weather and Climate Bulletin which he serves as Editor fills Mr. Gikungu's cap at KMS. Married to Dr. Mary Gikungu, Mr. Gikungu is the proud father of Samuel, Mark and Ruth.

Ms. Jackie Olang



Ms. Olang is the Programmes Director for the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) secretariat based in Nairobi, Kenya. She is responsible for ensuring that NASAC activities are implemented in a coordinated manner, and that secretariat functions are executed optimally.

Ms. Olang is a Masters of Arts degree graduate at the University of Nairobi in Project Planning and Management. Additionally, she holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education (B.Ed.) for Mathematics and Commerce, also from the University of Nairobi. In the course of her duties, she has also learnt basic French as second foreign language, and this has enhanced professional relations with francophone counterparts.

Her specialization is project management for policy advice in science and for scientific institutions. She has delivered numerous talks on the relevance of networking for scientists so as to overcome challenges in Africa at many regional and international fora. She currently provides input to a number of projects funded by a wide range of development partners such as the European Commission, the Royal Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the German Ministry of Education and Research, IAP-the regional network of academies, just to name a few.

SPEAKERS PROFILES

Godfrey Kalerwa

Mr. Godfrey Pessah Kalerwa holds a Master of Science degree in Natural Products Chemistry from the University of Botswana and a B.Sc. (Honours) degree in Chemistry and Mathematics from Kenyatta University. He also has an MBA (strategic management) from Moi University and has attended several trainings in Science, Technology and Innovation management including those offered by the WIPO Academy.



He has more than 20 years working experience on matters of Science, Technology, Research and Innovation spanning from being a research officer in a public research institute to serving in various positions within the central government. He is the current Principal Science Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology based at the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). NACOSTI has the responsibility to regulate, coordinate, and promote science, technology and innovation in the country. He serves on the Board of Directors of Kenya Industrial Property Institute. His passion is on integrating inventive and innovation activities into national development.

Dr. Jacqueline Uku



Dr. Uku's background is in the ecology and physiology of marine flora with a special interest in seagrasses or the savannas of the sea. She works at the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) as a Senior Research Scientist. Since 2011, she has served as the Project Coordinator for the World Bank funded Kenya Coastal Development Project (KCDP). This project involves seven agencies and is multi-disciplinary in nature. The KCDP focuses on the development of the fisheries sector, natural resource management and support for alternative livelihoods.

Since 2006, she also has served as the Kenya Country Coordinator for the Kenya Chapter of the Western Indian Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and worked to strengthen linkages between different institutions involved in marine research in Kenya. The KCDP has provided her with an opportunity to enhance these partnerships and to nurture collaborations between different agencies to deliver services to coastal communities

Within KMFRI, she has served in key management positions such as the KMFRI Pension Fund and contributed to the establishment of the KMFRI Performance Contract Secretariat. Nationally, she has contributed to the development of the National Environmental Policy as a member of the National Steering Committee. She also serves as a member of the Editorial Board of the WIOMSA Journal of Marine Science. She is a mentor under the African Women Agricultural Research and Development Programme (AWARD).

Over the years her work has broadened from focusing on the biology and ecology of the marine ecosystem to working to change how communities view their resources, recognizing their custodianship of these resources and the livelihoods that revolve around these resources.

Robert Kimutai

Dr. Robert Kimutai joined Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi) as Clinical Trial Manager on 10 May 2010.

Dr. Kimutai who most recently served as a Paediatrician/Clinical Trialist and a Study Principal Investigator at the KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme has 14 years experience in clinical drug trials of Leishmaniasis, HIV and Malaria.



Dr. Kimutai has a Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery and Master of Medicine (Paediatrics) from Nairobi University. He also has Master of Public Health from the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp Belgium. Dr Robert Kimutai is a Certified Physician Investigator with the Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP).

SPEAKERS PROFILES

He joined KEMRI as an Assistant Research Officer and has worked in different research roles as Study Medical Officer, Sub-investigator and Principal Investigator in KEMRI CCR (Centre for Clinical Research), KEMRI Walter Reed Project and KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme studies.



Simon Bolo

Mr. Bolo joined the DNDi Africa Regional Office in January 2005 as the Finance & Administration Manager. His role includes developing trial site budgets and cash flow forecasts; setting up financial monitoring systems; accounting, training and follow-up of partner institution accountants; and the management of agreements with East Africa project partners.

In addition, he is responsible for the human resources and administration in the DNDi Africa Office. Prior to joining DNDi, Mr. Bolo was a programme administrator for Handicap International, involved in financial administration, project accounting, human resources, training of field accountants, and general administration. He also previously gained experience in the private sector as an accounts assistant.

Mr. Bolo holds a bachelor's degree (B.Sc.) in International Business Administration from the United States International University in Nairobi and is a qualified Accountant of Kenya (CPA).

Otula Owuor

The founding editor Science Africa, Otula Owuor is the undisputed father of Science Journalism in Kenya. He is well versed on various scientific areas and has been involved in media coverage of scientific issues for over three decades. He was a Science Writer and Editor with Nation Newspapers for a decade ending 1994. Otula was the founding editor African Medical News (1995-1999) as well as a founder member of African Biotechnology Stakeholders Forum heading its media program, hence being the editor/writer of ABSF news. He is a Member of the African Science Communication Forum (ASCF) and is the patron of MESH.



He has been involved in the training of journalists from at least 14 African nations including Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. He has published and presented various papers on science journalism in Africa where the key issues are in health, agriculture and environment.

Mr. Otula has been a trainer, media consultant and key resource person for UNEP, WHO, PANOS, UNICEF, UNAIDS, FHI, IUCN, WWF, KARI-USAID. etc.

Dr Hezron Wesonga



Dr Hezron Wesonga works at the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute on animal health (KARI) where he is a Principal Research Officer.

Born in 1955, Dr Wesonga graduated from the University of Nairobi with a BVM in 1980 and proceeded to the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), University of London attaining a MSc in Veterinary pathology in 1982. He later attended a post graduate diploma course at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden (1986) and where he holds a long standing scientific relationship.

Dr Wesonga has since 1986 worked to contribute to the development of methods to control tropical livestock diseases with an interest in diseases caused by Mycoplasma micro-organisms. These micro-organisms cause diseases in both humans and animals all over the world but those of interest in the livestock of Africa are those causing Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), a disease of cattle eradicated elsewhere and now found only in Africa and Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), a disease of goats important in the pastoral agricultural system. He has contributed to the publishing of over 40 articles in refereed scientific journals and is currently in a team working to produce and test a new vaccine produced using modern technology to eradicate CBPP in Africa and therefore from the world.

SPEAKERS PROFILES



Pamela Mburia

Pamela has many years' experience as a media and communication practitioner. She believes strongly in the power of the media, particularly radio, in reaching people with specific messages that contribute to improving livelihoods. She is a graduate in Communication and Community Development.

Pamela started her career at the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation where she honed her skills in radio programme production. Over the years, she has worked with various local and international organizations and carried out assignments in media, communication, gender and governance in Kenya, South Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti.

Until July 2012, Pamela was the Country Director for the American Institutes for Research, responsible for the coordination of the implementation of Farmer Voice Radio, an initiative that delivers systematic agricultural extension content through radio and supplementary communication channels. The three year pilot project, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, brought various actors together to pool their competencies in contributing to improving livelihoods of small scale farmers by providing them with agricultural information that is responsive to their specific needs.

In August 2012, the consortium of implementing partners, comprising universities, farmer organisations, NGOs and radio stations teamed up to carry on the activities of Farmer Voice Radio through Kilimo Media International (KiMI). Pamela plays a lead role in this non-profit organisation, which continues to maintain FVR as its flagship project.

Pamela is the Chairperson of the Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK).

Davis Mwasawa Mkoji

Davis Mkoji is an Organizational Development, International Relations and Communication Consultant, currently working at KEMRI in the Corporate Relations Department.



Davis was the winner of the Coca Cola Foundation/African American Institute (AAI) Scholarship on Transformational Leadership Program to Pursue Masters of Science in Organizational Development at USIU, Nairobi. He was awarded the prestigious Presidential Trophy Award Silver Title in 1992 by H.E. The President of the Republic of Kenya for participating in sports, community support activities and environmental management. Davis was also awarded the perpetual award for being the Best Mass communications Student in 1996 during the 5th Graduation of the Kenya Institute Mass Communication, (KIMC) Nairobi.

Davis holds degrees and diplomas in the following areas; Advanced Diploma in Journalism, (KIMC, Nairobi), Diploma in Public Relations and Personnel Administration (IABE, UK), Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Public Relations) Daystar University, Nairobi, MA in International Studies from University of Nairobi and an Executive Masters of Science in Organizational Development (OD) at the United States International University; Nairobi. His key competencies are in Public Relations and Communications, Media liaison, Advocacy, Partnerships and Collaborations, Organizational Development & Consultancy, Strategic Planning & Management, Strategic Effective Organizational Communications, Transformational Leadership, Strategic Human Resource Management, Grantmanship and Fundraising, Marketing, Policy formulation and Implementation, Managerial Accounting, and ISO 9001-2008 (QMS) Auditing.

Davis actively, consistently and effectively prepared KEMRI in participating and winning the Kenya Institute of Management, Company of the Year Award (COYA) as the Parastatal of the Year and environmental management awards for five consecutive years since 2003. He has also been instrumental in the development of scientific documentary films for KEMRI various programmes apart from being a founder of various publications namely; Aids Review HIV, Banking on Life, a wellness magazine developed for Standard Chartered Bank staff.

Davis has authored/co-authored many books and publications.

SPEAKERS PROFILES

Caroline Kithinji

Caroline Kithinji received her undergraduate degree from the University of Nairobi and her master's of science in Medical Parasitology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



Ms. Kithinji conducted trypanosomiasis research at the Kenya Trypanosomiasis Research Institute for twelve years. Through her experience as a medical researcher, Ms. Kithinji was exposed to a host of bioethics issues arising from international research collaboration. She found that many ethical review boards were compelled to approve proposals with little or no recourse as to how the study would actually be conducted. She also witnessed a lack of bioethics knowledge on the part of principal investigators and research participants. In May of 2004, Ms. Kithinji joined the Ethical Review Committee (ERC) in the Research and Development Department of the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).

In 2006, Caroline joined the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health under the Fogarty African Bioethics Training Program (FABTB) and received a certificate in ethics after completing a one year program.

Ms. Kithinji has nine years experience as a member of KEMRI/Ethics Review Committee (ERC) and secretariat. This has honed her skills in reviewing proposals and supporting the ERC in receiving proposals and communicating with investigators. She possesses exceptional training and communication skills as well as the ability to identify systemic processes that will enhance efficiency.

Catherine Kyobutungi



Catherine is the Interim Director of the Policy Engagement and Communication Division and also heads the Health Challenges and Systems Research Program.

Catherine is an Alumnus of the University of Heidelberg having completed her doctoral studies in epidemiology in the Department of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health, under the auspices of the Graduertenkolleg 793 in April 2006. She also obtained a Masters of Science degree in Community Health and Health Management in 2002 from the same department. Prior to her graduate studies, Catherine studied Medicine at Makerere University, Kampala after which she worked as a medical officer at Rushere hospital, a rural health facility in Western Uganda

for three years.

She joined APHRC as a post-doctoral fellow in May 2006. Before and during her graduate studies, she was an assistant lecturer and later a lecturer in the Department of Community Health at the Mbarara University of Science and Technology. Catherine has a passion for translating research to action. She aims to take the vast amounts of evidence generated by the APHRC and other scientists in the SSA region, into the hands of decision makers, the media and the general public for them to take action that would benefit them or the wider society. In her seven years at the Center, this has been manifest in several projects that have led directly to policy and programmatic action by decision makers at different levels. She believes Africa has the potential to solve its own problems and she tries to make her own contribution, however small. She plans to run a marathon – one day.

Ruthpearl W. Ng'ang'a

Ruthpearl is responsible for coordinating the Center's policy engagement and communication efforts towards consistently generating and delivering relevant scientific evidence for policy and action in Africa. She plays a key role in strategically engaging policy and other decision makers on the Center's Health, Education, Urbanization and Population research from the continent.



Earlier in her career, Ruthpearl worked at Wetlands International's Africa Office in Dakar, Senegal and at ACORD's Head Office in Nairobi, Kenya. She holds a Masters Degree in Development Communication and currently resides in Nairobi, Kenya.

SPEAKERS PROFILES

Ruthpearl is passionate about high-impact communication and greatly enjoys cross-team collaboration. With a spring in her step and a sassy solution to the most complicated communication situations, Ruthpearl never lets the word impossible get in the way of a great idea. She feels fortunate to be able to use her talents and skills to communicate research evidence using some 'out of the box' ideas.

In her free time, Ruthpearl enjoys reading autobiographies, writing family genealogies, volunteering at the Angels Children's Center, and exploring the outdoors. You can follow Ruthpearl on twitter @kenyanwanjiru or read from her at www.aphrc.org



Meshack Ndolo

Meshack Ndolo is a highly skilled public health specialist with expansive experience in systems strengthening, policy analysis, and strategic planning for both health sector and non-health-sector programming at various levels. He has served as advisor to government and regional organizations on HIV/AIDS and economic planning, public policy and advisory. He has been influential in supporting the thinking around human resources for health in line with the devolved system, and championed an innovative contract management programme for health workers that has employed and posted 1,000 health workers to support health care in critical areas of need in the public service. Meshack is a leader, innovator, trainer and a mentor with diverse skills set.

Steven Runo

Dr. Steven Runo's research interest focuses on use of modern tools in Molecular Biology to overcome biotic and abiotic constraints of food production as well as enhancing the understanding of modern biotechnology. Specifically, his research revolves around five interrelated areas; i) long distance RNA trafficking between parasitic plants and their hosts, ii) RNA interference (RNAi) as a resistance mechanism against parasites – *Striga* and *Cuscuta*, iii) genetic engineering strategies for enhancing drought tolerance in tropical crops, iv) *Agrobacterium rhizogenes* transformation of cereals as a functional genomics tool for plant-parasite interaction, and v) Molecular mechanisms of parasitic plants/host plants interactions.

Together with collaborators at the University of California Davis Dr. Runo was among the first groups to demonstrate long distance RNA trafficking between hosts and parasitic plants across the haustorium. The research showed translocation of mRNA transcripts from tomato and alfalfa upon infection by the parasitic plant dodder (*Cuscuta pentagona*). These results suggested that genes are transferred from host to parasite and are stable for a long distance in the parasite.

Further, they developed a technology platform for host-derived resistance to control parasitic plants. This unequivocally showed that when a parasite is grown on a transgenic tobacco the parasite shows reduced biomass and fertility. For rapid validation of gene functions in root parasites, he has developed a highly efficient transformation protocol that allows production of transformed maize roots using *Agrobacterium rhizogenes*, which is now being used to study the function of genes.



John Muchangi

John Muchangi is a science editor with Star Newspaper. He has more than five years experience as a journalist. He began his career as a sub editor with the People newspaper. He joined the Star as sub editor in 2007 as part of the pioneer team. He later became science writer of the same paper, specializing mainly in environmental and health writing. He has reported widely on events in Kenya and outside the country. In 2010 he was named one of the 'Global 100 Youth Leaders in reproductive Health' by women Deliver, a New York-based health advocacy organisation. He is the CNN Multichoice African Journalist of the Year 2012 (HIV reporting category), and a 2012/2013 Knight Science Journalism Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA.

SPEAKERS PROFILES

Wangai Ndirangu

Wangai Ndirangu is a professional Civil Engineer specializing in Water resources engineering, disaster risk management, knowledge and capacity development and benchmarking. He is the Network Manager of WaterCap and the Principal Engineer of BE Associates, He also lectures at Jomo Kenyatta University, Department of civil, construction and environmental engineering. Wangai has extensive experience in advisory services, technical design and quality control operations for infrastructure development. Since 2006, he has been actively involved in policy and institutional capacity support for water reform processes in Eastern Africa, and especially related to Integrated Water Resources Management.



As the Network Coordinator for WaterCap, he has benefited immensely from the wide professional network both within Kenya and world over to gain understanding knowledge of the water and environment situation.



Douglas Watuku Miano

Dr. Douglas Watuku Miano is a lecturer at the Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Nairobi, Kenya. He holds a BSc. Agriculture and MSc. Plant Pathology from the University of Nairobi, Kenya and Ph.D in Plant Virology from Louisiana State University, USA. Dr. Miano worked as a Senior Research Scientist at the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute's (KARI) Biotechnology Centre where he was the program leader in root and tuber crops research and plant disease diagnostics. He is a specialist in plant virology and biotechnology. In addition to teaching, Dr. Miano is involved in a number of researches particularly in cassava, sweetpotato, and maize virus diagnostics and characterization. He is a member of the team that identified the causal agent of the new disease infecting maize in Kenya and also the Kenyan lead scientist in the development of transgenic cassava with resistance to viruses under the Virus Resistant Cassava for Africa (VIRCA) project. Dr Miano is an accomplished scientist with wide experience in communications, biosafety and regulatory issues in the management of genetically modified (GM) crops.

Phoebe Wambui Mukiria

Phoebe is a Medical Entomologist/Parasitologist having worked in the former Kenya Trypanosomiasis Research Institute and now the Trypanosomiasis Research Centre of KARI for the last twenty five years. In the field, She has been involved in ecological and behavioural studies of the vector of sleeping sickness or nagana with a view to evaluating and designing ecologically friendly control methods to deal with the vectors of the diseases. In the laboratory, She has been involved in refinement of rearing of insect species of medical and/or medical importance in the laboratory to produce material for use in laboratory studies. With training obtained in the Slovak Academy of Sciences KARI scientists have initiated a colony of *Lucilia sericata* for the production of medical grade maggots for use of debridement agents in the management of chronic wounds, as an addition to the range of methods that are used in Kenyan Hospitals. This is with a view to introduce this biotherapeutic method as an additional method in the methods used for management of chronic wounds in this country.



