



**The African  
Academy of  
Sciences**

# **15th Bi-Annual General Assembly AND Scientific Conference**

**Theme:**

**Empowering and  
Advancing Africa's  
Scientific Enterprise**

 **9 - 12 December, 2024**  **Nicon Luxury Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria**

## **PROGRAMME OF EVENTS**

## AFRICA-DEDICATED POEMS BY PROF. HILARY “BROWNBARD” INYANG, FAAS

*for oral presentation at*

The 2024 Biennial General Assembly and Scientific Conference  
of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), Abuja, Dec. 9-12, 2024

### I AM AFRICA STOUT AND STRONG

*by Hilary “BrownBard” Inyang, FAAS*

With my cratons deeply incised,  
I am still Africa stout and strong,  
spanning the Tropics on either side,  
and teeming with cultures still sane  
despite ransack by foreign brands.  
The rite's survivor is stoic to demean.

I am Africa fabled with myths  
that exploiters love to plant  
to suppress joy that can't be quenched.  
No one can steal my sunlight,  
the bright kind from the overhead sun.  
Staunch are my flowers and smiles!

Drumbeats sound and roam dexterous feet  
in festivals that erupt on streets:  
outpour of delight in spite of spikes,  
not a feature of colder elsewhere.  
Predicted rapture refuses to manifest.  
No one on my skin holds his/her breath.

I nurtured empires in my realm,  
all with splendor of gold and means  
but with instructions not to export  
strife from my bowels to elsewhere.  
Wouldn't you think they would reciprocate?  
Nay! they attacked and robbed my means!

Wars I played no instigation roles,  
buried my sons in foreign graves,  
and that's atop four centuries of rape.  
Across the oceans, they came to ransack,  
burning my cultures and stealing my gems.  
Shouldn't guilt rid them of further bias!

I am parted with borders and flags  
but my culture runs transcendent veins,  
colored to different hues in parts.  
I fed them curry from Lucy's gourd  
to strengthen them where empathy died.  
I am strong to all comers in duels.

### AFRICAN RENAISSANCE IS THE SONG

*by Hilary “BrownBard” Inyang, FAAS*

Some skills were lost  
by export to the West,  
and just don't forget,  
to the East as well!  
They were artists and sages  
of their ambience and sites.

Fine habitats in Timbuktu,  
Gao, Axum where still lies  
the Ark of the Covenant,  
Koumbi Saleh of Old Ghana,  
Mali of rich gold mines,  
and the Mutapa Kingdom!

Who can forget Nubia  
and her illustrious neighbor  
to the north: Egypt?  
They shone with knowledge  
and the Greeks came by  
for years to study.

Works of art were cast  
and carved with skill.  
Mastery of the foibles  
of weather and her seasons.  
The terrain, prohibitive  
to aliens, was tamed.

Then, scholarship ebbed,  
raped and demeaned  
by invasive fronts with  
guns and fake treaties.  
Inspect foreign museums  
to confirm the count.

Now is the right time  
for African renaissance  
of the type that competes.  
The African Century is ahead  
but proximal to now.  
That is the new song.



**GET ON AFROFUTURE'S TRACK***by Hilary "BrownBard" Inyang, FAAS*

Afroculture is pregnant  
with treats and threats.  
Fruits hang on spikey stalks.  
Some are installed to hurt  
the harvester who dares  
to pluck fair and square.

All the resources that galore,  
attract worms and bees,  
and some owners conspire  
to strip parts of Afroterrain.  
And they eschew replant  
of the stalks withdrawn!

Where are the diggers  
who just won't exploit  
but appreciate fair shares  
of Afroresources they harvest?  
It is the greedy and stoic  
who fill their purses and flee.

Afrojustice leaves too much  
to the foibles of chance.  
The pedigreed scrapes and escapes  
while the ordinary scratches  
and is pounded and poked.  
From where is inequity sourced?

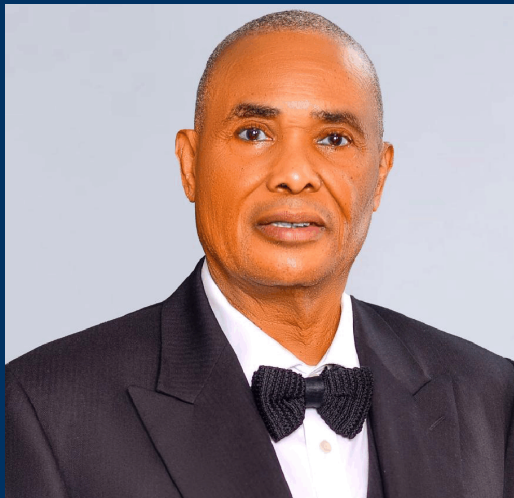
Afrofuturity is bright.  
Don't believe the scorn  
and demean by her flanks.  
When was ever a time  
that her features were applauded  
without a caveat that stings?

Get on Afrofuture's trails!  
If you don't, you'll regret  
as a laggard on delight's approach.  
Where else lies as much flair;  
culture bathed in sunlight;  
and prospects spinning for plucks

*Prof. Hilary "BrownBard" Inyang, FAAS, is a globally renowned geoscientist, science diplomat and philosopher-poet. He is the Founding Chair and Distinguished Professor of the Global Institute for Sustainable Development, Advanced Analyses and Design (GISDAAD), headquartered in North Carolina, USA, following a role as US Ambassador's Distinguished Scholar to Ethiopia. He served previously as the Duke Energy Endowed Distinguished Professor of Environmental Engineering and Science and Global Institute Director of the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, USA; DuPont-Endowed Young Professor of the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, USA; President/Vice Chancellor of African University of Science and Technology, Abuja and Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), Botswana; Adjunct Professor of Humanities at the University of New Delhi, India; and UNESCO Consultant, among several other academic and research positions. He is the author of more than 300 technical publications and is in the final stages of completion of 50 books of poetry, comprising more than 8,500 poems, considered to be the most extensive rendition of themed poetry in history. He is the winner of 25 professional prizes worldwide and chaired the US Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board (Engineering) as well as the Africa Science Plans.*

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## **Welcome Address**

### **by the Local Organizing Committee**

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome colleagues and participants to the 15th Biannual Scientific Conference and General Assembly of the African Academy of Sciences, with the theme “Empowering and Advancing Africa's Scientific Enterprise.” This year's conference is deliberately comprehensive and has been extended to involve our partners and policy holders with the key objective to rebrand the academy and also to enhance its impact in Africa's development.

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has found it worthwhile to attend this conference. Your presence is a testament to our shared commitment to advancing scientific innovation across Africa.

We are privileged to host distinguished speakers, experts, and participants from various sectors, whose valuable

contributions will enrich the discussions throughout the conference. I would also like to express profound gratitude to our sponsors, partners, and dedicated volunteers, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in bringing this event to fruition.

Over the next four days, we have an exciting program that includes panel discussions, parallel sessions, and keynote addresses—all carefully designed to promote collaboration, inspire knowledge-sharing, and drive innovation. I encourage each of you to actively participate, share your insights, and seize this opportunity to connect with colleagues and peers.

As we embark on this journey together, I extend my sincere thanks once again for your presence and involvement. Let us work collectively to make this conference a resounding success, leaving a lasting impact on the scientific enterprise in Africa and beyond, but please do not forget to take some time off to visit some of the most phenomenal sites in Abuja, Nigeria's hosting capital city.

I thank you, and once again, and welcome to the 15th Biannual Scientific Conference and General Assembly of the African Academy of Sciences.

Warm regards,

**Professor Friday Okonofua**

Secretary General, African Academy of Sciences



## Members of the GOVERNING COUNCIL



**Prof. Lise Korsten**  
AAS President



**Prof. Friday Okonofua**  
AAS Secretary General



**Prof. Godfrey Tangwa**  
VP Central Africa



**Prof. Kenneth Ozoemena**  
VP Southern Africa



**Prof. Paco Sereme**  
VP Western Africa



**Prof. Juma Shabani**  
VP Eastern Africa



**Prof. Rajaa Cherkaoui  
El Moursli**  
VP Northern Africa



**Prof. Mary Abukutsa**  
Onyango - Member



**Prof. Raphael Munavu**  
Member



**Prof. Jean Koulidiati**  
African Union  
Representative



**Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng**  
AAS Executive Director /  
GC EX-Officio Member

## Members of the LOC

1. Professor Friday Okonofua
2. Professor Martins Emeje
3. Professor Vincent Odigie
4. Professor Anthony Okoh
4. Professor Effiom Edem Antia
5. Professor Stella Smith
6. Professor Etinosa Igbinosa
9. Professor Musibau Bamikole
10. Dr Benedicta Ehanire
12. Professor Falodun Abiodun
13. Professor Ganiyu Oboh
14. Professor Hilary Inyang
15. Professor IkeOluwa Ajayi
17. Professor Kenneth Ozoemena
18. Professor Olukayode Amund
19. Professor Catherine Falade
20. Professor Oluwole Makinde
21. Professor Ebenezer Farombi
22. Professor Chinedum Babalola

## SPONSORS



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- Centre of Excellence in Reproduction Health (CERHI), UNIBEN
- African Academy of Sciences





## The African Academy of Sciences (AAS)

**Transformed lives in Africa through science**

### **We are a pan-African organisation promoting scientific and technological development in Africa**

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) is a pan-African organisation dedicated to advancing science, technology, and innovation (STI) across the continent. Established in 1985, the AAS strives to promote sustainable development, strengthen scientific excellence, and address Africa's socio-economic challenges through evidence-based research, capacity building, and policy advocacy.

AAS is the only continental Academy in Africa enjoying the support and recognition of the African Union, as well as several governments and major multilateral organisations.

The Academy serves as a platform for collaboration, fostering partnerships among scientists, policymakers, and other stakeholders to address key issues affecting Africa's development.

The AAS is focused on catalyzing investments, strategies and programmes that engage the brightest minds in Africa, foster scientific excellence, inspire research leadership and accelerate innovation in ways that will improve lives and shift the center of gravity for African science to Africa.



By harnessing global resources and expertise, the AAS aims to promote sustainable development in Africa that addresses the challenges the continent faces in areas such as health, food security, gender equality, and climate change.

The Academy's activities are implemented in three areas:

- Recognising excellence.
- Providing advisory and think tank functions.
- Implementing science, technology and innovation programmes.

### **Mission**

To leverage science technology and innovation for sustainable development.

### **Vision**

Transformed lives in Africa through science.

### **We celebrate Africa's best scientific talent**

In our efforts to recognise excellence we have:

**The AAS Fellowship.** Recognising African and non-African scientists working on the Continent,

Fellows are elected by their peers based on achievements that include publication record, innovation, leadership and contributions to policy.

Associate Fellows are non-African scientists who have contributed to the development of science on the Continent.

Honorary Fellows are eminent members of society who have contributed to the achievement of the Academy's goals.

**The AAS Affiliates programme** seeks to mentor and develop young scientists into research leaders. We select Affiliates from each region who are below the age of 40, have PhDs, and work in academic and research institutions.

**The Olusegun Obasanjo Prize for Scientific Discovery and Technological Innovation** which is awarded every two years and carries a cash prize, gold medal and certificate.



## **Our programs are dedicated to building scientific capacity and promoting excellence across Africa**

AAS is implementing programmes in partnership with various global partners that focus on our five strategic areas – environment & climate change, health & wellbeing, natural sciences, policy & governance, social sciences & humanities.

AAS programmes are Africa-led, Africa-centred, and Africa-specific aimed at accelerating scientific excellence, leadership and innovation.

We are developing strategies and mobilising resources that will catalyse the development and implementation of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) programmes in Africa. AAS is leading the way in setting and aligning a scientific agenda that will inspire a new generation of scientific leaders and have a transformational impact on health and developmental challenges

on the continent and globally.

AAS programmes are:

### ***The African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence (ARISE)***

ARISE is an innovative research and innovation (R&I) support programme that provides a vibrant platform and pathway for R&I exchanges within Africa and beyond, contributing to sustainable and inclusive development, economic growth, and job creation. It aims to broaden and strengthen Africa's science base, transforming Africa into a knowledge-based and innovation-led entity continent.

### ***The African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTI)***

APTI is a postdoctoral training fellowship program that trains and supports African scientists to become scientific leaders who can advocate for increased research and innovation projects in Africa.





## AAS Governance

The AAS is governed by:

**The General Assembly** the highest and ultimate decision-making governance organ of the Academy to which the Governing Council is responsible. It consists of all Fellows of the African Academy of Sciences. It appoints the Governing Council, oversees election of Fellows and approves long-term plans of the Academy.

**The Governing Council** this is the Board of Directors of the African Academy of Sciences. It is the policy and stewardship organ set up by the General Assembly to provide oversight for the overall functioning of the Academy. It establishes policies and provides strategic thinking. It consists of 11 members elected by the General Assembly.

The Secretariat, based in Nairobi, implements the Academy's activities under the leadership of the Executive Director.

## We provide think tank functions to improve Africa's science strategies and R&DI investment

We are partnering with regional and continental bodies to use evidence to inform policies. AAS is leading our work in this and is focused on:

- Science diplomacy
- STI policy

AAS' goal is to create a leading science, technology and innovation (STI) knowledge hub that will set, align and ensure an Africa-led science agenda for the Africa we want.



### For more information on the AAS:

 [www.aassciences.africa](http://www.aassciences.africa)  [communication@aassciences.africa](mailto:communication@aassciences.africa)

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## Themes and Sessions:

**Theme: Empowering and Advancing Africa's Scientific Enterprise**

Sessions:

### Day 1

Health  
Climate Change  
Science Diplomacy  
Science Infrastructure  
Agriculture  
Social Science and Policy  
Basic sciences  
Future Funding Instruments

### Day 2

Growing Science- Transforming 21st Century (African) Society for Global Competitiveness  
STEM talent, diasporas and future of Africa  
Fellows organized to showcase their work  
UNFPA session on Population dynamics and megatrends:  
Shaping Africa's development Trajectory  
Health professional associations as advocates for health systems strengthening  
Africa's STEM workforce: Pathways, Skills and Opportunities  
Emerging Young African Scientists as a Goosebumps science

### Day 3

Science academies cooperating to promote Africa's development  
Education and implications for science development  
Africa's Space, and mining futures  
Health  
Women in Science: Building momentum and coalitions  
Recent advances in science for development impact  
Swedish-African University Partnerships in the Context of EU-Africa Relations: A Catalyst for Science Diplomacy

### Day 4

Situating Science in International Development and Cooperation  
Launch of the AAS strategic plan and key initiatives arising from the strategic plan  
Nature Award ceremony

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**Pre GA 2024**

**Thematic Working Group Convening**

**Day 1: Monday, December 9, 2024**

**Pre-Conference Workshops, 4 parallel sessions each in the morning and afternoon.**

07:30- Registration starts

09:00- 09:30 am- **Main conference Hall-** Welcome and Purpose of Pre-GA 2024- Professor Lise Korsten/Professor Friday Okonofua

(09:30- 12:10 noon- Morning Sessions)

## **Session 1: Health (Conference Hall)**

**Chairperson- Professor Richard Adegbola**

**Co-Chair/Coordinator- Professor Ganiyu Oboh**

09:30- 10:00 am- Is Africa ready for the next Pandemic? - Professor Oyewale Tomori

10:00- 10:30 am- Scaling the achievement of the reproductive health three zeros in Africa - Dr Sennen Hounton, UNFPA Regional Director

10:30- 11:00 am- Priorities for health research and innovations in Africa – Professor Christian Happi

11:00- 11:10 am- Tea Break

11:10- 11:40 am- Observations on peri-doctoral training in Health Sciences  
- Dr Solomon Agbor

11:40- 12:10 pm- Africa-led drug discovery: Key considerations for developing capacity for first-in-human trials of new drug molecules  
- Dr Olawale Salami



**Session 2: Climate Change (Nnamdi Azikwe Hall)****Chairperson - Professor Abubakar Sambo****Co-chair/Coordinator- Professor Musibau Bamikole**

- 09:30- 10:15 am- Addressing Africa's specific vulnerabilities to climate change adversities - **Professor Hilary Inyang**
- 10:15- 11:00 am- Climate change and its effects on health- **Prof John Osonwa**
- 11:00- 11:10 am- Tea Break
- 11:15- 11:40 am- Coastal resilience for development impact in Africa- **Dr. Jennifer Molwantwa**
- 11:40- 12:10 pm- Mitigating health risks and water-related disasters through cyanobacteria monitoring and data modeling in a changing climate - **Professor Mathias Ahii Chia**

**Session 3: Science Diplomacy (Tafawa Balewa Hall)****Chairperson - Professor Abdi Adam Abdikarim****Co-chair/Coordinator- Professor Etinosa Igbinosa**

- 09:30- 10:00 am- Leveraging science diplomacy for international cooperation and knowledge transfer - **Dr. Lassina Zerbo**
- 10:00- 10:30 am- Science diplomacy: recent trends, methods, practice and utility for Africa – **Prof. Thokozani Simelane**
- 10:30- 11:00 am- The imperatives of science diplomacy for Africa's scientific transformation and development- **Prof. Mammo Muchie**
- 11:00- 11:10 am- Tea Break
- 11:10- 11:40 am- Optimizing political will for effective policies for science and innovation in Africa- **Dr. Daniel Nyanganyura**
- 11:40- 12:00 pm- International networks for science diplomacy and networking: A review- **Mr. Miguel Gonzalez**

**Session 4: Science Infrastructure (Obafemi Awolowo Hall)****Chairperson - Professor Kenneth Ozoemena, Vice President AAS(Southern Africa region)****Co-chair- Professor Olukayode Amund**

- 09:30- 11:00 am- Towards an African Synchrotron- Professor Simon Connell  
AfLS/Prof Sekazi Mtingwa, AfLS
- 11:00- 11:10 am- Tea Break
- 11:10- 11:40 am- The role of technology transfer office: The case of NOTAP-  
DG, NOTAP, Dr. Barr. Obiageli Amadiobi
- 11:40- 12:10 pm- Driving Africa's development through technological innovations  
Mr. Khalil Halilu, Executive Vice-Chairman and CEO, NASENI

**(12:10- 01:40 pm- Lunch)**

(01:40- 04:30 pm- Afternoon Sessions)

**Session 1: Agriculture (Obafemi Awolowo Hall)****Chairperson - Dr W S Lakra****Co-chair- Professor Catherine Falade**

- 01:40- 02:10 pm- Post-harvest challenges in sustainable agriculture and food  
security in Africa - Professor Linus Okpara
- 02:10- 02:40 pm- Genomics and genetically modified organisms in Africa: the way  
forward - Prof Gordon Awandare
- 02:40- 03:10 pm- Genetically modified crops and sustainable agriculture in Africa-  
Professor Chiedozi Egesi
- 03:10- 03:20 pm- Tea Break
- 03:20- 03:50 pm- Food security: The Indian experience - Dr Himanshu Pathak
- 03:50- 04:20 pm- Africa food systems - President of AGRA -Dr Agness Kalibata

**Session 2: Social Science and Policy (Nnamdi Azikiwe Hall)****Chairperson - Emeritus Professor Godwin Ekhaguare****Co-chair- Professor Ike Ajayi**

- 01:40- 02:10 pm- “Multidisciplinarity a monster? Exploring the relationship between the arts, humanities, social, and natural sciences for Africa's development- **Professor Gloria Emezue**
- 02:10- 02:40 pm- “The place of authentic and inauthentic education in the transformation of development in Africa”- **Professor Francis B Nyamnjoh**
- 02:40- 03:10 pm- Decolonizing healthcare delivery in Africa- (Philosopher and Bioethicist) **Professor Godfrey B Tangwa**
- 03:10- 03:20 pm- Tea Break
- 03:20- 03:50 pm- “Gender, motherhood, and development in Africa”- **Prof. Catherine Odora Hoppers**
- 03:50- 04:20 pm- Science academies as champions of social change in Africa: from potentiality to actuality” - **Dr Margaret Okomo-Adhiambo**

**Session 3: Basic Sciences (Tafawa Balewa Hall)****Chairperson - Professor Lise Korsten****Co-chair- Professor Ebenezer Farombi**

- 01:40- 02:25 pm- Mathematics- SHEDA- Science, and Technology Complex, Abuja – **Professor Paul Onyenekwe**
- 02:25- 02:40 pm- The future of space science and development in Africa- **DG, National Space Research and Development Agency**
- 03:10- 03:20 pm- Tea Break
- 03:20- 03:50 pm- Scaling Microbiome research in Africa: the way forward- **Professor Thulani Makhalanyane**
- 03:50- 04:20 pm- Earth Sciences- **DG, Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (NGSA)- Professor Olusegun Ige**

**Session 4: Future Funding Instruments (Main Conference Hall)****Chairperson - Dr Adhiambo Odaga****Co-chair- Professor Friday Okonofua**

- 01:40- 02:10 pm- Towards a Science Funding Alliance in African Philanthropy - Dr Matthew Cummins, Health Economics Advisor
- 02:10- 02:40 pm- Science Philanthropy & Funding - Professor Kevin Urama
- 02:40- 03:10 pm- Science Funding in Africa: experiences of the MacArthur Foundation and future prospects - Dr Kole Shettima
- 03:10- 03:20 pm- Tea Break
- 03:20- 03:50 pm- Ford Foundation's legacies in science funding in Africa- Catherine Chinedum Aniaogolu-Okoye.
- 03:50- 04:20 pm- Experiences from the African Centres of Excellence project in STEM- A call for similar projects in Africa- Dr Joshua Atah, NUC

**Session 5: Swedish-African University Partnerships in the Context of EU-Africa (Ahmedu Bello)****Relations: A Catalyst for Science Diplomacy- STINT (01:40- 05:40 pm)****Coordinator: Dr Nkem Khumbah**

Speakers:

1. Lise Korsten, President, AAS.
2. Haja Ramatulai Wurie (Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Sierra Leone)
3. Annika Hahn-Englund - Swedish Ambassador to Nigeria
4. Anders Hagfeldt - Vice-Chancellor, Uppsala University
5. Andreas Göthenberg - CEO, STINT
6. Elin Elliott - Head of External Relations, Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences
7. Erik Forsberg - Representative in APAC, STINT
8. Nkem Khumbah, Head of STI Policy, Governance and Partnerships, AAS
9. Hilary Inyang, Founding Chair and Distinguished Professor, Global Institute for Sustainable Development, Advance Analyses and Design (GISDAAD), Charlotte, NC, USA and Abuja, Nigeria.

## **Day 2 Tuesday December 10, 2024**

08:00- 09:20 am- Breakfast and Registration

(09:30- 10:30 am- Welcome and Opening Ceremony)- Conference Hall

09:30- 09:35 am- Welcome address- Professor Friday Okonofua (Chairman- Local Organizing Committee)

09:35- 09:40 am- Opening remarks- Professor Lise Korsten (President, AAS)

09:40- 09:45 am- Goodwill message 1- Commissioner for ESTI, African Union

09:45- 09:50 am- Goodwill message 2- UNFPA- Dr Sennen Hounton

09:50- 09:55 am- Goodwill message 3- CEO; AUDA-NEPAD

09:55- 10:00 am- Goodwill message 4- Senator Daisy Danjuma

10:00- 10:05 am- AAS Viral Video

10:05- 10:30 am- Keynote Address- Professor Kevin Urama, Vice-President, African Development Bank

10:30- 11:00 am- Tea Break/Group Photograph

**Plenary Presentation: Chair- Haja Ramatulai Wurie Minister for STI, Sierra Leone- Conference Hall**

**Co-chair: Professor Stephen Agong**

11:00- 11:45 am- Growing Science – Transforming 21st Century Africa for Global Competitiveness- Professor PLO Lumumba

**Plenary Presentation: Chair- Dr Sonny Kuku- Conference Hall**

**Co-chair: Professor Stella Smith**

11:45- 12:30 pm- STEM talent, diasporas and future of Africa- Prof Omotayo Awofolu

**(12:30- 01:30 pm- Lunch**

**(01:30- 03:30 pm- Parallel sessions)**



**Session 1: Fellows organized to showcase their work (Conference Hall)****Chairperson- Professor Mahouton Norbert Hounkonnou****Co-chair/Coordinator- Professor Ike Ajayi**

- 01:30- 01:50 pm- Electrifying chemistry for clean and affordable energy and transportation in Africa – **Professor Kenneth I Ozoemena.**
- 01:50- 02:10 pm- Building impactful research environment for empowering young scientists: Environment, Data Management and University Training Unit (UEGDFU)/TIDRC of the University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin). **Professor Salako Luc Djogbenou.**
- 02:10- 02:30 pm- Intrauterine device: a novel intervention for genitourinary syndrome of menopause- **Professor Yahya Choonara**
- 02:30- 02:50 pm- Tea Break
- 02:50- 03:10 pm- New challenges in the water/wastewater treatment sector- **Professor Anthony Okoh**
- 03:10- 03:30 pm- African Journal of Reproductive Health since 1997 - a leading example in journal sustainability in Africa - **Professor Friday Okonofua and team**

**Session 2: UNFPA Session on Population Dynamics and Megatrends: Shaping Africa's Development Trajectory (Nnamdi Azikiwe Hall)****Chairperson: Dr Jacques Emina, Population Dynamics and Policy Advisor**

- 01:30- 02:30 pm: Turning the Demographic Bulge into Scientific Human Capital: **Dr Nafissatou Diop, SWEDD Director**
- 02:30- 03:30 pm: Population Dynamics and Megatrends: Shaping Africa's Development Trajectory, **Dr Jacques Emina (Population Dynamics and Policy Advisor)**

**Session 3: Health professional associations as advocates for health systems strengthening – A panel discussion (Tafawa Balewa Hall)****Moderated by Sereme Paco****Discussants**

- 1) **Prof Okechukwu Ikpeze** – President of the Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Nigeria (SOGON)

- 2) Prof Rosemary Ogu – President of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN)
- 3) Pharm Ijeoma C Nwankwo – Senior Program lead, Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN)
- 4) Professor Bala Muhammad Audu- President of the Nigerian Medical Association
- 5) Mr Sarki Zakari- President of National Association of Public Health Practitioners
- 6) Professor Salisu Maiwada Abubakar- President, Nutrition Society of Nigeria

#### **Session 4: Africa's STEM Workforce: Pathways, Skills, and Opportunities (Obafemi Awolowo Hall)**

**Chairperson: Professor Mosto Onuoha**

**Co-chair: Professor Martins Emeje**

- 01:30- 02:00 pm- Jerry Hultin, Board Chair, (New York Academy of Science)
- 02:00- 02:30 pm- Gaspard (ED, Inter University Council of East Africa)
- 02:30- 02:50 pm- Tea Break
- 02:50- 03:10 pm- Nigerian Minister of Budget and National Planning- **Minister, Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu**
- 03:10- 03:30 pm- STEM workforce training and research capacity building: the experiences of TETFUND- **Dr Salihu Bakari**

#### **Plenary Session– Main Conference Hall Emerging Young African Scientists as a Goosebumps Science**

Moderator (Ahmed Zobaa; AAS Fellow)

- 03:30- 04:00 pm- Stress and Cardiometabolic Health of Africans: The Value of Allostatic Load Score- **Thomas Hormenu**
- 04:00- 04:15 pm- Assessing Pfdhps gene, the sulfadoxine target, after five years of seasonal malaria chemoprevention at two rural sites in Mali: the quantitative method- **Dr Hamma Maiga**
- 04:15- 04:30 pm- Development of a secure 5G and beyond digital health test bed for modeling telemedicine systems, mHealth applications and smart hospitals- **Dr Bessie Malila**

04:30- 04:45 pm- SSWAxC4V- Smart solutions for water and agriculture to face the Climate Change Crisis in Cabo Verde- **Dr Sonia Semedo**

04:45- 05:00 pm- The role of Foxp3+ regulatory T cells in the control of schistosomiasis-induced liver fibro-granulomatous inflammation- **Dr Nada Abdel Aziz**

05:00- 05:45 pm- Keynote : **Molefi Asante** (Temple University – honorary Fellowship)

**(06:00- 09:00 pm- Cultural Evening and Networking**

**Day 3** **Wednesday December 11, 2024**

**Science academies cooperating to promote Africa's development- Conference hall**  
**Plenary Panel – Chair: Professor Marleen Temmerman**  
**Co-Chair: Professor Olugbemiro Jegede**

- 09.00- 09.20 am: NASAC – past and future coordinating roles in Africa.  
Dr Evans Avedi
- 09.20- 09.40 am: Together we build a strong force: the need for collaboration and cooperation among African science academies: **Professor Dorothy Ngila**
- 09.40- 10.00 am: African science academies for impact: the role of the Uganda Science Academy. **Professor Christian Acemah**
- 10.30- 10.50 am: The Nigerian Academy of Science: its history and experiences in intercontinental cooperation. **Professor Gabriel Ogunmola**
- 10.50- 11.10 am: WANNAS: role in building effective collaboration between West African national science academies: **Professor Oyewale Tomori**
- 11.10-11.30am: General discussion
- 11:30- 12:00 noon- Tea Break

**12:00- 1:30 pm- 4 Parallel Sessions**

**Session 1: Education and implications for science development (Conference Hall)**  
**Chair: Prof Raphael Munavu**  
**Co-Chair: Professor Stella Smith**

- 12:00- 12:30 pm- Educational mechanisms and policies for science development in Africa. **Professor Hirut Woldemariam.**
- 12:30- 01:00 pm- Towards improvement of Tertiary Education in Africa- **Prof. Hilary I. Inyang**
- 01:00- 01:30 pm- Visioning for science education in Africa: a case study of Nigeria.  
**Dr Tunji Alausa, Nigeria's Minister of Education**



**Session 2: Africa's Space, and mining futures - Nnamdi Azikiwe Hall****Chair: Professor Juma Shabani****Co-Chair: Dr Nkem Nkhumbah**

- 12:00- 12:30 pm- Africa's space development: A case study of Nigeria Dr. Mathew Adepoju Director General / CEO
- 12:30- 01:00 pm- Mining potentials in Africa: A case study of Nigeria. Professor Olusegun Ige DG, Nigeria's Geological Survey Agency.
- 1:00- 01:30 pm- Indigenous technologies in health - DG, RMRDC

**Session 3: Health- Room 3 (Tafawa Balewa Hall)****Chair: Professor Abiodun Falodun****Co-Chair: Professor Martins Emeje**

- 12:00- 12:20 pm- Food as medicines – promising potentials in Africa- Professor Olukemi Odukoya
- 12:20- 12:40 pm- Vaccine hesitancy: A nagging challenge in Africa- Professor Chinedum Babalola
- 12:40- 01:00 pm - High fidelity simulation: An emerging frontier in health science education in Africa- Professor Anthony Atimati
- 01:00- 01:20 pm- High-tech cancer prevention and treatment: new frontiers in Africa- Dr Charles C Njoku

**Session 4: Women in Science: Building momentum and coalitions - Obafemi Awolowo hall****Chair: Professor Lise Korsten****Co-Chair: Dr Peggy Oti-Boateng**

- 12:00- 12:30 pm- Mentoring and supporting women for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Professor Bosede Afolabi
- 12:30- 01:00 pm- Gender and intersexuality considerations in science leadership Professor Olanike Adeyemo
- 01:00- 01:30 pm- Expanding spaces in science academies for women: current practices and future prospects. Professor Rajaa Cherkaoui El Moursli

**(1:30- 02:30 pm- Lunch)**

(2 parallel sessions: 02:30- 04:30 pm)

## **Plenary Panel – Recent advances in science for development impact (Conference Hall)**

**Chair: Professor Christian Happi**

**Co-Chair: Professor Chinedum Babalola**

- 02.30- 03:00 pm: Artificial intelligence and machine learning: Implications for Africa's digital evolution and development- **Dr Olubayo Adekanmbi**
- 03.00- 03.30pm: Genomics and genetic engineering as tools for Africa's development: **Prof Christian Happi**
- 03.30- 04.00pm: Innovation and commercialization as key to Africa's development: **Mr Ogono Ntwae**
- 04.00- 04.30pm: Innovation and commercialization: the rubrics, rudiments, and prospects for Africa: **Dr Umar Buba Bindir**

Coffee and Networking

**(AAS Business Meeting and closing Plenary)- Conference Hall**

09:00- 01:00 pm- Bi-annual AAS General Assembly Business Meeting 2024

- Welcome Remarks by the President of The African Academy of Sciences
- Adoption of the Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly
- Matters arising from Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly
- Report from the President of the Academy
- Report from the Secretary General of the Academy (including request for review of the AAS constitution)
- Report from the Treasurer of the Academy
- Report from the Vice Presidents of the Academy
  - Vice President Northern Africa Region
  - Vice President Eastern Africa Region
  - Vice President Western Africa Region
  - Vice President Southern Africa Region
  - Vice President Central Africa Region
- Report on current and future projects being undertaken under the AAS - Secretariat staff
- Any other Business
- **Close of meeting**

11:00- 11:30 am- Tea break

01:00- 01:45 pm- **Plenary Panel: Situating Science in International Development and Cooperation.**

Keynote- Professor Olubayi Olubayi

Chair: Moderator: Daya Reddy, AAS Fellow; Past President, ISC.

Presenters/Speakers:

- 1) President Marcia McNutt, President of the United States  
National Academy of Sciences
- 2) Professor Ekanem Ikpi Braide, President of Nigerian Academy of Science

01:45- 02:30 pm- **Lunch**

02:30- 03:30 pm- **Launch of the AAS strategic plan and key initiatives arising from the strategic plan**

Moderator: Peggy Oti-Boateng (Exec Dir, AAS)

Lise Korsten (President, AAS)

Friday Okonofua, (SG, AAS)

Stephen Agong, (Treasurer AAS)

1. Presidential Lecture Series
2. Science Diplomacy and / in Africa's International Relations
3. Africa STI Pulse (annual report, with Gallup)
4. Africa's Infrastructures for Frontier Science
5. Sustaining and growing Science in Distressed Countries
6. Repositioning the AAS Journal

03:30- 04:05 pm- Nature Award ceremony- Dr Magdalena Skipper, Editor, Nature

04:05- 04:35 pm- Coffee Break

(06:00- 08:30 pm-Conference Banquet/ Dinner / AAS Awards Ceremony)

06:00 pm- Arrival of Guests

06:00- 06:05 pm- Welcoming of Guests



06:05- 06:10 pm- Police band

06:10- 06:15 pm- Poetry recitation- Professor Hilary Inyang

06:15- 06:30 pm- Cultural display

06:30- 07:30 pm- Induction of new Fellows- 2022/2023/2024

07:30- 08:00 pm- President Olusegun Obasanjo's awards

08:00- 08:30 pm- African patrons/Champions of science-led development

08:30- 08:45 pm- Closing remarks

## Speakers Bio



**Abiodun Falodun, PhD, FPSN, FAAS**, is a Professor of Medicinal and Natural Product Chemistry at the University of Benin, Nigeria. He is a leading expert in anticancer natural product drug discovery, with over 150 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

He is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Scholar Award, USA; ICCBS- TWAS; DFG, Germany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China. He executed his postdoctoral research in

many recognized institutions such as The University of Mississippi, USA, University of Rostock, Germany, South China Botanical Gardens, China etc.

Prof. Falodun's Natural Product Research Group is acclaimed for discovering therapeutic molecules. He isolated the first chemical compound from a local plant used for managing threatened abortion, earning him the May & Baker Professional Innovative Award. He identified a novel compound, 'falodone,' from a Nigerian plant for breast cancer treatment, now in clinical trials. He is the EIC of the Tropical Journal of Natural Product Research Q3 [www.tjnpr.org](http://www.tjnpr.org)

He received the PSE and TETFUND grants, with notable success in internal and external funding. As PI, he led a \$30,000 USAID-funded project with the University of Mississippi (2011–2015). He also secured a \$45,000 World Bank STEP-B grant for drug discovery, and in 2020, his team received N45,244,000 from the NRF for COVID-19 research. As Rector of Edo State Polytechnic, he attracted a \$33,000 grant from IDRC Canada.

Recently, he attracted over 25,000 USD equipment from Marblehead, Massachusetts, California in the USA, to the Department of Computer Engineering, University of Benin to setup an artificial intelligence unit. He led the team that developed the proposal for establishing the Centre of Excellence in Telecommunications at the University of Benin.

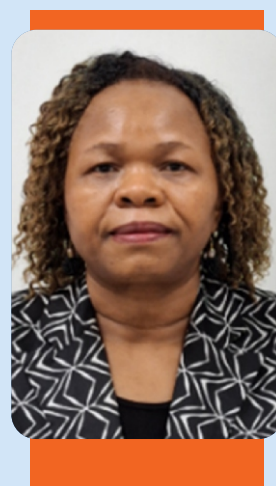
As former DVC (Academic) at UNIBEN, he enhanced the office's impact, advancing the University's global standing. He initiated the Annual Research Day, Doctoral colloquium, and Eminent Lecture Series, attracting renowned figures like Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka, Walter Carrington, and Prof. Humphrey Rang in 2015 and 2016.

Falodun is a certified Public Leader from Harvard Kennedy School, USA, and his academic achievements have gained international recognition. He was ranked among the world's top 2% of scientists by Stanford University.

**Prof Anthony Okoh** is the Director of SAMRC Microbial Water Quality Monitoring Centre at the University of Fort Hare in South Africa. He has published well over 500 journal articles and supervised 59 PhD and 75 Master's degree students. He is a recipient of several awards including the Gold Scientific Achievement Award of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC). He also served as President of the South Africa Society for Microbiology (2011-2013), and the World Scientist and University ranking 2024, ranked him #3 in South Africa and Africa, and #130 globally in the microbiology discipline, which bears testament to the quality and impact of his research. He is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa and fellow of six societies/academies including the African Academy of Sciences; Royal Society of Biology; Nigerian Academy of Sciences; and The World Academy of Sciences. His current H-index is 81 and citations is 28k+.



**Bessie Malila** is a Junior Research Fellow in the division of Biomedical Engineering in the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Cape Town. She holds a PhD in fellow in Biomedical Engineering. She has experience in developing and evaluating digital health interventions for rural, remote and underserved communities, leverage her knowledge in and experience in digital health and telecommunications. She leads the Telemedicine and Connected Care research group which consisting of masters and PhD students. Dr Malila has given talks and lectures in Telemedicine, mHealth and was recently invited to give a talk on the role of AI in Global Health at the World Health Summit held in October 2024 in Berlin, Germany. Her research includes Digital Health, Telemedicine, mHealth, and medical image analysis; AI, and 5G/6G test network infrastructures for validation of novel Digital Health applications.



**Dr. Charles C. Njoku, MD**, is a seasoned General Surgeon, Surgical Gastroenterologist, and Surgical Oncologist with over four decades of experience in clinical and academic settings. Currently serving as the Chief Medical and Surgical Director at JohnCharles Specialist Clinic in Owerri, Imo State, he has led the facility since 2016. Dr. Njoku also holds the position of Chief Medical Director at Dews of Hope Specialist Hospital and serves as a Consultant at Regions Healthcare Hospital. Before returning to Nigeria, Dr. Njoku had a thriving private surgery practice in Akron, Ohio, from 1984 to 2012, where he was also a Clinical Associate Professor



of Surgery. He completed his residency and fellowships at Youngstown Hospitals, Northeast Ohio University College of Medicine, specializing in Surgical Gastroenterology and Oncology. Dr. Njoku earned his MD from Meharry Medical College and holds a BS in Chemistry/Biology from Rust College. Reach him at 0813-905-6276 or docccc@gmail.com



**Christian Happi**, is a Distinguished Professor of Molecular Biology and Genomics at Redeemer's University, Ede and Director of ACEGID in Ede, Nigeria. He is an Adjunct Professor at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, USA. He is foremost genomics in Africa, and has pioneered many innovations and capacity buildings for infectious diseases genomics in the continent. His team performed the first SARS-CoV-2 sequence in Africa, within 48 hours of receiving sample. He is recipient of has several honors and awards including: the 2019 Human Genome Organization Africa Prize; the 2020 Bailey K. Ashford Medal; the 2021 Al-Sumait Prize for African Development. He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Sciences, A Fellow of Academy of Medical Specialties of Nigeria, and he is a member of the US National Academy of Medicine.



**Dr Daniel Nyanganyura** is an Atmospheric Physicist and research manager who has a vested interest on issues that promote transboundary interdisciplinary research collaboration, and that bridge and foster science-policy interface. He is the current Director of the Future Earth Africa Hub Leadership Centre, which focuses on (among other activities) fostering research and innovation, and building continental networks that promote collaborative sustainability science research, capacity development of early- and mid-career researchers, and science diplomacy. He worked as Regional Director for the International Science Council Regional Office for Africa where he headed ISC science for policy and policy for science activities in Africa, and promoted science-society interactions through several programmes that were implemented by ISC Africa international research consortia. He is a member of the South African Institute of Physics and has served and is serving on several international advisory boards and committees on the African continent.

**Dr. Evans Avedi** is the Partnerships and Outreach Manager at the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC). He holds a PhD and Master's degrees in Project Planning and Management from the University of Nairobi (UoN) and also has a Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Electrical Engineering. Dr. Avedi has extensive experience in research, teaching, and promoting science-policy interface initiatives in Africa, with a focus on energy, climate change, e-Governance, contracting, project finance, and project management. Focused on results and with a strong commercial acumen, he has a proven track record in establishing long-term relationships with clients. He is registered with the Engineers Board of Kenya, the Institution of Engineers of Kenya, and is a member of the Kenya Association of Project Managers. Dr. Avedi has over twenty years of experience working both locally and internationally in the fields of manufacturing, ICT, academia, NGOs, and the energy sector.



**Professor Friday Okonofua MD, PhD, FRCOG** is a Professor Emeritus in Obstetrics and Gynecology, and director of Grants and Research at the University of Benin, Nigeria. He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science, the African Academy of Sciences, Harvard University's Takemi Program in International Health, and the USA National Academy of Medicine, among several others. He has served as the Executive Director of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Honorary Adviser on Health to President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, and pioneer Vice-Chancellor at the University of Medical Sciences in Ondo State, Nigeria. He is the Secretary-General of the African Academy of Sciences, and the Vice-President of the Nigerian Academy of Science.

Professor Okonofua is a global champion in women's health, a discipline where he has published more than 380 journal articles and textbook chapters, three books, and obtained 46 international research grants. He is the founder of the Women's Health and Action Research Centre, one of Nigeria's leading NGOs, and the founding editor of the African Journal of Reproductive Health, that was voted "the best journal in Nigeria that meets international standards" by the National Universities Commission in 2005.

He is a member of the editorial board of the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Editor of the BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth journal, and reviewer to several international academic journals. He is the team leader of the World Bank



Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation, and the Coordinator of the World Bank projects at the University of Benin in Nigeria.





**Professor Gabriel Babatunde Ogunmola** is Chancellor of Lead City University; Past President of the Nigerian Academy of Science, Foundation Chair ICSU Regional Committee for Africa. He was a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Ibadan, where he also served as Head of the Department of Chemistry and Dean of the Faculty of Science. A graduate of the University of Ibadan with a Ph.D., in Biophysical Chemistry, he has significantly advanced research in biophysical chemistry, particularly on hemoglobins and sickle cell disease. His international research collaborations include positions at prestigious institutions at Princeton, Stanford, Cal. Tech, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis. Professor Ogunmola has played a vital role in shaping Nigeria's science policies, Presidential advisory Committee on Science and Technology in Nigeria. He authored major research papers, and has received numerous honors, including a D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) from Ladoke Akintola University. He actively promotes scientific development in Sub-Saharan Africa and serves in various advisory and leadership roles across multiple organizations.

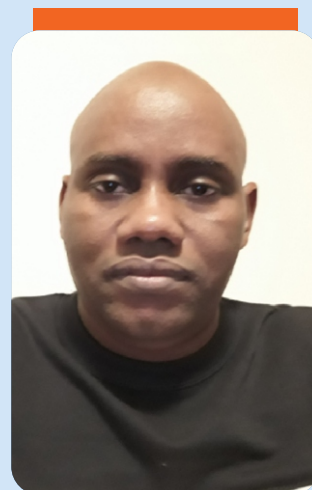


**Ganiyu Oboh** bagged B.Tech. Biochemistry(1992), M.Tech Biochemistry(1997) and Ph.D Applied Biochemistry (2002) from Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA). He had postdoctoral trainings in Biochemical Toxicology in Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, Brazil (2005) and Food Biochemistry & Toxicology at Technische Universität Dresden, Germany (2007 – 2008). He joined Biochemistry Department, FUTA in 1997 as a Graduate Assistant, and rose to the rank of Professor in 2012. He was the Sub-Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies (2010 – 2011), Ag.HOD, Biochemistry Department FUTA (2011 – 2012), HOD, Biochemistry Department, Federal University Oye – Ekiti (2014 – 2015) and FUTA (2015 – 2017); Director, Centre for Research and Development, FUTA (2017-2022). He has published over 500 research articles; H-index of 75 and 21,246 citations in Google Scholar and H-index of 54 and 12,123 citations in Scopus. He has 11 patents and 3 products in the market. He has trained over one 100-M.Tech and 38-Ph. D graduates. He is an AvH scholar and fellows of the Nigerian Academy of Science (FAS), African Academy Science (FAAS) and Functional Foods and Nutraceutical Association of Nigeria (FFNAN).

**Gloria Monica Tobechukwu Emezue**, popularly known as GMT Emezue, is a Professor of English at Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Nigeria. She holds a Ph.D. in English and a Master's in Comparative Literature. Her research spans artificial intelligence and African languages, post-colonial studies, and critical theories. In 2021, GMT Emezue and her research team won the LACUNA Award for pioneering work in curating large volumes of speech datasets for low-resourced African languages. In 2022-2024, GMT Emezue and her team achieved a major milestone by curating the largest collection of audio datasets—1,800 hours—in Nigeria's three major languages. This project is recognized as the largest of its kind in Nigeria and the second largest in Africa. GMT Emezue is a 2018 Carnegie Scholar, a 2010 African Humanities Program Fellow, and member of the Nigerian Academy of Letters. She served as a member of the University Council, elected Dean, and Departmental Head.



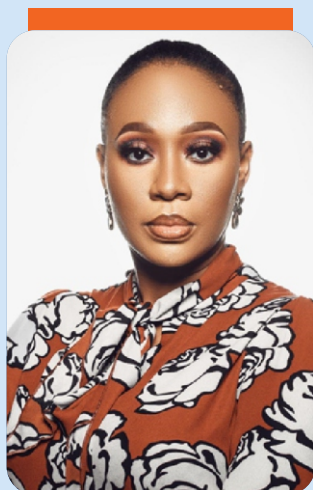
**Hamma Maiga** currently works for the National Institute for Public Health (INSP) of the Ministry of Health in Mali. Since obtaining my medical degree at the Faculty of Medicine and Odonto-stomatology at the University of Bamako in Mali, I have gained extensive on-field and laboratory experience studying malaria. I have participated as a clinical investigator and coordinator in multiple clinical trials evaluating artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs), intermittent preventive treatment of school children (IPTsc), seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC), and anti-malarial drug resistance. In 2017, I obtained a Ph.D in Parasitology-Entomology, while investigating drug resistance of malaria against SMC implemented. In February 2019, I joined the LMIV research group, NIH under the supervision of Dr Patrick Duffy with sponsorship from the African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTI), as a Postdoctorate. APTI program is a prestigious program for African scientists, supported by NIH, the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). I aim to gain insight into my research and gain international exposure and work experience. During my post-doctoral research, I developed an innovative method of drug resistance surveillance using a bioinformatic approach from 2019 to 2021. At a public health and policy level, the results of his proposed research have provided vital information to the NMCP and WHO to better



manage malaria mass drug implementation programs, providing the evidence needed by policymakers. Today I am head of the parasitology department at INSP—my knowledge of the APTI program and LMIV for this opportunity.



**Prof. Hilary "BrownBard" Inyang, FAAS**, is a globally renowned geoscientist, science diplomat and philosopher-poet. He is the Founding Chair and Distinguished Professor of the Global Institute for Sustainable Development, Advanced Analyses and Design (GISDAAD), headquartered in North Carolina, USA, following a role as US Ambassador's Distinguished Scholar to Ethiopia. He served previously as the Duke Energy Endowed Distinguished Professor of Environmental Engineering and Science and Global Institute Director of the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, USA; DuPont-Endowed Young Professor of the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, USA; President/Vice Chancellor of African University of Science and Technology, Abuja and Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST), Botswana; Adjunct Professor of Humanities at the University of New Delhi, India; and UNESCO Consultant, among several other academic and research positions. He is the author of more than 300 technical publications and is in the final stages of completion of 50 books of poetry, comprising more than 8,500 poems, considered to be the most extensive rendition of themed poetry in history. He is the winner of 25 professional prizes worldwide and chaired the US Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board (Engineering) as well as the Africa Science Plans.



**Ijeoma Nwankwo** is a seasoned Pharmacist who graduated from the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and a Public Health expert with almost 2 decades of experience working in various sectors and diverse settings in Nigeria. Ijeoma has worked extensively in the area of advocacy and creating an enabling environment to address the poor health indices of the country. She possesses in-depth knowledge and a wealth of experience in the Nigeria health sector and its policies, especially the private sector, policy framework implementation, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement and health systems strengthening; where she works with policy makers and formulators, through advocacy, on the need to use evidence for development of policies and rational decision-making. Ijeoma led her organization to advocate for the review of the National Task Shifting Task Sharing Policy (TSTS) which saw the inclusion of the Community Pharmacists and Patent & Proprietary Medicines Vendors as providers of quality health care services and commodities; supported and worked closely with the National Drug Formulary/Essential Drug List Review Committee to include critical commodities in the Nigeria Essential

Medicines List; just to mention a few. Anchoring her commitment to positive change and working extensively as a consultant and resource person in various capacities with key donors, funders and organisations, she is always aiming to seek out innovative solutions that lead to improvements in access to and quality of healthcare through developing successful partnerships and fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders. With solid analytical, M&E and problem-solving skills including numerous professional courses under her belt, Ijeoma Nwankwo brings to the fore an utmost sense of responsibility, efficiency and integrity, striving to get the most out of goals towards excellence. Ijeoma Nwankwo is currently the Programme Manager with the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria Foundation (PSNF) where she provides the team and organisation with strategic programmatic direction and support.

**Prof. John U. Osonwa** is a U.S. trained Climate Change, Environmental Health, Organic Agriculture, and Renewable Energy Expert with 25 years' international teaching, research, negotiation, advocacy, drafting and consultancy experience. He has served as Adjunct Professor globally, most recently at the University of Abuja.

Prof. John U. Osonwa has provided Consultancy Input to the United Nations (UN) focusing on the impact of Climate Change on Forced Migration, Food Security, Health and Regional Conflict in Africa. He has served as Consultant to the National Assembly of Nigeria (Parliament) in his areas of expertise and regularly drafts Policies, Regulations and Guidelines for Nigeria.

He has served as a Former Editor of the American Journal of Law and Medicine, USA. He is the Co-Regional Coordinator for the Society for Occupational Safety and Environmental Health (SOSEH).

He is the CEO of NET ZERO CLIMATE SOLUTIONS LTD which provides Environmental, Climate Policy, Climate Finance, Mitigation and Adaptation Solutions and Strategies to Companies and Organisations, including the Fed. Ministry of Justice. He is also the founder of VIRGIN ORGANIC COMPANY LTD which operates Climate-Smart, Integrated, Organic Farms in Africa.

He is regularly featured as a Keynote Speaker and Resource Professional for major Conferences, Seminars and Workshops in Africa, including the Africa Economic Summit,





Africa Climate Forum and the Nigerian Students' Climate Summit.

Prof. Osonwa is one of the most respected and most requested Environmental Health, Organic Agriculture, Climate Change, and Renewable Energy Expert for most African Media outfits, including NTA, CHANNELS TV, AIT, ITV, Silverbird, Radio Nigeria and numerous other Stations.

He is the author of two books: 'Overcoming the 35 Challenges to Agricultural Expansion and Food Security in Africa' (2024 Release) and '100 Ways Africa Can Fight Climate Change and Environmental Degradation: A Guide to Reducing Damages, Diseases and Death' (2025 Release)



**Kalu Mosto Onuoha** is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Geology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka and the Immediate Past President of the Nigerian Academy of Science. He also served as the pioneer Vice-Chairman (Scientific Innovation) of the African Scientific Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC); an agency of the African Union (AU) established in 2018. His university education was at the Loránd Eötvös University in Budapest, Hungary (1972-1978), where he majored in Geophysics, obtaining the PhD degree (summa cum laude) in 1978. Prof. Onuoha has given many decades of service to the Nigerian university system and held many important positions as a teacher, researcher, and university administrator. Between 1996 and 2002, he served as Technology Development Adviser (Subsurface Development Services) at the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited in Port Harcourt. He has at different times in his academic career held or occupied three endowed Professorial Chairs including the ExxonMobil's Chair of Petroleum Geology at the University of Calabar (1991-92), Shell/NNPC Chair in Geology, (UNN, 2003-2012), and the Petroleum Technology Development Fund's (PTDF) Chair of Petroleum Geology (UNN, 2013-2017).

**Kenneth Ozoemena** is Research Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) where he heads the South African DSI-NRF-Wits SARChI Chair (Tier 1) in *Materials Electrochemistry and Materials Technologies* (MEET). His key research focus is on the development of electrochemical energy storage technologies. He has published over 250 peer-reviewed articles and registered 12 patents (including 2 US patents and 2 Chinese patents in lithium-ion batteries).

Ozoemena holds a PhD degree from Rhodes University (2003). He is a South African A-rated scientist and Gold Medalist of the South African Chemical Institute (SACI). He is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (FAAS), Vice-President (Southern African Region) and member of the Governing Council of the AAS. He is co-Editor-in-Chief of *Electrochemistry Communications* (Elsevier) and serves on the Editorial Board of several journals including the *Chemical Communications* (RSC) and *Scientific Reports* (Springer-Nature).

**Professor Kevin Chika Urama** is a passionate and results-oriented Economist with over 30 years of Africa-wide and global experience in economic policy and knowledge management. He is currently Chief Economist/Vice President for the Economic Governance & Knowledge Management Complex of the African Development Bank Group. Professor Urama previously served at the Bank as a Senior Director for the African Development Institute and as Senior Advisor to the President of the African Development Bank Group on Inclusive and Green Growth Strategy, Policy Development, and Implementation.

Prof. Urama has served on various Boards and Advisory Committees of international organizations and global research programs to deliver inclusive green growth and sustainable development. These include the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC); Green Growth Best Practice (GGBP); the International Resource Panel (IRP); the OECD Green Growth and Poverty Reduction Task Team; the UNESCO Governing Board of the International Research and Training Centre for Science and Technology Strategy (CISTRAT), Beijing, China, and the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP) Advisory Committee, amongst others. He serves on several expert panels advising Leaders in the public and private sectors in Africa and globally.





Professor Urama holds a Ph.D. in Land Economy from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom; an MPhil in Land Economy from Cambridge University; a Master of Science in Agricultural Economics from University of Nigeria, and a First-Class Honors bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nigeria. He won several prizes as the best graduating student in Agricultural Economics at the University of Nigeria at bachelor's and master's degree levels; won the 2003 James Claydon Prize for the best thesis in economics or related subjects, St. Edmond's College, Cambridge University; and was named the Technology Executive of the Year 2012 by the Africa Technology Awards. Prof. Urama has received several Prizes and Awards for his contributions to science and excellence in leadership and community development. He was conferred a Chieftaincy Title in Essodo community of Igbo-Eze North Local Government Area, Enugu State in 2001.



**Kole Shettima** is the Director of the Foundation's Nigeria Office in Abuja and Co-Director of the On Nigeria Big Bet. Earlier at the Foundation, he was responsible for grantmaking in Population & Reproductive Health, Girls Secondary Education, Human Rights and International Justice, and the Partnership for Higher Education in Africa.

Prior to joining the Foundation in 1999, Shettima taught at the University of Maiduguri, the University of Toronto, and at Ohio University. He volunteered for several organizations including the Inter-Church Coalition on Africa, Women In Nigeria, and Machina Emirate Development Association. He has published in several academic journals including Africa Development, Review of African Political Economy, African Studies Review, and Journal of Asian and African Studies.

Shettima has a PhD from the University of Toronto, a Master's degree from Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria and his undergraduate degree is from the University of Maiduguri.

He sits on the board of several organizations including the JAIZ Charity and Development Foundation and Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Foundation, among others.

**Lassina Zerbo** is a distinguished nuclear science diplomat and geophysicist, championing Africa's role in addressing global challenges. As Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, he spearheaded initiatives to make energy safer, more affordable, and accessible, laying the groundwork for an Advanced Nuclear Reactor project. Currently Chairman of the Board at the Rwanda Atomic Energy Board (RAEB) and Energy Advisor and Member of the Strategy and Policy Council in the Office of the President, Mr. Zerbo continues to drive innovation in nuclear energy across the continent. As the 3rd Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), he established landmark programs like the CTBTO Youth Group and GEM, bridging intergenerational gaps in nuclear diplomacy. Under his leadership, the CTBT global monitoring system achieved unprecedented excellence in data acquisition and analysis. Mr. Zerbo's contributions to science diplomacy have earned global recognition, including the 2018 AAAS Science Diplomacy Award and an Honorary Professorship at Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo, reflecting his enduring impact on nuclear governance and development.



**Professor Umezuruike Linus Opara** is Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Postharvest Technology and founding Director of the Africa Institute for Postharvest Technology at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, where he recently completed the 15-year cycle of the NRF-DSI SARCHI Chair in Postharvest Technology. He is currently the foundation Executive Director of the UNESCO International Centre for Biotechnology, Nsukka, Nigeria – focusing on food security, tropical diseases, and bioresources conservation in Africa. He graduated with degrees in Agricultural Engineering (First Class Honours) from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and PhD from Massey University, New Zealand. He has published over 450 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters and conference papers, and graduated over 70 MSc and PhD students in universities in South Africa, the Sultanate of Oman, and New Zealand.



He was recognised in 2019 and 2021, respectively, as a “Highly Cited Researcher” by the Web of Science Group, and current H-index of 74 (Google Scholar) and 65 (Scopus). Among many international, continental, and national awards for his sustained research productivity and impact, has been honoured as Laureate of the African Union Kwame Nkrumah

Continental Award for Life and Earth Sciences – Africa's highest research award for senior researchers, Winner of the Impact Research and Science in Africa Award for “excellence in research & building Africa's human resources capacity” by RUFORUM, and recently the inaugural Laureate of the AFRICA Research Excellence Award by AFREXIMBANK/FARA. He was the founding President of the Pan African Society for Agricultural Engineering and past President of the International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering. His ongoing activities focus on building Africa's research capacity in engineering and biosciences for agri-food systems transformation and industrialization.



**Professor Lise Korsten** is the Co-Director of the Department of Science and Innovation, Centre of Excellence in Food Security. She is also responsible for the food safety and regulatory control programmes within the DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security and actively interacts with other researchers in various institutes. She holds the position of chair in the Global Task Force of Food Security for the International Society for Plant Pathology. Prof Korsten has addressed the South African Parliament on Food Safety Control and has developed a national framework for government to develop a Food Control Authority.

She has been able to attract extensive national and international long term funding such as the Water Research Commission solicited research projects “Measurement of water pollution determining the sources and changes of microbial contamination and impact on food safety from farming to retail level for fresh vegetables”, “An investigation into the link between water quality and microbiological safety of fruit and vegetables from the farming to the processing stages of production and marketing” and “Evaluation of the risks associated with the use of rain water harvested from rooftops for domestic use and homestead food gardens, and groundwater for domestic use and livestock watering”, as well as the 7th EU Framework project “Impact of climate change and globalisation on safety of fresh produce - governing a supply chain of uncompromised food sovereignty.

Prof Korsten developed South Africa's first biocontrol agent for fruit and established a biocontrol research group at the

University of Pretoria (1992). She has also established a fresh produce health group that focusses on food safety of fresh produce and on Sanitary and Phytosanitary aspects related to international trade.

Prof Korsten has focussed her research mainly on the complementary fields of postharvest technology and food safety as related to international trade in fresh produce. As a team the Plant Health and Safety research group has been able to develop several innovative technologies to reduce disease and prevent product contamination. The value of her research programmes (Produce Quality and Safety (PQS) and Postharvest Innovation Research) is best illustrated by sustained industry financial support, intensive student training and publications. Prof Korsten has established a core of researchers and support staff that has been with her for the past 20 years totally funded by the Industry. She has supervised 51 MSc students, 20 PhD students and 11 Postdocs.

**Luc Salako DJOGBENOU** is a Professor in Parasitology and Entomology at the University of Abomey-Calavi, in Benin.

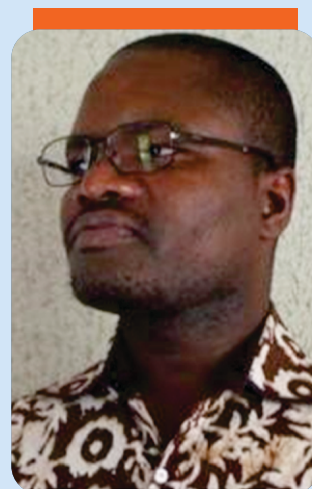
From 2010 to 2012, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in the UK, where he is currently an Honorary Fellow Staff.

Since 2012, he has worked to establish the Tropical Infectious Diseases Research Center in the University of Abomey-Calavi and assumed the position of Deputy Director since 2020.

He was appointed Director of the Institut Régional de Santé Publique at the same University in October 2021.

His main interest is to actively contribute to the training and the increase of valuable young African scientists who can perform cutting-edge research toward tropical infectious diseases.

He is currently the principal supervisor of post-docs (3), PhD students (5), Masters students (3) and undergraduates (2). He has been an African Academy of Sciences Fellow since 2020.







**Dr Magdalena Skipper** is Editor in Chief of Nature and Chief Editorial Advisor for the Nature portfolio. A geneticist by training, she holds a PhD from University of Cambridge, UK. She has considerable editorial and publishing experience, having worked as Chief Editor of Nature Reviews Genetics, Senior Editor for genetics and genomics at Nature and Editor in Chief of Nature Communications. She is passionate about mentorship, research integrity, as well as collaboration and inclusion in research. As part of her desire to promote underrepresented groups in research, in 2018 she co-launched the Nature Research Inspiring Science Award for women early-career researchers.

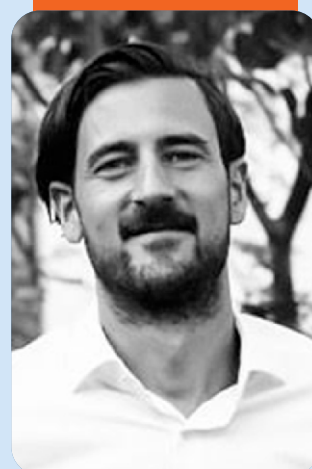


**Professor Mammo Muchie** did his undergraduate degree in Columbia University, New York, USA and his postgraduate MPhil and DPhil in Science, Technology, and Innovation for Development (STI&D) from the University of Sussex, UK. He is currently a DST-NRF research chair in

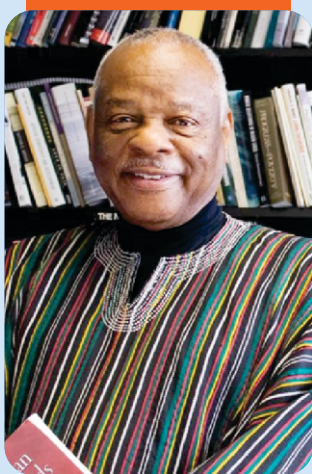
Innovation Studies at the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, Tshwane University of Technology as a rated research Professor. He is a fellow of the South African Academy of Sciences, the African Academy of Sciences and the African Science Institute. He is also currently adjunct Professor at Bahir Dar, Harmaya, and University of Gondar, Ethiopia. He is senior research associate fellow at the TMD Centre of Oxford University and the Africa Centre of Excellence in Data Science at the University of Rwanda. He has taught at the University of Economics in Prague as visiting professor, Jawarahal Nehru University in India, Tonji and Shanghai University in China; Honorary Professor Jiaxing University in China, Assistant Professor Amsterdam University, Visiting Professor Carleton College in the USA; Principal Lecturer Middlesex University, Professor Aalborg University; Part-time Lecturer, Cambridge University; Honorary Professor UNISA. Professor Mammo held various positions globally, including the Director of the Research Program on Civil Society and African Integration at the then University of Kwa Zulu-Natal; board member at the North Western University, Chengdu, China. He is currently the chairman of the advisory board of African Talent hub of the Community Interest Company (registration no.10461990) to raise funds for making Africa the talent, innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity and knowledge hub of the world. He has been appointed as special distinguished advisor to the Africa Union's Student Council and a mentor for the African Entrepreneurship award. He has initiated the African Unity for Renaissance and Knowledge

Exchange. He is a founding scientific advisor to the African Solar network, founding chairman of the Network of Ethiopian scholars. He has led the SIDA, Sweden funded research on engineering design and on transformative innovation for African integrated development and educate on public media to speed up the creation of innovative and renascent Africa. He is also a co-founding member of the Nano Technology Institute in TUT leading the innovation side of the research. He is the founder as Chief Editor of the African Journal on Science, Technology, Innovation and Development that has been running since 2009. He has been appointed as a scientific and academic advisor to the local e-Governance research that involved ten African countries on ICT4D. He had been appointed as a consultant on UNESCO's higher education, Research and Knowledge forum. He has served as a postdoctoral mentor in the NRF national postdoctoral forum. Since 1985, he has produced over 475 publications, including books, chapters in books, and articles in internationally accredited journals and entries in institutional publications. Prof. Muchie has been given a number of awards: long dedicated and valued service awards, best institutional senior researcher of the year merit, academic excellence award, and outstanding contribution to Science, Engineering, Technology (SET) and innovation by NTSF in South Africa. Prof. Muchie took up the mammoth task of producing an impressive body of research on the innovation systems (in whatever rudimentary forms or degrees of evolutionary state they exist) in various African countries. He is the founder of the Africana Post-Graduate Academy

**Matthew Cummins** is an economist who has worked with various United Nations agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and as a Peace Corps Volunteer. He currently leads UNFPA's engagement on health economics in West and Central Africa and previously held a similar role with UNICEF in Eastern and Southern Africa. He has contributed to 50+ publications on socioeconomic issues and holds a master's degree in international economics from Johns Hopkins SAIS.







**Molefi Kete Asante** is Professor, Department of Africology at Temple University in Philadelphia. He is the President of the Molefi Kete Asante Institute for Afrocentric Studies. Asante is Professor Extraordinarius at the University of South Africa. He is the Founding Editor, Journal of Black Studies, and was the first director of University of California, Los Angeles's Center for Afro-American Studies. Asante, often called the most prolific African American scholar, has published 104 books and 500 articles. He obtained his doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles, and has taught at several universities, and the Zimbabwe Institute of Mass Communication. His nearly two hundred doctoral students, from Africa, the Americas, Europe, and Asia, occupy important posts throughout the world. Asante holds honorary degrees from several African and American universities. As the founder of the Afrocentric paradigm, he remains one of the seminal thinkers in the African world.



**Professor Musibau  
Adungbe BAMIKOLE  
(Ph.D.)**

Dr. Bamikole is a Professor of Herbivorous Animal Nutrition in the Department of Animal Science, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria. He is a product of the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria, where he obtained his B.Sc. in Animal Science, M.Sc. in Agricultural Biochemistry

and Nutrition, and Ph.D. in Ruminant Nutrition in 1992, 1994, and 1999 respectively. He was promoted to Full Professor in 2010. He has done extensive research on feed and forage resources evaluation in ruminants and rabbits as well as in vitro assessment of Nigerian medicinal plants and their bioactive components in ruminant methanogenesis abatement. He has over eighty publications in reputable local and international journals some of which are published by Elsevier, Kluwer, Emerald, CSIRO, Springer, and Blackwell. He served ten years on the Editorial Board of the prestigious Animal Feed Science and Technology Journal, Published by Elsevier with an impact factor (IF) of 2.590. He is also an ad hoc reviewer to some highly rated international journals such as Livestock Science, Small Ruminant Research, Animal, Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture, and Tropical Animal Health and Production. He has been an invited speaker at many local and international workshops and conferences. He was a visiting scientist at Kuju Agricultural Research Centre, Kuju, Japan and Kyushu University, Fukuoka Japan. He was also a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute of Subtropical Agriculture, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Changsha, China, and a Senior Fulbright Research Scholar at the Department of Animal Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA. Prof. Bamikole was a two-term Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, at the University of Benin and served as the President of the Association of Deans of Agriculture in Nigeria Universities (ADAN). He is a member of the Governing Council of the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS). He also served as a member of the Governing Board of the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN) and the Advisory Committee of USAID Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS) for Nigeria. He is currently the Director of Research and Development at the University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria.

### Nafissatou Jocelyne Diop, Ph.D

Director of the Sahel Women Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project (SWEDD) at United Nations Population Funds West and Central Africa Regional Office.

Nafissatou J. Diop is an expert in Social Science and public health with over 25 years of rewarding experience advocating for gender equality, sexual and reproductive health services and human rights. With a solid experience in social norms change programming to foster adolescent girls and women empowerment, she was the Head of the Gender and Human Rights Branch at the United Nations Population Fund in New York. Prior to this, she was the Coordinator of the Global Joint Programme to Eliminate Female Genital Mutilation, which supports the efforts of 17 countries in Africa and the Middle East.

Mrs Diop holds a PhD in demography from the University of Montreal, a master's degree in socio-economics of development from the "Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales" in Paris and a master's degree in sociology from the University de Nanterre in Paris, France.



**Ogone Ntwae** is an Economic and Business Strategist with 21 years of experience in disciplines such as strategy management, innovation advisory services, R&D, technology commercialization, entrepreneurship development, business analysis, auditing, accounting and corporate finance. He worked in various sectors such as transport and logistics, me.

Ogone holds Bcom Accounting degree from NWU, Master of Management (Development Management), from Wits University, he is a fellow of Thabo Mbeki Africa Leadership Institute (TMALI), holding Certificate on International Trade and African Development.

Ogone, played a key role in various global programmes such as Europe-China Innovation Partnership (EUPIC), Young Africa Leadership Initiative (YAdia, finance, engineering, energy, ICT, R&D and Innovation ecosystems, SOEs and development agencies. A final year PhD (Economics) student at North-West University, studying Development Finance investment innovation and technology development in the SADC region.LI), Innovation Prize for Africa (IPA), Africa Innovation Summit (AIS) and World Health Organisation (WHO)-AFRO Innovation Programme.





**Professor Olanike Kudirat ADEYEMO**  
FCVSN FEnv FAAS FAS  
FTWAS FISC

Professor Olanike Adeyemo has a deep understanding of broad development challenges in Africa. Among other preferments, she is a Fellow of ASPEN Institute New Voices

Fellowship, which increases the visibility and influence of development experts. In

2022, Professor Adeyemo was invited by the British Council to join the Steering Committee of the Going Global Partners' Group as an International representative. She is the Pioneer Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships), University of Ibadan, Ibadan (2017-2021), a COMSTECH Distinguished scholar and serves on the 6th and 7th Steering Committee of the World Food Security's High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security and Nutrition (2021-2025). In 2022, she was invited to serve on the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub. Since July of 2023, Professor Olanike Adeyemo is the Secretary to the Oyo State Government, Nigeria.

As a researcher, she pioneered scholarship in "One Health" in Nigeria. This is an innovative and transdisciplinary research approach that cuts across traditional boundaries and paradigms to create novel, conceptual, methodological, and translational innovation at the environment-livestock-wildlife-human interface with significant policy implication for Nigeria, the African Continent and the rest of the world. She has 1 patent, 2 copyrights and 135 publications.

Professor Olanike Adeyemo is an elected Fellow of Nigerian Academy of Science, African Academy of Sciences, The World Academy of Sciences, and International Science Council.



**Dr Olawale Salami** worked in research and developing new therapies for the last 15 years.

In his current role, based in Antwerp, Belgium, Dr Salami leads a global team at the interphase of preclinical and clinical drug research, supporting emerging and established biopharmaceutical companies in their clinical development plans, pipeline risk mitigation and the design and conducting first-in-human clinical trials to answer critical questions of safety, pharmacokinetics, and activity of novel therapeutic and vaccine candidates.

Before that, he worked as medical director in a Biotech company in Ghent Belgium (Exevir Bio), overseeing the clinical development of a novel nanobody-based monoclonal antibody therapeutic targeting a unique preserved SARSCOV-



2 spike protein region.

Previously worked in various global clinical development roles in Nairobi, Kenya, with the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative, DNDI, and subsequently In Geneva, Switzerland, with the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics, FIND), , and results of these contributed to WHO treatment guidelines ( {Pediatric HIV treatment, and diagnostics-driven management of pediatric acute febrile illnesses).

As a fellow in infectious disease immunology, Dr Salami studied the impact of short-chain fatty acid-induced macrophage activation in modulating immune response to influenza virus infection.

Before moving into full-time research, Dr Olawale Salami worked in Nigeria as a physician, in South Sudan as a field doctor in a refugee camp country manager > 30 peer-reviewed publications in top academic journals with over 500 citations.

Dr Olawale Salami currently serves on the college of experts of the African Research excellence fund ( AREF). Mentor, Morehouse University centre of excellence in clinical research training, Mentor H3D foundation's drug development leadership program.

**Professor Olubayi** is the author of the book "*Education for a Better World*," which features insightful essays on the pivotal role of education in fostering service-oriented democratic citizens, nurturing effective leadership, and driving sustainable development forward.

Professor Olubayi calls for a fundamental rethinking of African educational systems, urging emulation of globally renowned models of excellence. Central to his advocacy is a dual-pronged strategy: one that ensures a democratic universal access to education for all citizens (**idea number one**), while concurrently establishing and maintaining highly selective elite institutions that educate the most talented and most gifted citizens separately (**idea number two**).

Professor Olubayi was born and raised in Kenya and educated at Rutgers University, USA. He is the Chief Academic Officer at Maarifa Education which is a Pan-African company that owns private universities. He chairs many boards including the University Council of Cavendish University Uganda. Before joining Maarifa Education, Olubayi was the Vice Chancellor of the International University of East Africa (IUEA) in Uganda. He is a scientist and an expert on bacteria,





**Olugbemiro JEGEDE, (FAAS, FSTAN, FCOL, FNAE, CCSSS, D.Sc)** is a Chartered Biologist, Professor of Science Education and also Professor of ODL Research and Digital

education, learning, leadership, social-entrepreneurship, and policy issues.

As a scientist and eclectic scholar, Professor Olubayi earned his Ph.D. on bacteria-and-plant cell interactions at Rutgers University, holds a research patent on the flocculation of bacteria and has published several scholarly articles in microbiology, biotechnology, and social science. As an educator he taught at Middlesex College, USA and at Rutgers University, USA, for 16 years and has taught critical thinking in the IUEA MBA program. He has been an advisor and consultant to government officials in Kenya and South Africa, on matters of education policy, biotechnology, sustainable development, and social cohesion policies. As a social entrepreneur, Prof. Olubayi co-founded the NGO *Kiwimbi International* and the widely respected American nonprofit *Global Literacy Project* which sets up libraries worldwide and provides global service-learning opportunities. Working with *Global Literacy Project* Olubayi helped ship over two million books from the USA to African countries. As a consultant for a government commission (NCIC) in Kenya, Olubayi co-wrote the "Kenya National Ethnic and Race Relations" Policy.

Learning), Appointed Emeritus Professor at NOUN in 2015, he holds a PhD from University of Cardiff, UK. Foundation Vice Chancellor, NOUN (2003-2010), former Secretary General of the Association of African Universities, and immediate past Secretary to the Government of Kogi State. His current research is on Digital Learning, Instructional Design and Knowledge Engineering. He has two educational theories to his credit: the theory of Collateral Learning (to explain learning science in a non-western classroom environment) and the theory of Webagogy (for instructional and curricula design for online instruction). He chairs the TETFund Advisory Committee on Digital Literacy, Productivity and Emerging Skills. Member & Leader, African Union Commission/ European Union/Association of African Universities African Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM) Team to Ghana and, Lesotho. Regional Vice President for Africa for the International Council on Education for Teaching. Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of Littoral University. Awarded ICDE prize for lifelong contribution to ODL. He is Chair of the Board of Trustees of several organisations including FutureX, COSFAN, and Career Digest.



**Distinguished Prof Olukayode Oladipo Amund** was elected a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences in 2016. He is also a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science, Royal Society of Biology UK, Institute of Policy Management Development and the African Scientific Institute USA. He attended the University of Lagos, Nigeria, where he graduated with Bachelor of Science (Biology) in First Class in 1977. He obtained a Ph.D degree in Biotechnology from Cranfield University in 1982. He joined the services of the University of Lagos in 1978 and rose through the ranks to become a Full Professor in 1998. He was honored with the title of Distinguished Professor in 2016 on account of scholarship and meritorious service. Until his appointment as the third substantive Vice-Chancellor of Elizade University in 2019, he had served in various administrative capacities at the University of Lagos as the Dean, Faculty of Science (2002-2004), Dean of Student Affairs (2010-2014), Director Distance Learning Institute (2016-2018) and Member of the Governing Council (2013-2017). He was the Foundation Vice-Chancellor of Wesley University, Ondo (2004-2007) and a member of the Governing Council of the same institution (2018-2022). He is a foremost Petroleum Microbiologist who has published copiously on bioremediation of environmental pollutants and had a distinguished career as an Environmental Consultant to industry prior to retirement in 2023



**Professor Olukemi A. Odukoya FAS. (B. Pharm (Hons), MPhil. PhD Pharmacognosy)**

Professor Odukoya has a fulfilled career demonstrating consistent success in the Pharmaceutical specialty of Pharmacognosy, Natural drug product Chemistry, Herbal research expert and educator. She has contributed to the advancement of the frontiers of knowledge in the area of biologically active natural products. Professor Odukoya is a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science, Merit award winner Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, Fellow Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, Fellow West Africa Post graduate College of Pharmacists, Fellow Nigeria Academy of Pharmacy and Fellow Academy of Medical Sciences. She has been able to translate her research results with the successful registration of Two (2) Patents, One (1) Copyright, Eight (8) products as herbal teas with NAFDAC and full registration of One (1) herbal mixture formulated and clinically tested as an immune Booster and Antioxidant under the NAFDAC TetFund COVID-19 Research Grant Award.





**Oyewale Tomori** is a past President of the Nigerian Academy of Science with experience in virology, disease prevention, and control. He was at the University of Ibadan from 1971 to 1994, and later served as the pioneer Vice-Chancellor of the Redeemer's University in Nigeria from 2004 to 2011. From 1994 to 2004, he was the virologist for the WHO Africa Region, establishing the African Regional Polio Laboratory Network. He has served and continues to serve on numerous national and global health advisory committees. He has authored/co-authored over 180 scientific publications. He is currently President, West Africa Network of National Academies



**Prof. Paco Sérémé** is a retired Research Director in plant pathology and current President of the National Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters of Burkina Faso (ANSAL-BF). He holds advanced degrees in plant protection and pathology from the University of Rennes I (France) and the University of Cocody (Côte d'Ivoire). Prof. Sérémé's distinguished career includes roles as Director General of Burkina Faso's National Agricultural Research Institute (INERA) and Executive Director of the West and Central African Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), contributing over a decade to regional agricultural research and development. His governance expertise is further reflected in his leadership as Chair of ICRISAT's Board and in roles on numerous scientific councils across Africa and Europe. Recently elected Vice-President of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) for West Africa, Prof. Sérémé is recognized internationally for his commitment to scientific advancement in Africa. He co-founded ANSAL-BF in 2013 and has served as its President since 2019.



**Prof. Rajaa Cherkaoui El Moursli** is a leading Moroccan nuclear physicist who earned her PhD in Nuclear Physics from Université Joseph Fourier, France. She has been instrumental in advancing nuclear physics and high-energy physics in Morocco, particularly through her leadership in the ATLAS collaboration at CERN, which contributed to the discovery of the Higgs boson in 2012. She has developed key programs, including the first master's degree in medical physics in Morocco, and has supervised numerous students. Her achievements include the L'Oréal-UNESCO Women in Science Award in 2015 and being named one of Forbes' 50 Over 50 in 2024. Prof. Cherkaoui is a member of the Hassan II Academy of Sciences and Technology and a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences, the World Academy of Sciences, and the European Academy of Sciences and Arts. She serves on several national and international boards and committees, advocating for nuclear safety and women's representation in science.

**Prof. Raphael M. MUNAVU, Ph.D., OGW, EBS, FKNAS, FAAS**

Prof. Raphael Munavu is Emeritus Professor in Chemistry at the University of Nairobi and Chairman of Konza Technopolis Development Authority. He was previously Chairman of the Presidential Working Party on Education Reform in Kenya; Chairman of KNAS; Chancellor of Laikipia University; Commissioner in the Commission on Revenue Allocation; and Director at the National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation.

He also served as the Vice-Chancellor of Moi University; DVC and Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Nairobi; Principal of Laikipia College; Chairman of Kenya National Examinations Council; and Chairman of Council of the South Eastern University College.

Prof. Munavu obtained a B.A. degree from Kalamazoo College (1970); an M.Sc. from Wayne State University (1972); and a Ph.D. from University of Detroit (1975). His specialization is in organic and industrial chemistry. He has been conferred with National Honours of Order of the Grand Warrior (OGW), and Elder of the Burning Spear (EBS).



**Professor Richard A Adegbola, MSc, PhD (Dundee), FIBMS (UK), FRCPATH (London) FRCP (Hons, London), FAS, FAAS, FAMedS**

Professor Richard A Adegbola, FAAS, is a distinguished Medical Microbiologist with extensive training in Nigeria and the United Kingdom. He holds a PhD in Microbiology from University of Dundee, and has made significant contributions across diagnostic microbiology, academia, philanthropy, and the pharmaceutical industry on three continents. His primary research focuses on the epidemiology and prevention of pneumonia and reducing childhood mortality. Currently, Professor Adegbola chairs the National Health Research Ethics Committee (NHREC), Nigeria, and is Research Professor & Consultant at the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), specializing in microbial infections and vaccinations. He is also dedicated to mentoring and training early-career researchers. Before his tenure at NIMR, he served as Global Director of Scientific Affairs and Public Health at GlaxoSmithKline in Belgium for six years. In 2018, he returned to Lagos to establish RAMBICON, a global health consulting firm, where he serves as Founder and Independent Consultant.







**Professor Rosemary Ogu** is a distinguished Obstetrician/ Gynaecologist at the University of Port Harcourt and an associate Faculty at Ariadne Labs, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston Massachusetts. Graduating with distinction (MB.BS) from the University of Benin in 1999, her residency training in Obstetrics & Gynaecology from 2003-2008 earned her fellowships from both the West-African-College-of-Surgeons, & the National-Postgraduate-Medical-College-of-Nigeria(FWACS, FMCOG). Ogu has an MSc in Reproductive Health from the World-Bank Africa-Centre-of-Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation (CERHI), University of Benin (MScRH). A prominent advocate for Sexual-Reproductive-Health & Rights, Prof.Ogu leads research activities for Adolescents and Women's Health and has authored over 80 publications in peer-reviewed journals/books.

Prof Ogu was Principal Investigator of the Ford Foundation Increasing access to Youth Friendly Services, the World Diabetes Foundation Gestational Diabetes Mellitus Control Program in the Niger Delta & the British Council Nigeria-Stability-&-Reconciliation-Program for the prevention of gender-based violence and the establishment of virtual safe spaces and Observatory on Violence against Women and Girls in Nigeria. Prof. Ogu is the 24th National President of the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria & Faculty Board Member of the National-Postgraduate-Medical-College of Nigeria NPMCN– the Apex Institution for the training of postgraduate medical doctors.



**Sekazi Kauze Mtingwa** is Principal Partner of TriSEED Consultants in the USA. He played an important role in the design and construction of accelerators at Fermilab used to discover the top quark. He co-developed the theory of intrabeam scattering, which has played a critical role in the performance of synchrotrons. Mtingwa co-founded over 25 organizations, including the African Physical Society, African Light Source Foundation, and LAAAMP, which promotes synchrotron light sources and crystallography in developing countries. Mtingwa is recipient of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's 2023 Philip Hauge Abelson Prize, International Science Council's 2021 Policy-for-Science Award, American Physical Society's 2025 John Wheatley Award and 2017 Robert R. Wilson Prize. Mtingwa has promoted the establishment of synchrotron light sources and crystallography hubs in Africa and elsewhere. He received Bachelor's degrees in 1971 in physics and mathematics from MIT, and Ph.D. in 1976 in physics from Princeton University.

### Dr. Sennen Hounton

A medical doctor by training, Mr. Hounton brings more than 20 years' experience in strategic foresight, leadership and management at country, regional and global levels in demographic dividend, resilient health systems, and prevention of conflicts. With a strong humanitarian and development background, Mr Hounton is an expert of the West and Central Africa region where he has demonstrated his ability to navigate the socio-political complexities of multiple and intersecting crises, as well as advocating for the centrality of populations and girls' human capital for the Sustainable Development Goals. He has a strong record of forging broad-based partnerships that deliver results for women, girls and young people. Prior to his position as Regional Director, Mr Hounton was UNFPA Representative in Chad (2021 – 2023), Representative in the Democratic Republic of Congo (2017 – 2020), UNFPA Representative a.i in Sierra Leone (2016) and served in various advisory and managerial roles notably as Senior Emergency Coordinator in South Sudan, and Family Planning Team Leader (2013 – 2017), as well as Maternal Health Advisor (2009 – 2013) at UNFPA Headquarters. Before joining UNFPA, Mr Hounton worked at the World Health Organization (WHO) Multi Diseases Surveillance Center in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso as Regional Programme Coordinator; at Centre MURAZ, an International Biomedical Research Center in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso as Maternal Health Scientist; and at the Oklahoma State Department of Health (USA) as Epidemiologist.

Mr. Hounton earned his medical degree and Bachelor's degree in sociology-Anthropology from the Abomey-Calavi University, Benin, a Master's degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of Oklahoma in the United States, and a PhD in



Public Health from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. He served 5 years as Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee member for the WHO Alliance for Health Systems and Policy Research. A national of Benin Republic, Mr. Hounton is fluent in English and French. He is married and has three children.

### Prof. Simon Connell.

Particle, Nuclear, Quantum and Applied Physics, Nuclear Energy, Materials Science, High Performance Computing and Innovation. Prof Connell is Professor of Physics within the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment at the University of Johannesburg. He has research interests in Particle, Nuclear, Quantum and Applied Physics, Nuclear Energy, Materials Science, High Performance Computing and Innovation. He is a past president of the South African Institute of Physics. He is the founding member of the SA participation in High Energy Physics at ATLAS at CERN. He has published over 170 few-author papers in International Journals and is also an ATLAS author (>800 papers). He has a Scopus H-index of 101 with over 45,000 citations. He is interested in technology and innovation for competitive

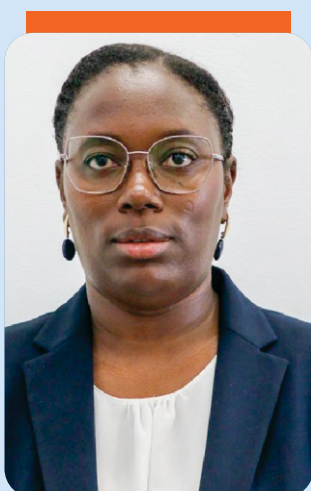




industry and has several innovation and commercialisation projects. One of these uses intelligent sensor-based sorting to discover diamond within kimberlite. He supports green, safe Nuclear Energy, both large scale generation and also Small Modular Reactors. He has worked on Open Source Monte Carlo Nuclear Engineering code development and also on Fibre Optic based on-line, in-core, real-time 4IR sensing for power reactors. He also works on the implementation of the roadmap towards the African Light Source (chair: Exec). He is also on the steering committee developing the community driven African Strategy for Physics.



Dr. Solomon Agbor is a seasoned Public Health professional with over 20 years of experience in global health and development. His work has focused on strengthening health systems across sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, bridging the gap between programmatic goals and clinical outcomes. He has led impact assessments, and contributed to the improvement of health quality indicators. Dr. Agbor has been instrumental in designing and coordinating research protocols, and using both qualitative and quantitative analysis to drive insights. Currently, he serves as an administrator at the Maryland Department of Health, Long-Term Services and Support, developing indicators for continuous quality improvement strategies aimed at enhancing patient outcomes. For the past six years, he has worked as a health expert consultant for the World Bank's African Centers of Excellence (ACE) initiative, run by the Association of African Universities (AAU) to enhance the quality of higher education in West and Central African universities.



**Dr. Sónia Semedo** is the Pro-Rector for Research and Advanced Studies and an Assistant Professor at the University of Cabo Verde. She holds a Ph.D. in Physics Engineering with a specialization in Instrumentation from the University of Coimbra (2016), Portugal. Her research focuses on smart solutions for wireless sensor networks, artificial intelligence, and their applications in agriculture and water management. Dr. Semedo is a recipient of multiple fellowships, including the African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence (ARISE-PP), the AI4D Africa scholarship and the Fulbright Visiting Scholar 2024 at Wellesley College, Massachusetts. She was also the Principal Investigator for the AI4AFS consortium. Additionally, she serves as the President of the Union of Physicists of Portuguese-Speaking Countries and is a member of the Executive Board of African Light Sources, contributing to advancing physics research and education across the Lusophone and African regions.

Dr Sonny Folorunso Kuku OFR MD PhD MACP FAS FAMedS is a renowned Clinical and Experimental Endocrinologist who has done seminal and groundbreaking work on the relationship between the molecular structure and clinical function of glycoprotein hormones and glucagon. He is also an expert in Endocrine Infertility in Africans.

He is currently the Chairman of the Science Prize Committee of the Nigerian Academy of Science and the immediate past Chairman of the Section of Medical Sciences of the same Academy. He is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Nigeria, a Master of the American College of Physicians and a Past President of the West African College of Physicians.



#### **PROFESSOR STELLA IFEANYI SMITH**

Stella Ifeanyi SMITH (PhD) is a Director of Research, Nigerian Institute of Medical Research and Professor of Microbiology, Mountain Top University. She holds a PhD in Medical Microbiology (1997), a pre-doctoral fellowship with EU Scholarship, Manchester, UK and post-doctoral fellowships at Bordeaux, France, Dresden and Munich all in Germany with INSERM and Alexander von Humboldt fellowships respectively.

Her special interests are Molecular epidemiology, antimicrobial resistance and microbiome of infectious diseases and is in top 5% of researchers in Africa working on *H. pylori* for which she is the founding President of the African Helicobacter and Microbiota Study Group.

She was listed amongst the 'List of 10 Nigerian women pulling their weight in Science' by Leadership newspaper, 2017 and '16 Prominent Nigerian women that excelled in Science and Research' by silverbirdtv.com, and was Chair of the Panel Session on 'Women in Science: Career Perspectives for Junior Scientists' in Entebbe, Uganda. She is a reviewer and member of African German Network of Excellence in Science (AGNES) and Member of National Antimicrobial Resistance, Technical Working Group.

She is a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science (FAS), Academy of Medical Sciences of Nigeria (FAMedS), and African Academy of Sciences (FAAS).





**Prof Thokozani Simelane, PhD and D. Eng.**

Holding a Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science (Honours), Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy and a Doctorate of Engineering.

Is a Professor of Practice in the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment, University of Johannesburg. Has been a Principal Investigator of South Africa's National Food and Nutrition Security Survey. This is the biggest Survey South Africa has undertaken on assessing food security in the country. It is first of its kind since the country's transition to Democracy. Previously worked as a research scientist at the South African National Parks. Served as an Interim Research Director at Africa Institute of South Africa before it was incorporated into Human Sciences Research Council. Served as a Departmental Manager for Environmental Management division at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and South African Bureau of Standards. Have published more than one hundred scientific publications. Served as a member of the Standing Advisory Committee on Intellectual Property Right of South Africa(2002-2017). The Committee advises the minister of trade and industries on issues relating to South Africa's international positions on intellectual property. Served as a member of the Research and Publications Committee of AISA (2009-2014). Currently serving as a principal investigator of the project "Mapping Science Diplomacy in Africa: a comprehensive analysis of strategies, activities and bilateral opportunities with Switzerland", which he is implementing with Swiss TPH, Switzerland.



**Dr. Thomas Hormenu** is a cardiometabolic epidemiology and health promotion expert from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. He is an APTI fellow and a principal investigator

of the Cardiometabolic Epidemiology Research Laboratory [CERL]. His research interests extend into multidisciplinary sectors, owing to an epitome of diversities in his training from teacher education and health promotion to cardiometabolic health risks epidemiology. Thematically, his research focuses on cardiometabolic risks epidemiology and how social factors influence the cardiometabolic health of indigenous Ghanaians. He has co-authored publications with renowned scholars. Currently, his research focuses on identifying risk factors for cardiovascular diseases across the lifespan. In Ghana, Dr. Hormenu has developed a prospective study [the Cardiometabolic Risk (CarMeR) Study] to determine the prevalence of undiagnosed diabetes and prediabetes and apply evidence-based, efficacious, culturally sensitive lifestyle interventions to decrease the social, familial, and personal cost of diabetes in Ghana. He is interested in building collaborative relationships and forming research consortia with teams of experts in academia as well as clinicians to conduct research to develop innovative African-based lifestyle interventions that focus on diabetes remission and prevention.



### ChiChi Aniagolu-Okoye

#### Regional Director, West Africa, Ford Foundation

A Sociologist with over 20 years of experience in Development, ChiChi is presently the Regional Director, West Africa of the Ford Foundation. The Ford Foundation is a Private Philanthropic Institution that supports visionary leaders and organisations working on the frontlines of social change worldwide. Before her role at the Ford Foundation, she held several senior development positions, including Country Director positions at WaterAid, Technoserve, Girl Effect and Oxfam in Nigeria. She was also the Director of the Canadian International Development Agency Programme Support Unit, Deputy Programme Director for the EU-funded "Support to Reforming Institutions Programme" (SRIP) and Ashoka Innovators for the Public's Representative for West Africa. Before returning to Nigeria, ChiChi was a Researcher at the Centre for Europeans Social Research, Cork and Lecturer at the Universities of Limerick and University College Cork, all in Ireland, teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Women's Studies and Sociology of Development. ChiChi holds a PhD from the University College Cork in Ireland.



### Professor Chinedum Peace Babalola nee Anyabuikie (BPharm, PharmD, PhD, FAS, FAAS, FPSN)

Chinedum Peace Babalola, is the immediate past Vice-Chancellor of Chrisland University Abeokuta, a Pharmacist, Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry/Pharmacokinetics, and a past Dean of Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Ibadan. She obtained a Bachelor of Pharmacy (B.Pharm.), MSc, and PhD degrees from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, completed her post-doctoral fellowship at University of British Columbia, Canada, and has been a research scholar to some institutions in Germany and USA.

For over 35 years, Babalola has focused on pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics, pharmacogenetics, clinical trials as tools to study the disposition of several therapies in Nigerians, as a guide to optimizing therapy in Blacks. She has enjoyed many grants including a MacArthur grant (\$1m) to set up the Centre for Drug Discovery, Development and Production (CDDDP) in University of Ibadan. She is currently a focal person for the ongoing USAID sponsored USP-PQM+ program on Promoting Quality of Medicines in LIMC. A fellow of many academies, Chinedum is the first female pharmacist inducted Fellow Academy of Sciences (FAS); and one of first female Nigerians inducted Fellow African Academy of Sciences (FAAS). She is a recipient of several awards and prizes including the prestigious African Union Kwame



Nkrumah Regional Prize for Scientific Excellence in 2019. Babalola has over 100 peer-reviewed publications in reputable outlets. She has supervised and mentored over 50 postgraduate students.



**Dr. Mathias Ahii Chia** earned a Bachelor's (2004) and Master's (2007) degree in Botany from Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria, and a Ph.D. in Ecology and Natural Resources from the Universidade Federal de São Carlos, Brazil, in 2012. With over 90 publications in Q1 journals, he is an editorial board member and active reviewer for several high-impact journals, including *Harmful Algae* and *Science of the Total Environment*.

He is affiliated with Ahmadu Bello University, the University of Brasília, the State University of Paraíba, and the University of São Paulo. His expertise spans the molecular ecology of algae and cyanobacteria, aquatic chemistry, and plant physiology. His research focuses on bioactive metabolites from cyanobacteria, such as cyanopeptides and cyanotoxins, and their ecological and public health implications. Dr. Chia's interdisciplinary work addresses critical environmental issues and advances knowledge in water quality, toxic bloom management, and sustainable biotechnology applications.



**Catherine Falade** is a retired professor of Pharmacology & Therapeutics and consultant clinical pharmacologist from the University of Ibadan (UI)/University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan Nigeria.

She was Director of the Institute for Advanced Medical Research & Training at the College of Medicine, UI & Chair of the Human Research Ethics Committee, UI/UCH among other official responsibilities. She is currently the Technical Coordinator for the national antimalarial therapeutic efficacy studies. Her research efforts focused on malaria especially in the most vulnerable population of malaria endemic countries – (children and pregnant women), malaria-HIV interphase, phytomedicine and drug pharmacokinetics as she successfully adopted interdisciplinary framework to foster partnership with other researchers locally and internationally to explore malaria control strategies across family, community, and healthcare context. She is the recipient of numerous research grants locally and internationally and has published extensively in peer reviewed journals.

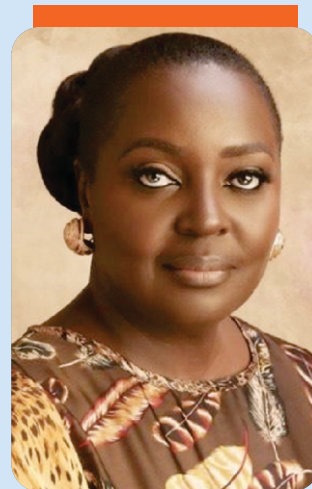
She continues to mentor early and middle career academics and the next generation of health care workers at undergraduate and postgraduate levels (MSc, MPhil, PhD) and Residents doctors.



**Dr. Adhiambo Odaga, MFR**, is an independent executive consultant with over 27 years of experience across the nonprofit and private sectors. As the founding Managing Director of Dangote Foundation, she managed \$150 million in annual grantmaking, established operational systems, and spearheaded the creation of the Dangote Group & Environment, Health, Safety, and Social Directorate. At the Ford Foundation, she served as Director of Pan Africa Programs/Representative for West Africa, leading initiatives in philanthropy, governance and human rights, youth and women's reproductive health, economic development, media, arts, and culture.

Earlier in her career, Dr. Odaga advanced girls' education in Africa at the World Bank and drove agricultural innovation as a Social Scientist at the International Potato Center.

A Rhodes Scholar, she holds a PhD from the University of Oxford, an MCRP from UC Berkeley, and a BA from St. Catherine University. She also serves on several boards and the UNFPA Global Advisory Council.



**Daya Reddy** is Professor Emeritus in applied mathematics at the University of Cape Town. He was a founder member in 2003 of AIMS, the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, which is now a pan-African network with centres in five African countries. He is actively involved in bodies that work towards strengthening the scientific enterprise and at the science-society-policy nexus. He as President of the Academy of Science of South Africa, as co-chair of the policy arm of the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), and as inaugural President of the International Science Council (ISC), the largest representative non-governmental scientific organization globally. He also chairs the International Advisory Board of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Germany. Daya Reddy is a recipient of the Order of Mapungubwe, awarded by the President of South Africa for distinguished contributions to science. He is a Fellow of TWAS and an elected Member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.





**Prof. Etinosa Igbinosa** is a distinguished microbiologist and professor of Molecular Microbiology and Global Health. His research primarily focuses on microbial pathogenesis, environmental health, water quality, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance, with an emphasis on addressing the public health challenges posed by microbial contaminants in water systems and food sources. Prof. Igbinosa's work has advanced the understanding of pathogenic microorganisms and their role in disease transmission, particularly in African contexts where water and food security are critical. He has made significant strides in developing biotechnological tools for environmental monitoring and public health improvement. Prof. Igbinosa is widely published, with numerous articles in high-impact journals, and his contributions have earned him international recognition. As a mentor, he is committed to nurturing the next generation of scientists in Africa, playing a pivotal role in advancing scientific research and innovation on the continent. His work has a profound impact on both academia and public health policy in Africa and beyond.



He holds Ph.D Degree in Biochemistry from the University of Ibadan. He was Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Biochemistry, University of Liverpool, UK and visiting scientist at the Institute of Food Safety and Toxicology, Copenhagen, and Institute of Environmental and Occupational Medicine, University of Aarhus, Denmark. He is a quondam Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Ibadan and past Academic Secretary of the Nigerian Academy of Science.

Professor Farombi's research areas over the past 25 years have been on Molecular Toxicology, Cellular Oxidative Stress Mechanisms, Antioxidant Redox Biochemistry, and Nutraceuticals as Prophylactic agents. His recent scientific reports have opened up new therapeutic window in progressive neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease. He is among the top Nigerian researchers ranked by world ranking bodies with H-index of 65, i10-index of 238 and ~17,000 citations.

A very effective, and innovative researcher, he has supervised 200 BSc, 250 MSc and 27 PhD students in Biochemistry and Toxicology. He is the supervisor of the adjudged best PhD Thesis in the discipline of Basic Medical Sciences withing the Nigerian University system during 2009 assessment by NUC and the supervisor of the best PhD Thesis in the University of Ibadan (2018). He has published 350 scientific articles in reputable international journals, and given over 200 invited lectures in countries spanning 4 continents of the world.

**Ebenezer Olatunde Farombi** is a Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Toxicology, Fellow Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC) UK, Fellow Nigerian Academy of Science (FAS), Fellow Academy of Toxicological Sciences (ATS) USA and Fellow African Academy of Sciences (FAAS).

## EXHIBITORS

- 1) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- 2) Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health (CERHI)
- 3) Sustainable Procurement Environment and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE)
- 4) Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC)/African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH)
- 5) May & Baker
- 6) The African Academy of Sciences (AAS)
- 7) National Office For Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)
- 8) National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI)
- 9) Raw Materials Research And Development Council (RMRDC)
- 10) Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (NGSA)







**The African  
Academy of Sciences**

## **The African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTI)**

**Building African research  
leadership for science-driven  
development**

### **Rising Research Leaders**

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) has created programmes dedicated to Rising Research Leaders, offering postdoctoral training to support globally competitive research in African universities and research institutes to help build knowledge-based economies on the continent.

The AAS aims to provide resources for the best minds in Africa to work in conducive research environments, produce quality and relevant data, and create innovations that have the potential to address health and developmental challenges on the continent and globally.

### **The African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTI)**

The African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTI) is a postdoctoral training fellowship programme established in 2019. The AAS implements the APTI programme in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The goal of the APTI programme is to create a critical mass of young African scientists, who are trained at the NIH and return to their home institutions and grow into scientific leaders to help solve Africa's challenges in global health and development.

APTI is a four-year postdoctoral fellowship where fellows are placed in various NIH laboratories and centers for two years before returning to their home institutions in Africa for another two years of research.

After successful completion of the two-year postdoctoral fellowship at NIH, fellows receive 50%

salary support for an additional two years as part of a US \$226,800 research grant to assist their transition into independent researchers. APTI also supports the home institutions and expects commitment from them to provide a conducive research environment and dedicated research time for the fellows upon their return home.

## APTI Objectives

The main objective of APTI is to train a cadre of African scientists who will:



Return to their home institution and become scientific leaders in their community



Help solve Africa's challenges in global health and development



Become trainers for the next generation



Advocate for increased research and innovation projects in Africa

## APTI Programme Highlights



**2019**

APTI programme launched



**29**

postdoctoral fellows (18 male, 11 female)



**29**

African universities/ institutes participating as home institutions



**13**

African countries



For more information on the AAS and the APTI programme:



[www.aasciences.africa](http://www.aasciences.africa)



[apti@aasciences.africa](mailto:apti@aasciences.africa)



@AASciences



African Academy of Sciences



African Academy of Sciences





# WOMEN'S HEALTH AND ACTION RESEARCH CENTRE (WHARC) ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Promoting the health and Social Well-being of Women  
and Youth through Evidence-based Research and Interventions

## OUR VISION

WHARC vision seeks to create a world where all people are treated with equal respect and dignity and where women and young adolescents have equality and access to basic reproductive health information and services.

## OUR MISSION

WHARC mission is grounded in a deep love of humanity and a belief in equality and dignity for all people. WHARC works to improve the reproductive health and social wellbeing of woman and adolescents in Africa so they can lead productive, fulfilling lives and provide a healthy future for their children. Through its cutting edge research, WHARC educates women, youth, community gatekeepers and policymakers about sexual and reproductive health, and advocates for policy change at the local, state and federal level. WHARC also provides current and effective reproductive health services for adolescent girls in Africa. Till date, WHARC has conducted formative and intervention research that documents the socio-cultural determinants of women's health that provides data for developing policies and programs for scaling up best practices relating to women's health in Nigeria and African. In particular, WHARC's niche is to use the results of research to build public health awareness Nigeria.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Women's-Health-and-Action-Research-Centre](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Women's-Health-and-Action-Research-Centre) | Twitter: [twitter.com/wharc\\_nigeria](https://twitter.com/wharc_nigeria) | Instagram: [wharc\\_nigeria](https://www.instagram.com/wharc_nigeria) | LinkedIn: [WHARC NIGERIA](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wharc_nigeria)



## AFRICAN JOURNAL OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (AJRH)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Instagram - [wharc\\_nigeria](https://www.instagram.com/wharc_nigeria) | YouTube - Women's health and action research centre





# CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE



## CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INNOVATION (CERHI)

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY, NIGERIA

congratulates the President and Fellows of the  
**African Academy of Sciences**  
on the Occasion of their

# *15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and General Assembly.*

CERHI, Africa's first post graduate institution building capacity for implementing capacity for implementing policies and programs in reproductive health. We offer courses in Nursing Science, Reproductive Health, Public Health and Health Economics.

Recent accomplishments include:

1. Graduates
  - 7654 short courses
  - 532 MSc
  - 94 PhD across 10 African countries
2. Publication of 782 articles in peer reviewed journals
3. Molecular/Genomic Research and high-fidelity simulation.

For applications into CERHI programs, visit  
<https://waeup.uniben.edu/applicants/pg2023>

For further information, visit our

<https://cerhiuniben.edu.ng>

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