



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Health



Rwanda
Biomedical
Centre

Healthy People. Wealthy Nation

2024 Health Research & Policy Conference

Advancing Research For A Healthy Rwanda

#Research4Rwanda2024

ABSTRACT BOOK

Thank you for supporting the 2024 Health Research & Policy Conference

This conference was made possible in part by contribution from our partners

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INTRODUCTION

WELCOME NOTE



Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, and esteemed colleagues, welcome to the third edition of the Health Research and Policy Conference. It's an honor to have you all gathered here today as we embark on a journey to catalyze transformative advancements in healthcare in Rwanda.

Our theme this year, "Advancing Research for a Healthy Rwanda," resonates deeply with the collective commitment we share towards the improvement of healthcare in our nation. While we celebrate the remarkable progress Rwanda has made in enhancing the availability, equity, and quality of healthcare, we must acknowledge the hurdles that still lie ahead.

Yet, as we stand on the precipice of this collective journey, we are filled with determination and resolve. We understand that overcoming these challenges demands nothing short of innovation and the integration of cutting-edge research into evidence-based policies and strategies.

Today, as we convene in this conference, we embrace a spirit of collaboration, bringing together researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders from diverse sectors. This collaboration will be key in achieving the goals set out in the National Health Research Agenda and key strategic directions to drive research and innovation in the country. This agenda will serve as a blueprint to guide and prioritize health research activities in alignment with the nation's health-related needs.

Throughout the course of this conference, we will deliver into critical issues, explore emerging trends, and showcase cutting-edge research initiatives aimed at addressing the healthcare challenges in Rwanda. From epidemiology to healthcare delivery models, from infectious diseases to non-communicable conditions, our discussions will span a wide spectrum of topics, reflecting the complexity and interconnectedness of these challenges.

In closing, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all our esteemed speakers, presenters, partners, and sponsors especially PIH, WHO, UNFPA, CHAI, JPIGO, Rinda Ubuzima and University of Rwanda whose unwavering support has made this conference possible. Your dedication and passion for advancing health research agenda in Rwanda are truly commendable, and I have no doubt that together, we will chart a course towards a healthier, more prosperous future for our nation.

Once again, welcome to the third edition of the National Health Research and Policy Conference. May our deliberations be fruitful, our collaborations fruitful, and our collective efforts transformative.

Thank you.

Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana
Minister of Health
Rwanda

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR OF THE CONFERENCE



Dear Esteemed Participants,

It is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to each of you to the 3rd Annual National Health Research and Policy Symposium, hosted at the esteemed Kigali Convention Centre in Rwanda. This gathering represents a pivotal moment for all of us dedicated to advancing healthcare in Rwanda and beyond.

The National Health Research and Policy Conference stands as a beacon of collaboration and innovation, uniting policymakers, researchers, healthcare professionals, and stakeholders in a concerted effort to shape the future of healthcare in Rwanda. With the theme of "Advancing Research for a Healthy Rwanda," this conference embodies our collective commitment to fostering transformative advancements in healthcare.

Our conference endeavors to connect the vibrant health research community in Rwanda, promoting grassroots research initiatives and providing a platform for in-depth discussions on translating research evidence into impactful policymaking and implementation strategies. By convening diverse perspectives, we aim to promote and evaluate innovative approaches for achieving quality healthcare outcomes tailored to Rwanda's specific health needs.

Throughout the symposium, parallel sessions will delve into various health-related topics, including infectious diseases, chronic diseases, mental health, pandemic preparedness, data science, clinical trials, and maternal and child health, further enriching our discussions and insights.

Although notable advancements have been achieved, there remains substantial work ahead. It is imperative to increase investments in research and development to unearth novel tools and strategies. Closing the divide between pioneering research and its practical implementation within communities is essential for success, and this conference serves as a crucial platform for fostering partnerships toward this objective.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to each of you for your participation and dedication to advancing healthcare in Rwanda. Special thanks to our partners and sponsors of the event PIH, WHO, UNFPA, CHAI, JPIGO, Rinda Ubuzima and University of Rwanda. Let us seize this opportunity to exchange knowledge, forge partnerships, and inspire action towards building a healthier, more prosperous Rwanda.

Warm regards,

Prof Claude Mambo Muvunyi

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR OF SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE



Dear colleagues,

Rwanda's healthcare sector is undergoing an impressive transformation as new solutions are being implemented at an ever-accelerating rate. The Ministry of Health's (MOH) 4x4 (four by four) program is in its implementation phase and it is currently being integrated into the Health Sector Strategic Plan V. The rollout of these plans will have a transformative effect on the quantity and quality of healthcare delivery, leading to further improved health services for the Rwandan people.

These ambitious plans reverberate through many related sectors in health, with the 4x4 program acting as a catalyser for change. The healthcare higher education sector, both private and public, is engaged to train the newly needed human resource. The private sector works to identify existing gaps, and looks to offer business solutions to help overcome problems. Development partners are also stepping up, and through coordinated efforts with MOH/RBC, they are directing the necessary funding and technical support to help Rwanda achieve its ambitious health goals.

Against this backdrop, the third edition of the Health Research and Policy Conference is being organised. The Health Research and Policy Conference series was launched in 2018, with the aim to contribute to the improvement of health and wellbeing of all Rwandans by bringing together key players in the healthcare sector to reflect and discuss on the translation of research evidence into policymaking and practice. As a bi-annual gathering – interrupted by COVID19 – the ambitions of the Conference are still aligned with this original aim:

- Connecting the health research community in Rwanda
- Promoting grassroots research
- Discussing the contribution and implementation of research in policy making
- Promoting and evaluating innovative approaches for quality healthcare

Today, huge advances in global health are creating both opportunities and challenges for Rwanda. Rwanda's ambitions are clear. It wants to be not only an African, but a global frontrunner in the digitalisation of health data and the use of advanced statistical and Artificial intelligence technologies, including automated analyses of health data. Rwanda is thus working to design and run an agile public health operation that can respond accurately and efficiently to old and new health threats. As ever, major challenges and concerns lurk on the horizon, such as Anti-Microbial Resistance which is spreading rapidly across East Africa. We therefore count on all actors in the health sector and in particular, we count on the next generation of research talent in the country to contribute to the development and implementation of evidence-based solutions in health.

In closing, I want to thank the Scientific Committee Co-Chair, Dr Eric Remera, and all members of the Scientific Committee for their commitment to quality and for their determination to make this Conference a success. I especially thank the Committee members for their engagement towards young researchers by organising workshops to help them prepare abstracts for submission and help successful candidates to prepare their presentations.

On behalf of the entire Scientific Committee, I therefore warmly welcome you to this Conference and hope that you will enjoy and learn from the many excellent presentations and discussions that we have lined up for you.

Prof. Stefan Jansen,
Chair of the Scientific Committee



I am honored to join you today at the start of the 3rd National Health Research and Policy Conference on the theme: Advancing research for a healthy Rwanda.

Today, I have the pleasure to discuss the pivotal role of the World Health Organization in shaping health policies that transcend national boundaries and embrace global health perspectives.

Let me start off by highlighting a critical component of our healthcare system - Evidence-Informed Decision-Making (EIDM). This approach, championed by the World Health Organization (WHO), is not just a method but a commitment to excellence in healthcare.

Health policymaking should be supported by the best available evidence, and the use of research in public health policymaking is a key prerequisite for the successful implementation of health programs that aims to improve population health.

EIDM implies identifying, appraising, and mobilizing the best available evidence as well as other factors such as context, public opinion, equity, feasibility of implementation, affordability, sustainability, and acceptability, for safe and effective health policy development. EIDM is a core function of WHO's mandate, and a pivotal steppingstone towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It has the potential to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and equity of health policies and interventions. It facilitates a more efficient use of scarce resources in health care, reduces research waste, and improves transparency, accountability, equity, and equality.

As an evidence-based Organization, we advocate for the application of rigorous systematic and transparent methods for the creation and application of research evidence, whether in developing policy options or formulating new programmes. WHO, as part of its Global Programme of Work (GPW) 14, is committed to turning the latest evidence into action so that more people everywhere attain the highest possible standard of health and well-being. By applying reliable and consistent approaches to EIDM, the Organization has the unique role as a credible global knowledge producer, user and broker.

The steps included in the policy/action cycle are as follows: identify the high- priority issue; design solutions; design implementation; communicate and engage; implement, monitor, evaluate and adjust; and sustain change, with the overarching aim of achieving global health and equity.

Among the areas of work that are part of the evidence funnel and used in the policy/action cycle, seven workstreams have been identified as key in view of providing complementary types of evidence and support for decision-making.

Two of these work with existing data (data analytics and modelling initiatives), three with synthesized research evidence (guidelines, health technology assessments/HTAs and evidence-informed policy-making support), and two with generation of new research (implementation research and evaluation).

Technical products (TPs) are part of WHO's public health goods, relevant to multiple countries to drive impact and for people everywhere to attain the highest possible standard of health and well-being. They fall into the areas of standards, data and research, innovation and horizon scanning, and are developed based on rigorous processes. Examples of TPs include WHO guidelines, WHO guidance on research, frameworks, repositories, and platforms. The selection of TPs is informed by the priorities defined by countries as identified through WHO country offices, working with the regional and global levels of WHO.

At the global level, strengthening relations between the different workstreams help to promote exchange of innovations, experiences, and resources for the overall advancement of EIDM. Coordinating efforts help equally at the country level, in particular, since these initiatives and programmes, in part, compete for the same limited local resources (financial and technical), in view of the overlap of methods and in the technical knowledge required for the development of many evidence products. For instance, the development and adaptation of both guidelines and HTAs require sound technical skills and a good understanding of systematic reviews and economic modelling. The nascent trend to integrate different and complementary types of support for decision-making could also be further promoted, in particular, in countries such as Rwanda, embarking on setting up institutional mechanisms in this field. For example, a country embarking on HTA could reconsider establishing separate agencies for HTA, guideline development and evidence-informed policymaking. While optimizing resources, this integration is also likely to offer opportunities for the different workstreams to learn from each other to fine-tune their respective products. For instance, the use of policy dialogues to integrate the evidence with the views, experiences, and tacit knowledge of those who will be affected by future decisions may also offer advantages for HTAs.

Health research evidence is produced and taken up in an ecosystem that includes actors from different domains and with diverse agendas. The formulation and adoption of effective policies and programmes depends on a functional evidence ecosystem. In WHO, this includes involvement of the global, regional and country levels, as well as like stakeholders like governments, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), civil society, researchers, and collaborating centres. This ecosystem can be divided into two interconnected domains: evidence creation and evidence application, linked either to policy or practice.

A well-functioning evidence ecosystem, therefore, requires adequate structures, capacity, and incentives to ensure that relevant evidence is available, accessible, and used to inform decision-making.

Bridging the evidence-to-policy and -implementation gap, requires strategies to facilitate evidence uptake and overcoming known barriers, such various levels of policymakers' research capacities, a lack of strong trust and relationships with researchers, and not enough locally relevant and directly usable research. Those strategies can be summarized as Knowledge Translation (KT) approaches that aim to improve the use of evidence to inform policy and practice and are a key tool in EIDM. The focus is on promoting interaction among the producers and users of research, removing the barriers to research use, and tailoring information to different target audiences so that effective interventions are used more widely. In this regard, KT platforms bring together researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders in a formalized manner to achieve policy influence and can be seen as the practical application of EIDM at country, regional, and global levels in strategically closing the research-to-policy or "know-do gap".

This includes the joint creation, synthesis, dissemination, and promotion of the use of knowledge to shape policy and research agendas.

In this regard, the National Health Research & Policy Conference, which brings together researchers, policymakers, healthcare professionals, and other stakeholders to explore innovative solutions and collaborative strategies for advance research for a healthy Rwanda and serve to adopt the National Health Research Agenda by key stakeholders, can be a catalyst for setting clear priorities for health research that align with the country's health needs. We believe that this forum will foster outstanding contributions to innovative research, and inspire a new generation of early career research and promote a culture of excellence in health research.

In conclusion, the systematic use of the best available evidence allows the identification and addressing of context-specific, relevant health issues, and translates into designing and implementing more effective policies, strategies and programmes. This can be improved by closer collaboration and alignment between the different groups (workstreams) that work with research evidence and data.

A culture of regularly accessing, selecting, and evaluating evidence will additionally facilitate more targeted commissioning of additional research and evidence synthesis work.

Furthermore, EIDM supports creating and disseminating compelling, evidence-based communication products and advocacy campaigns with strategic stakeholders.

Finally, EIDM's systematic and transparent use of evidence also increases accountability and can be further be leveraged for well-researched funding proposals to secure additional financial and human resources, and sustainable donor support.

Honourable Ministers, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you.

Dr Brian Chirombo
WHO Country Representative in Rwanda



In today's rapidly evolving global landscape, the importance of evidence-based policy cannot be overstated. UNFPA has consistently produced vital research and reports that provide deep insights into Sexual and Reproductive health and Rights, population dynamics, and gender equality.

For instance, our State of World Population reports, State of Midwifery report, Demographic Dividend studies, investment cases, national censuses, demographic health surveys, and various country-specific studies offer comprehensive data and analysis that inform national health policies and strategies. These reports highlight critical areas such as maternal health, family planning, and adolescent sexual and reproductive health, underscoring the importance of targeted interventions, leaving none behind as everyone counts. The recently supported teenage pregnancy study was unique in providing a better understanding of the data to inform policy changes and a multisectoral framework to address the issues

At UNFPA, we believe that high-quality, comprehensive data and research are the bedrocks of effective health policy and strategies. Through research, we identify critical gaps in healthcare systems, understand the nuanced needs of diverse populations, and assess the progress. This approach ensures that interventions are not only relevant but also sustainable and scalable.

It is through precise, data and evidence that policies can be made more impactful, addressing the specific needs of populations effectively and efficiently.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Government of Rwanda for their exceptional leadership and tireless efforts which have resulted in the achievement of MDG indicators. However, challenges persist, as unfortunately, 1-2 women still lose their lives each day in Rwanda during pregnancy, childbirth, or postpartum.

Ensuring access to comprehensive SRHR services is crucial in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In Rwanda, UNFPA works diligently to support initiatives aimed at zero maternal mortality, zero unmet need for family planning, and zero gender-based violence. These are not just numbers; they represent our commitment to safeguarding human rights and promoting health equity.

Zero maternal mortality is more than a goal, it is a necessity and is attainable, but it requires a relentless focus on data to understand why maternal deaths occur and how we can address the issues effectively? Every mother deserves to give birth safely and to live to nurture her children.

Our efforts in supporting maternal health services, improving quality of care by supporting the 4x4 strategy of the Ministry of Health and enhancing the whole health care system aim at making this a reality for every woman in Rwanda.

Similarly, achieving zero unmet need for family planning is an integral part of Sustainable Development. By empowering individuals, especially women and young people, with choices and access to family planning resources, we not only improve health outcomes but also economic and social conditions.

Zero gender-based violence is critical. It is unacceptable that women and girls continue to face violence that prevents them from realizing their full potential.

Our support to the government in developing the National Health Research Agenda and the Research, Innovation, and Data Science Strategic Plan is a testament to our collective efforts to pave the way for informed, evidence-based policy-making that can transform lives.

I emphasize that strengthening this ecosystem requires a multifaceted approach that includes:

- Capacity building ensures that national researchers have the skills and resources needed to conduct high-quality studies. This year, the Ministry of Health is spearheading the development of a standardized national midwifery curriculum that is aligned with the international standards and the component of research will be an integral part of the discussion to be enhanced and promoted at all levels.
- Partnerships with national governments, research institutions, and other stakeholders, for sharing knowledge, standardizing methodologies, and avoiding duplication of efforts.
- Funding and resources for sustaining health research which requires increased domestic resources and shared values in investing in health research from both national budgets and international donors and private sector for the researches that are beyond the health-related returns but also economic returns and other sectors
- Effective data utilization translating research findings into actionable policies that improve health outcomes.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we gather here today, let us reinforce our commitment to strengthening health research and ensuring that evidence leads our way forward.

UNFPA Rwanda remains dedicated to collaborating with all stakeholders, government, academic institutions, civil society, and international partners to foster an environment where research and data are not just produced but are also effectively utilized to craft policies that can withstand the tests of time and change.

Through our collective efforts, we can ensure that every individual, regardless of their background or circumstances, has the opportunity to lead a healthy and fulfilling life.

Together, let us innovate, inspire, and implement evidence-based strategies that will not only shape the health sector in Rwanda but also set a benchmark for the world to follow.

Dr. Olugbemiga Adelakin
UNFPA Representative in Rwanda

PROGRAM

The 3rd National Health Research & Policy Conference 20 May 2024

08:30 - 08:50	Registration	The whole audience
08:50 - 09:00	MC welcoming guests	Dr. Vanessa Mupenzi and Dr. Fernand Rwamwejo
09:15 - 09:30	Welcoming remarks and introduction of guest of honor	Prof. Claude Mambo MUVUNYI, Director General-Rwanda Biomedical Centre
09:30 - 09:45	Opening remarks	Dr. Sabin NSANZIMANA, Honorable Minister-Ministry of Health
09:45 - 10:00	Global Health perspectives and key research priorities: The role of WHO in national policy making	Dr. Brian Chirombo Representative, World Health Organization (WHO)
10:00 - 10:15	Partnering in advancing Clinical Trials	Dr. Daryl Drummond Akagera Medicine
10:15 - 10:30	Health Research for Transformative policy: UNFPA's commitment to advancing the national Health agenda.	Dr. Olugbemiga Adelakin, UNFPA representative
10:30 - 10:45	National Health Research Agenda	Prof. Claude Mambo MUVUNYI, Director General-Rwanda Biomedical Centre
10:45 - 11:00	Health Research and Innovation strategies Current status and Prospects	Dr. Eric Remera, Division Manager of Research Innovation and Data Sciences
11:00 - 11:10	Coffee Break	
11:10 - 12:15	Panel discussion: How do we strengthen the national research ecosystem to achieve the national health research policy goals?	Representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UR / Prof. Stefan Jansen RAB (DG) UNFPA / Deputy Representative NCST (ED) UR / Prof Mutesa Leon Moderator: Alida Ngwije
12:15 - 13:45	LUNCH	
13:45 - 15:15	Breakout sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Themes 1: NCDs Theme 2: Data Science Theme 3: HIV Infectious diseases 	Link to the breakout sessions: https://rbc.gov.rw/Rwanda_Evidence/breakout-sessions-2/
15:15 - 15:45	Coffee break & Poster Presentation	
15:45 - 17:15	Breakout sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Themes 4: Sexual and reproductive health Theme 5: Non-communicable diseases Theme 6: Infectious diseases 	Link to the breakout sessions: https://rbc.gov.rw/Rwanda_Evidence/breakout-sessions-2/
17:15 - 18:45	Symposium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health(MH3 & MH4) Prep Ring Rinda Ubuzima (AD12) Medical Technology 	

The 3rd National Health Research & Policy Conference 21 May 2024

08:00 - 09:00	Symposium Achieving SDG-3 in Rwanda: What role will data and artificial intelligency play?	Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Esther Kunda – Director General, Emerging Tech and Innovation, MINICT Hassan Mugabo – National Strategic Plan and Operations Advisor, Data Protection Officer, Rwanda Biomedical Centre David Chen – Co-CEO, Kapsule Audace Niyonkuru – CEO, Digital Umuganda Prof. Assane Gueye – Carnegie Mellon University Africa, Co-Director of CyLab Africa, co-Director of Upanzi Network
08:50 - 09:00	MC welcoming guests	Dr. Uwurukundo Stella Belize and Hassan Mugabo
09:15 - 09:30	The role of partners in Advancing Health Research Agenda	Dr Jean Claude Mugunga, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Partners in Health Global
09:30 - 09:45	Advancing Clinical Research in the East African Region	Ethel Makila, Director of Communications IAVI
09:45 - 10:45	Panel discussion: The role of Private and Public Partnerships in Advancing Health Research Agenda	Representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHAI PIH/IMB RBC/RIDS UGHE CIIC-HIN Moderator: Dr Clarisse Musanabaganwa
09:45 - 11:00	Coffee break & Poster Presentation	
11:00 - 12:30	Breakout sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Themes 7: Maternal and Child Health Theme 8: Digital Health Innovations Theme 9: Hospital clinical practice 	Link to the Breakout Sessions: https://rbc.gov.rw/Rwanda_Evidence/breakout-sessions/
13:30 - 15:00	Breakout sessions and 3-minute Pitch Competition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Themes 10: Sexual and reproductive health Theme 11: Non-communicable diseases 3-minute Pitch Competition 	ink to the Breakout Sessions: https://rbc.gov.rw/Rwanda_Evidence/breakout-sessions/
15:00 - 15:30	Coffee break & Poster Presentation	
15:30 - 16:00	3 Best Presenters and Awarding Ceremony	
16:00 - 16:15	Conference Recommendation	Dr. Clarisse Musanabaganwa, Medical Research Analyst-RIDS/RBC
16:15 - 16:30	Closing remarks	Prof. Claude Mambo MUVUNYI, Director General-Rwanda Biomedical Centre
16:30 - 16:45	Closing Speech	Dr. Yvan BUTERA, Minister of State, MOH

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana
Ministry of Health

Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana, Rwanda's Minister of Health since November 2022, has extensive experience in infectious disease and noncommunicable disease program design, strategic planning, and implementation science. With a Medical Degree, Master's Degree, and PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Rwanda and Switzerland, he has served as Principal Investigator for large research projects and is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and the African Scientific Institute.



Prof. Claude Mambo MUVUNYI
Director General of Rwanda Biomedical Centre

Prof. Claude Mambo MUVUNYI has over 10 years of experience in clinical and public laboratory medicine, focusing on clinical microbiology, laboratory systems and service strengthening, and global health security. He holds a degree in general medicine from the University of Rwanda, a specialization and PhD in Clinical Microbiology from the University of Ghent, Belgium, and a master's in medical Virology from the University of Manchester. Before joining the RBC, he served as a Senior Regional Laboratory Advisor at Columbia University, a senior consultant for the World Health Organization, and Head of National Reference Laboratory. His research interests include evaluating diagnostic methods for infectious diseases, operational research on diagnostic implementation and scale up, and assessing the impact of new diagnostics for infectious diseases.



Dr. Ivan Butera
Minister of State, MOH

Dr. Yvan Butera, is the Rwandan Minister of State for Health since November 2022. He has a broad experience in senior leadership in the Rwandan health care sector. Previously, he served as the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Human Resources for Health Secretariat, overseeing health care workforce capacity-building and development. Prior to that he worked as a physician at various district and university teaching hospitals in Rwanda since graduating from the University of Rwanda, School of Medicine in 2014, including five years at the Rwanda Military Hospital. Dr. Butera has a PhD in Human Genetics from the University of Liège, Belgium and holds a Masters of Science in Global Health Delivery from the University of Global Health Equity.



Dr. Olugbemiga Adelakin
UNFPA Representative in Rwanda

Dr. Olugbemiga Adelakin, a Nigerian medical doctor with over 20 years of experience in development and humanitarian settings, has been appointed as the UNFPA Representative in Rwanda. He previously served as the UNFPA Representative for DPR Korea and worked for UNFPA in Africa and the Middle East. Adelakin also served as Senior Technical Advisor for Family Health International (FHI360) and held a Master's degree in International Health from the University College London, Humboldt University Germany, and the Karolinska Institute. He holds a Diploma in Public Health from the Charite Medical School in Germany and an MBA from the University of Cumbria in the UK. Dr. Adelakin is a strong advocate for effective public policies for the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the ICPD-PoA.



Dr. Brian Chirombo
Dr. Brian Chirombo WHO Head of Mission and Country Representative to Rwanda

Dr. Brian Chirombo is the Head of Mission and Country Representative for Rwanda since October 2021. He has more 30 years Public Health experience leading, managing and implementing development and cooperation programs at national, regional and international levels. He has extensive experience working with Governments, Academia, International NGOs and the UN in many countries. His previous work experience includes Coordinating Communicable Disease and Health Emergencies in WHO South Africa and WHO Kenya; and WHO AFRO HIV Team Leader for ESA. His other previous experiences include: HIV Team Lead in WHO HQ (Geneva); Health Program Manager in Save the Children (US) Malawi; UNAIDS Geneva; GIZ Coordinator for Health Systems Research for ESA; and Zimbabwe MPH Field Training Coordinator at University of Zimbabwe. Dr Chirombo is a published researcher and is a current peer reviewer for the PLOS ONE scientific journal. He is a Medical Doctor (Zimbabwe) with a Postgraduate MPH (Emory, US).



Ethel Makila
Director for Communications Advocacy and Policy, IAVI

Ethel Makila is a seasoned science and development communication and policy advocacy expert with over 10 years of experience in Africa's development, agricultural research, and global health fields. As Director for Advocacy Policy and Communications at IAVI, she designs and implements innovative policy and science advocacy initiatives to enhance global health research and access to research products. Ethel has worked as a strategic communications advisor for the Biosciences eastern and central Africa Hub at the International Livestock Research Institute, and is currently pursuing her Masters in Public Policy and Management at Strathmore University Business School.



Dr. Daryl Drummond
Founder, Chief Scientific Officer, and Senior Vice President of Akagera Medicines.

Daryl C. Drummond, Founder, Chief Scientific Officer, and Senior Vice President of Akagera Medicines, has over 25 years of experience in the research and development of advanced drug delivery systems. He is a principal inventor of a wide range of nanotechnology-based drugs and platform technologies, including Onivyde, a highly stabilized liposomal formulation of irinotecan. Dr. Drummond's focus is on developing targeted nanotherapeutics for treating solid tumors, using novel platform technologies for targeting lipidic nanocarriers and improving in vivo drug retention. Three of his nanotherapeutics are currently being studied in clinical trials, and he previously oversaw the discovery and development of more traditional biologics. At Akagera, Dr. Drummond is advancing the use of these sophisticated lipid-based nanotechnologies to deliver novel and highly potent anti-bacterial agents directly to innate immune cell reservoirs for mycobacterium or bacterium.



Dr. Jean Claude Mugunga
Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Partners In Health (PIH)

Dr. Jean Claude Mugunga is the Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Partners In Health (PIH), leading the organization's work in Health Financing and Research to achieve Universal Healthcare (UHC) across all supported countries. He has experience as a clinician in Rwanda and as a researcher for the Overseas Development Institute, UK. Dr. Mugunga is a faculty member and Lecturer at Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and the University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda. He holds a medical degree from the University of Rwanda and a Master of Science in Global Health Policy and Management from Brandeis University.



Dr. Eric Remera
Division Manager of Research, Innovation, and Data Science Division at RBC

Dr. Eric Remera, a senior biostatistician with a master's degree in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Rwanda. With extensive experience in HIV programming, health management information systems, and data analysis, Remera has co-authored over 20 peer-reviewed scientific publications and presented his findings at national and international scientific conferences.

PANELISTS



Prof Leon Mutesa
Director of Center for Human Genetics, University of Rwanda

Prof. Mutesa is a renowned human genetics expert, currently serving as the Director of the Center for Human Genetics at the University of Rwanda. He earned his MD in 2003 and PhD in 2009 from the University of Liege-Belgium. Prof. Mutesa has extensive experience in clinical services, academics, research, capacity building, and management in the health sector. He has also served as the Director of Clinical Laboratory Dept. at Kigali University Teaching Hospital and as Director General of the Medical Research Center in Rwanda Biomedical Centre. He is also the PI of a NIH/H3Africa grant aimed at characterizing the transgenerational transmission of epigenomic impact of genocide exposure and PTSD in women survivors of the Rwandan genocide.



Nadine Karema
Executive Director of Partners In Health in Rwanda/Inshuti Mu Buzima (PIH/IMB)

Nadine Karema, the Executive Director of Partners In Health in Rwanda/Inshuti Mu Buzima (PIH/IMB), has been working on digital transformation, systems improvements, and strategic data use for better patient outcomes and socio-economic empowerment. She has held various positions at PIH/IMB, including Health Information Systems Manager, HIS Director, Informatics Director, Chief Informatics Officer, and Deputy Executive Director. Nadine has also supported the University of Global Health Equity Executive Education program, provided technical assistance to the Rwanda Ministry of Health, and co-chaired the National e-Learning Committee. She mentors young women in Rwanda and educates the next generation of African tech leaders.



Dr. Renata Tallarico
UNFPA Deputy Representative

Renata Tallarico is a renowned researcher with a PhD in International and European law, a Master's degree in International Relations, a certificate in International Health and Women's Rights from Stanford University, and a leadership certificate from the Said Business School – Oxford University. With over 15 years of experience in public health and human rights, she has worked at the UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office, where she led a youth team on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (ASRHR) and youth empowerment. She also worked at UNFPA Eswatini in 2009, focusing on HIV prevention and young people. Renata has published numerous peer-reviewed articles on human rights, adolescent sexual and reproductive health rights, and beyond.



Prof. Jeanine Condo
Managing Director of CIIC-HIN

Prof. Condo is a medical doctor and PhD holder in Public Health, currently serving as the Managing Director of the Center for Impact, Innovation, and Capacity Building for Health Information and Nutrition (CIIC-HIN) in Rwanda. She has held senior governmental posts at the University of Rwanda and the Ministry of Health, and was the former Director General of Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC). Condo has held leadership positions at the University of Rwanda, including Dean at the School of Public Health and Principal of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences.



Prof. Stefan JANSEN
Director of Research & Innovation, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Rwanda

Stefan Jansen, PhD. is Associate Professor in Neuroscience and works at the University of Rwanda since September 2011. He is the Director of Research and Innovation at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences and heads the Mental Health & Behaviour Research Group. He runs multiple internationally funded and multi-country research projects on intergenerational trauma, alcohol and drug abuse, community based psychosocial interventions, and more; using a wide range of methodological approaches, including neuro-imaging, genetics/epigenetics, Randomized Controlled Trials, and psychometrics. He is the Chief Editor of the Rwanda Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences, Board Member of the Rwanda National Ethics Committee, Ag. Chair of the UR-CMHS Institutional Review Board, among other responsibilities.



Dr Brenda Asiimwe Kateera
Country Director at Clinton Health Access Initiative, Inc.

Dr Brenda Kateera is a global health specialist, epidemiologist, and researcher with over 20 years of experience in leading large public health programs. She is currently the Country Director for Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) in Rwanda, partnering with the government to strengthen health systems and ensure universal healthcare coverage. Kateera has also served as the Rwanda Country Director for AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), supporting HIV services to over 1,600,000 people in 46 countries. She has also worked as a physician at Mulago National Referral Hospital in Uganda and as a researcher at Makerere University-Johns Hopkins University Research Collaboration. She has led and coordinated various multi-donor and partner research and training initiatives, has peer-reviewed publications, and serves on boards and advisory groups..



Prof. Eugene Mutimura
Executive Secretary of Rwanda's National Council for Science and Technology (NCST)

Prof. Eugene Mutimura is a Rwandan scientist and researcher. He is currently the Executive Secretary of Rwanda's National Council for Science and Technology (NCST). Prior to this appointment, Dr. Mutimura served as the Minister of Education of the Republic of Rwanda. Prior to his appointment as Minister of Education, he coordinated 24 Eastern & Southern African Centers of Excellence (ACEs) programs, project funded by the World Bank in eight countries, to support research and education in sixteen universities. He also Coordinated NIH leDEA funded U54 Grant (Rwanda, Burundi, Cameroon). He is a recipient of the Fulbright Scholarship. He obtained his doctoral degree from the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg in 2007 and previously worked at the Regional Alliance for Sustainable Development.



Dr Telesphore Ndabamenye
Director General of Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB)

Dr. Telesphore Ndabamenye has been appointed as Director General of Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB) since March 2, 2023. He has previously held positions as Africa Regional Platform manager for Africa's Food Systems Transformation and Senior Advisor for the Food Systems Transformation Agenda towards 2030 SDGs Agenda. Dr. Ndabamenye has held various positions, including Head of Department of Crop Production and Food Security, Deputy Director General of Infrastructure and Mechanization, Acting Deputy Director General of Agriculture Extension, associate researcher in Agroforestry, and National Coordinator of Rwanda Bioversity International Project. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Soil Science, MSc degree in Soil Science, and BSc degree in Soil and Rural Engineering.



Dr Regis Hitimana
Chief Benefits Officer at Rwanda Social Security Board

Dr. Regis Hitimana is a Health Economist with experience in national health policy and research. With a bachelor's degree in business administration, he started his career in Project Management for NGOs and later worked as a Specialist in Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation at the Rwanda Ministry of Health. Dr. Hitimana has also served as a lecturer at the University of Rwanda's School of Public Health since 2014. He has provided consultancy services in health systems assessment, health policy, costing, and cost-effectiveness studies in Rwanda and other African countries. Dr. Hitimana has co-authored several scientific manuscripts in health policy, health economics, and financing, six of which have been published in peer-reviewed journals.



Prof. Philip Cotton
Vice Chancellor, University of Global Health Equity (UGHE)

Philip, a UK citizen and Rwandan citizen, has held various leadership positions at the University of Rwanda, including Principal of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences and Vice Chancellor. He has also worked with the Mastercard Foundation and established a consulting company in Rwanda. Philip practiced family medicine and was a professor of teaching and learning at the University of Glasgow. He holds several honorary professorships and is currently the chair of the Board of Rwanda Biomedical Centre. Philip is a Methodist preacher, founder of a fair-trade organization, and a trustee and advisor to St Andrews Clinics for Children. He received an OBE in 2017 for his services to higher education in Rwanda, an ASME Gold medal in 2018, and a Royal Society of Edinburgh Fellow in 2021.



Dr. Eric Remera
*Division Manager of Research, Innovation, and Data
Science Division at RBC*

Dr. Eric Remera, a senior biostatistician with a master's degree in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Rwanda.. With extensive experience in HIV programming, health management information systems, and data analysis, Remera has co-authored over 20 peer-reviewed scientific publications and presented his findings at national and international scientific conferences.

MODERATORS



Dr. Clarisse Musanabaganwa
Medical Research Analyst-RIDS/RBC

Dr. Clarisse Musanabaganwa is a medical science PhD holder with expertise in epigenetics and bioinformatics. She is a research fellow at Vrije Universiteit Brussel/Belgium and has over 12 years of experience in health sector research and development. She is the principal investigator on numerous research projects, focusing on cancer, neuropsychiatric disorders, COVID-19, and cardiovascular diseases. She is a Next Generation Scientist at Novartis/Switzerland and an affiliate of the Center of Human Genetics at the University of Rwanda. She is currently a Postdoc fellow on the podoconiosis research project funded by NIHR, investigating epigenetic mechanisms in podoconiosis. She has been a member of the national research agenda steering committee, district research challenge steering committee, and EAC health research commission.



Alida Ngwije
Associate Director for Infectious Diseases at Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI Rwanda)

Alida Ngwije, a public health specialist with 12 years of experience, is currently the Associate Director for Infectious Diseases at Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI Rwanda). She is responsible for driving strategies to combat infectious diseases, including the elimination of Hepatitis C, mother-to-child triple elimination of HIV, Hepatitis, and Syphilis, and designing a national pandemic preparedness plan in Rwanda. Alida is a strong advocate for evidence-based approaches and is a pioneer of the "Rwanda Health Research and Policy Conference," highlighting her commitment to data-driven solutions and positive change. Her dedication to improving health outcomes for her communities is evident in her work.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Panel Discussion (Day 1)

Date/ Time: Monday, May 20 – 10:35 AM – 12:00 PM

Room:

Panel Discussion Topic:

How Do We Strengthen the National Research Ecosystem to Achieve The National Health Research Policy Goals?

Moderator

Dr. Alida Ngwije

Panelists

Dr. Eugene Mutimura
Executive Director NCST

Prof. Stephan Jansen
Director, Center for Research and Innovation, College of Medicine and Health Sciences,
University of Rwanda

Prof. Leon Mutesa
Full professor of human genetics and Director of the Center for Human Genetics at the
University of Rwanda.

Dr. Renata Tallarico
Representative for UNFPA

Dr. Telesphore Ndabamenye
Director General of RAB

Dr. Regis Hitimana
Chief of Benefits Officer at RSSB

SESSION OVERVIEW

This panel discussion aims to explore strategies to enhance Rwanda's research ecosystem to meet its research and health-related goals. The session will delve into the current state of health research in Rwanda, as well as key challenges, opportunities, and best practices in strengthening research capacity, collaboration, and innovation across various stakeholders in the health sector.

Panel Discussion (Day 2)

Date/ Time: Tuesday, May 21 – 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Room:

Panel Discussion Topic:

The Role of Private and Public Partnerships in Advancing Health Research Agenda

Moderator

Dr. Clarisse Musanabaganwa

Panelists

Dr. Brenda Kateera
Country Director CHAI-Rwanda

Dr. Eric Remera
Division Manager of RIDS-RBC

Prof. Jeanine Condo
CEO of CIIC-HIN

Prof. Philip Cotton
Vice-Chancellor- UGHE

Mrs Nadine Karema
Executive Director of PIH-Rwanda

SESSION OVERVIEW

In Rwanda's health case vision, the government's strategies prioritize research development and innovation. Public and Private Partnerships (PPPs) are integral to advancing Rwanda's health research agenda by capitalizing on the strengths of both sectors. Given resource constraints in Rwanda, PPPs serve as conduits for innovation, resource pooling, and capacity enhancement. Through collaborative efforts, Rwanda's public and private sectors can expedite progress in enhancing healthcare outcomes and attaining sustainable development objectives. The aim of this panel discussion is to facilitate an evaluation of the mutually beneficial opportunities presented by partnerships between the private and public sectors in advancing Rwanda's health research agenda.

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

ABSTRACTS FOR ORAL PRESENTATION

Scientific Session #1
Date: 20 May 2024
Time: 13:30 - 15:00
Room: MH3&4

Title: Cancer care in Rwanda
Chairs:
Dr Cyprien Shyirambere
Dr Francois Uwinkindi
Dr. Alexandra Fehr

Category: Non-communicable diseases session

Report on the Treatment of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma at a Rural Cancer Center in Rwanda

Presenter

Nsabimana, Rebecca DeBoer, MD, MA, Assistant Clinical Professor, UCSF Division of Hematology/Oncology, Medical Oncologist, Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital

Patient characteristics and outcomes of colorectal cancer (CRC) at a cancer hospital in Rwanda: results from a retrospective cohort.

Presenter

Dr Fred Mugabo, Mmed, Oncologist, Butaro Cancer Center of Excellence/PIH

Wilms tumor in horseshoe kidney with extensive vascular thrombosis: A Case Report.

Presenter

Dr Aymar Akilimali, University of Bukavu

Impact of Patient Navigation on treatment delays among patients with Wilms tumor

Presenter

Vestine Mukandayisenga, Partners in Health

Scientific Session #1
Date: 20 May 2024
Time: 13:30 - 15:00
Room: AD10

Title: Data Science
Chairs
Dr. Semakula Muhammed
Prof. Eric Muhoza

Day 1

Category: Data science

Developing and evaluating an innovative electronic communication platform (912Rwanda) to improve pre-hospital transport of injured people in Rwanda: a protocol

Presenter

Dr Assuman Nuhu, CMHS, University of Rwanda

Adaptation and validation of usability and acceptability assessment tools for mobile health applications among rural community health workers in Rwanda, 2023

Presenter

Jonathan Nkurunziza, Partners in Health

Challenges and opportunities to improve efficiency and quality of prehospital emergency care using an mHealth platform: Qualitative study in Rwanda

Presenter

Niyonsaba Mediatrice, Rwanda Biomedical Centre

Using Natural Language Processing to Evaluate Home-based care text exchange between patients and care provider during COVID-19 Pandemic in Rwanda: A Model to Support rapid Pandemic Decision-Making.

Presenter

Hassan Mugabo, Rwanda Biomedical Centre

Changing the Paradigm of Healthcare by Improving Outpatient Follow-up using Digital Health

Presenter

Lester, University of British Columbia

Scientific Session #1
Date: 20 May 2024
Time: 13:30 - 15:00
Room: AD12

Title: HIV
Chairs
Dr Gallican Rwibasira
Dr. Veronicah Mugisha

Category: HIV

Assessment of Intestinal Parasites and Risk Factors Among HIV patients Attending Ntaruka Health Center/ Burera District

Presenter

Musabyumuremyi

Assessing Outcome of Infants Born to HIV-positive Mothers under PMTCT Program in Gicumbi District: A retrospective cross-sectional study, Jan 2016 – Dec 2020

Presenter

Uwanyirigira Donatha, Byumba Level 2 teaching Hospital

Knowledge, attitude, and practices towards prevention of tuberculosis among HIV-positive patients at Kibagabaga District Hospital, Rwanda, 2021.

Presenter

Emile Sebera, Remera Rukumo District Hospital

Assessment Of Knowledge and Practices Of Health Personnel Of Maternity And Arv Service In The Prevention Of Mother -To -Child Transmission Of HIV In Rwamagana Hospital

Presenter

Uyisaba Pascaline, RN, Kibagabaga District Hospital

The effectiveness of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Strategies in HIV prevention among women in Africa: A systematic review and meta-analysis.

Presenter

Dzekem Dine, Rinda Ubuzima

Scientific Session #2

Date: 20 May 2024

Time: 15:30 - 17:00

Room: AD12

Title: Contraception and family planning

Chairs:

Dr Eric Baganizi

Prof Florence Masaisa

Category: Sexual and reproductive health

Assessment of contraceptive service utilization among school-going adolescents in Kirehe District: Cross-sectional study

Presenter

Tumusime Musafiri Othniel Nimbabazi, Partners in Health/Global Health Corps

Factors associated with unmet need for family planning among unmarried women in Rwanda

Presenter

Rosine Bigirimana, INTRAHEALTH/USAID

Factors Associated with Teenage Pregnancy In Rwamagana District, Rwanda

Presenters

Nshimiyimana Isaie and Tuyishime Etienne, Mount Kenya University

Evaluating the impact of value clarification and attitude transformation workshops about abortion: changes in attitudes and beliefs of Rwandan healthcare providers

Presenter

Dr Mvuyekure Bertrand, King Faisal Hospital Foundation

Scientific Session #2

Date: 20 May 2024

Time: 15:30 - 17:00

Room: AD10

Title: Mental health and epilepsy

Chairs:

Prof. Stephan Jensen

Dr Darius Gishoma

Category: Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) - Mental Health

Evaluating the impact of Community-Based Socioterapy on mental health and social dignity of different social groups in post-genocide Rwanda: A cluster Randomized Controlled Trial

Presenter

Sandra Schwarz, Mental Health and Behavior Research Group/UR-CMHS

Actors and Channels Preferred by Youth for Accessing Mental Health-Related Services in Rwanda

Presenter

Elvis Nininahazwe, Mental Health and Behavior Research Group/UR CMHS

Very high epilepsy prevalence in rural Southern Rwanda: the underestimated burden of epilepsy in sub-Saharan Africa

Presenter

Ieme Garrez, Department of Neurology & Division of Education, Training and Research, King Faisal Hospital, Rwanda

Estimated costs of integrating mental health services into primary care: the case of two rural districts in Rwanda

Presenter

Alphonse Nshyimiryo

Scientific Session #2

Date: 20 May 2024

Time: 15:30 - 17:00

Room: MH3&4

Title: Infectious Diseases

Chairs:

Dr Jean Claude Semuto

Dr Pacifique Hagenimana

Category: Infectious diseases

Management of Recurrent Respiratory Papillomatosis (RRP) in Low-and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs): Protocol for a Scoping Review

Presenter

Dushimimana

Evaluation of Meningitis Surveillance System in Rural Area, Rwanda, 2017-2021

Presenter

Nyinawabeza Solange, Kibogora Level 2 teaching Hospital

Comparative Analysis of LAM Test and GeneXpert in Detecting Tuberculosis in Immunocompromised Patients: A Study at CHUK Hospital

Presenter

Ntezirizaza Evariste, INES Ruhengeri

Factors Affecting Routine Immunization Uptake in 2 selected Districts of Rwanda: A Qualitative Study

Presenter

Elise Rutaganira, Rinda Ubuzima

Digital Health to Support Home-based Directly Observed Therapy for Treatment of Tuberculosis using Multiple Communication Modalities: Text, Voice, & Video

Presenters

Dr Jean Claude Semuto, and Yves Mucyo, Rwanda Biomedical Centre

Classification of Long Covid using factors score: Case Study

Presenter

Dr Turatsinze David, JPHIEGO

ABSTRACTS FOR ORAL PRESENTATION

**TUESDAY
21 MAY 2024**

Scientific Session #1

Date: 21 May 2024

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Room: MH3&4

Title: Maternal and child health

Chairs

Prof Erigene Rutayisire

Sumana

Category: Maternal and child health

Predictors for Delayed First Antenatal Care Visit in Rural Area of Rwanda: Analysis of Secondary Data using Rwanda Demographic Health Survey 2019-2020

Presenter

Imanishimwe Joseph, University of Rwanda

Knowledge, attitude, and practice towards prevention of hypertension among pregnant women attending antenatal care at a hospital in Kigali, Rwanda

Presenter

Muhire Havugimana, Mount Kenya University

The effects of perceived therapist guidance and advice on adherence to home-based exercise programs in mothers of children with cerebral palsy in Rwanda.

Presenter

Niyonsenga Japhet, University of Rwanda

Intestinal parasites are associated with underweight and inflammatory markers among young children in rural Rwanda.

Presenter

Twahirwa Wellars, Kibungo Level 2 teaching hospital

Scientific Session #1

Date: 21 May 2024

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Room: AD12

Title: Digital Health Innovations

Chairs

Charles Ruranga

Dr Cubaka Vincent

Category: Innovations

The ‘One Child, One Tree’ project: Creating Children Forests to Promote Social Harmony and Tackle Climate Change

Presenter

Lynn Eggink, Mental Health and Behavior Research Group

Validation of psychosocial life inventory: A preliminary phase of psychosocial life game development and validation for adolescents and young people living with HIV in Rwanda

Presenter

Niyibizi Jean Bosco, University of Rwanda, Karolinska Institute

Exploring the Use of ChatGPT among Medicine and Health Sciences Students in Rwanda. Implications for Future Healthcare Education.

Presenter

Etienne Numviyumukiza, Mental Health and Behavior Research Group

Promoting learning of Point-of-Care Ultrasound among undergraduate students through SonoGames: A case study from Rwanda

Presenter

Beulo Igiraneza, UGHE

Viebeg Medical: The Health Demand Simulation Model (HDSM) and VieProcure systems

Presenter

Elisabeth Krebs, Viebeg Medical Supply

Scientific Session #1

Date: 21 May 2024

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Room: AD10

Title: Hospital clinical practice

Chairs:

Dr Patience Nishimagizwe

Dr Claude Nsabimana

Category: Clinical Practice

Knowledge, Attitude and Practice towards Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting and Factors Associated with Reporting among healthcare professional working in public hospital: Kigali, Rwanda

Presenter

Maniriho

Barriers and facilitators to infection control of hospital acquired infections in King Faisal Hospital, Kigali

Presenter

Nduwayezu

Assessment of Pseudomonas aeruginosa from Trachea Aspirates Among Intensive Care Unit Patients Attending Rwanda Military Hospital

Presenter

Mpinganzima

Scientific Session #2

Date: 21 May 2024

Time: 13:30 - 15:00

Room: MH3&4

Title: Maternal and child health 2

Chairs

Dr Christine Mutaganzwa

Mr. Mushambamwiza Hyacinthe

Category: Maternal and Child Health

Prevalence and Risk Factors of Maternal Near-Miss at Kirehe District Hospital in Rwanda: Implications for Improving Women's Health

Presenter

Uwizeyimana

Improving Uptake of Timely Safe Obstetric and Surgical Care Among Women with Previous Cesarean Delivery in Rwanda

Presenter

Uwamariya Josee, Intrahealth International

Prevalence and factors contributing to neonatal mortality in Byumba Level Two Teaching Hospital.

Presenter

Claudine Ingabire

Robson Classification of Caesarean Deliveries: Implications For Reducing Non-Indicated Caesarean Delivery Rate In Bigogwe Medicalized Health Center

Presenter

Dr Ntwali Ndizeye

Empowering community voices in maternal and child health: Assessing leaders' responsiveness in healthcare using community scorecards in Rwanda

Presenter

Ndatimana Dieudonne, JHPIEGO

Urologic Complications Following Obstetrics/Gynaecologic Surgery at a Tertiary Hospital of Rwanda

Presenter

J. Hategekimana

Scientific Session #2

Date: 21 May 2024

Time: 13:30 - 15:00

Room: AD10

Title: NCDs

Chairs

Dr Edson Rwagasore

Dr. Pacifique Hageminana

Dr. Sylvie Gaju

Category: NCDs

Prevalence of Undiagnosed Hypertension and its Associated Factors in Ndera Sector, Gasabo District of Rwanda: A Cross-Sectional Study

Presenter

Mignone Umurerwa, University of Rwanda

Efficacy and safety of Mazdutide on weight loss among diabetic and non-diabetic patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

Presenter

Habimana

Work-related Musculoskeletal Pain Among Factory Workers in Kigali: Prevalence and Coping Strategies.

Presenter

Dusabeyezu

Mortality and sudden unexpected death in epilepsy in a cohort of 888 persons living with epilepsy in Rwanda

Presenter

Ieme Garrez, Department of Neurology & Division of Education, Training and Research, King Faisal Hospital, Rwanda

Use of Mobile Phones in the Surveillance of Non-Communicable Disease Risk Factors: Experience of Rwanda

Presenter

Julie Plotie, Rwanda NCD Alliance

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

20 MAY 2024

20/05/2024
Time: 10:30-11:00

Category: Maternal, Child, and Community Health

01
Evolving Respectful Maternity Care in Rwandan Health Facilities: Insights and Strategies from Women, Healthcare Providers and experts review Through Appreciative Inquiry

Presenter
Muhayimana Alice

02
Exploring the Impact of Sociodemographic Determinants on Maternal Mortality: A Retrospective Analysis at the University Teaching Hospital of Kigali.

Presenter
Mr. Jean Pierre NDAYAMBAJE

03
Factors Influencing Anemia in Children aged 6-59 months: a cross-Sectional Study.

Presenter
Cyubahiro

04
Preterm Births and Associated Factors among Women who Delivered in a District Hospital in Eastern Province, Rwanda

Presenter
Hakizimana Celestin

05
Trial of labor after caesarean section preference and its determinants among women attending antenatal care at district hospitals, Kigali, Rwanda.

Presenter
Igiraneza Alice

06
Motivators of immunization uptake in five selected districts of Rwanda: Community Members Perspectives.

Presenter
Marie Michelle Umulisa

20/05/2024
Time: 12:30-13:30

Category: NCDs

01
Sleep quality among undergraduate medical students in Rwanda: a comparative study

Presenter
Ngabo Emile

02
Evaluation of risk factors for poorly controlled diabetes through glycated hemoglobin among diabetic patients attending Rwamagana level two teaching hospital in July 2023.

Presenter
Batibuka Jean Pierre

03
Prevalence and Associated Factors of Depression and Anxiety Among Medical Students in Rwanda

Presenter
Kwizera Rulinda

04
Child and Adolescent Mental Well-being in Rwanda: A Political Economy Analysis Framework

Presenter
Claudine

05
Continuous Glucose Monitoring Among Patients with Type 1 Diabetes in Rwanda (CAPT1D)

Presenter
Niyonsenga Pierre

20/05/2024
Time: 15:00-15:30

Category: Innovation

01
Heavy rains and landslides disasters management in Karongi district, in Western province_ Roles of Provincial PHEOCs and Lessons learned, Rwanda, May 2023

Presenter
Niragire Esperance

02
Addressing Malnutrition through Inclusive Nutrition and Early Childhood Development (ECD) Services: A Review of the Contribution of a Research and Training Institution in Rwanda.

Presenter
Theogene Uwizeyimana

03
Determinants of Mass Drug Administration (MDA) coverage for Neglected tropical diseases in Middle- and Lower-Income Countries-A systematic review.

Presenter
Mazimpaka

04
Leveraging eHealth Solutions for Enhanced Management of Hepatitis B Virus: A Cross-Sectional Study

Presenter
Kazumuhire Consolee

05
Hope in Healthcare: A Cross-Regional Study of Maternal Health Systems in Rwanda and Detroit.

Presenter
Bienvenue Ishimwe

06
Developing a novel electronic communication system for ambulances in Rwanda. Phase 1: contextualising the system to local circumstances.

Presenter
Nishimwe Aurore

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

21 MAY 2024

21/05/2024
Time: 10:30-11:00

Category: Maternal, Child and Community Health

01
Factors associated with underfive mortality in Rwanda: an analysis of Rwanda DHS 2019/2020

Presenter
Nyirarukundo Julienne

02
Causes of Neonatal Deaths in rural hospital of Rwanda: Retrospective analysis of medical records from 2019 -2022

Presenter
Hategekimana Jean De Dieu

03
Factors influencing stillbirth at an urban referral hospital in Rwanda

Presenter
Twizeyimana Glorieux

04
Determinants of under-five child mortality in Rwanda: analysis of the 2019/20 Rwanda demographic and health survey data

Presenter
Jean Marie Vianney Niyonsenga

05
Knowledge attitude and practice towards first 1000 days nutritional requirement among lactating mothers in Gicumbi district, Rwanda

Presenter
Tuza Nelly Hakizimana

21/05/2024
Time: 12:30-13:30

Category: NCDs and Pandemic Preparedness

01
Early Failure for Primary Endoscopic Third Ventriculostomy for the Treatment of Childhood Hydrocephalus: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Presenter
Nzayikorera Janvier

02
The prevalence of teeth replacement among edentulous patients attending University of Rwanda Polyclinic

Presenter
Dr. Habumugisha Jean Marie Vianney

03
Effect of Rwanda's revised approach to integrating cervical cancer screening and breast cancer early detection on clinical breast exam provision

Presenter
Uwihaye Jean De Dieu

04
Lessons learned from introducing a national COVID-19 Test and Treat Program in Rwanda

Presenter
Umuraza

05
Knowledge, practices and barriers of prevention of zoonotic diseases among butchers and abattoir workers in Nyabugogo, Kigali-Rwanda

Presenter
Assouman Hategekimana

06

Food poisoning outbreak investigation in Ruhango district, Rwanda, March 2023

Presenter

Niyitegeka Mauwa

21/05/2024

Time: 15:00-15:30

Category: Data Science and Infectious Diseases

01

Predictive modelling Of Acute Respiratory Infection among children under 5 years old in Rwanda using machine learning algorithms.

Presenter

Ntwari Kenny Bivegete

02

Predicting Pregnancy Anemia with Machine Learning: A Longitudinal Analysis of Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey (RDHS) Data

Presenter

Ruganintwari Boris

03

Attitudes, knowledge, and perceptions towards sexual and reproductive health and rights among staff at King Faisal Hospital Rwanda

Presenter

Rukundo Jean Damascene

04

Prevalence of Extended-Spectrum Beta-Lactamase (ESBL) Producing Enterobacterales and Associated Clinical Implications at the University Teaching Hospital of Kigali in Rwanda.

Presenter

Dr Kayinamura Muhirwa Patrick

05

Prevalence of HCV among household members of hepatitis c virus-infected patients attending Centre Universitaire de Sante Publique (CUSP) Health Center

Presenter

Nemeyimana Patrick

06

Antibiotic Susceptibility Patterns and Prevalence of Streptococcus Agalactiae Rectovaginal Colonization Among Pregnant Women in Rwanda

Presenter

Muhawenimana Marthe

07

Implementation research to understand the impact of the COVID-19 test-to-treat intervention in reducing COVID-19 burden in Rwanda

Presenter

Rugwizangoga Erigene

SYMPOSIA



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Health



Healthy People, Wealthy Nation

MENTAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

Reflecting on Rwanda's 30 Years of Mental Health Journey after the 1994 Genocide Against Tutsi: Research, Policy and Practice

SPEAKERS



Assoc. Prof. Darius Gishoma
Mental Health Division Manager, RBC



Dr. Clarisse Musanabaganwa
Medical Research Analyst at RBC



Prof. Leon Mutesa,
Director of Center for Human Genetics, University of Rwanda

Kigali Convention Center
Room: MH3&4



5.00 PM - 6.30 PM



May 20, 2024

Topic:
Rwanda's 30 years mental health Journey: Policy and Practice

Topic:
Intergenerational and epigenetic effects of trauma and PTSD following exposure to the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda

PANEL DISCUSSION

Experience and Perspective of adult survivors and young people born after the 1994 genocide against Tutsi



Akariza Laurette Annely
Author of *Wet Under the Rainbow: In a Thoughtful Silent Battle to Heal Rwanda*



Hon. Mukarugema Manzi Alphonsine
Vice President, AVEGA AGAHOZO

MODERATOR



Assoc. Prof. Stefan Jansen
Director of Research, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Rwanda



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Health



Healthy People, Wealthy Nation

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

Building a Sustainable Healthcare Future: Rwanda's Investments in Medical Technologies

...SPEAKER...



Annick Ishimwe
Division Manager of Medical Technology Division

Topic:
Success Stories in Medical Technology Implementation

PANEL DISCUSSION



Eng. Jean Baptiste Dusenge
Director of Electromechanical Unit



Eng. Jean Claude Mwumvaneza
ENABEL

Topic:
The Impact of Medical Technology Healthcare Delivery and Patient Outcomes
Challenges, lessons learned, and strategies for overcoming the challenges



Kigali Convention Center



5.00 PM - 6.30 PM



May 20, 2024

MODERATOR



Cyusa Anicet
Technical Data Analyst Medical Equipment Unit RBC



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Health



DATA & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

Achieving SDG-3 in Rwanda: What role will data and artificial intelligence play

TED TALK



David Chen
Co-CEO, Kapsule

PANEL DISCUSSION



Esther Kunda
Director General, Emerging
Tech and Innovation, MINICT



Hassan Mugabo
Data Scientist
Rwanda Biomedical
Centre



David Chen
Co-CEO, Kapsule

Topic:
Data-Driven Innovations:
Bridging Healthcare Gaps
in Africa

Topic:
Achieving SDG-3
in Rwanda: What
role will Data and
Artificial
Intelligence play?



Audace Niyonkuru
CEO, Digital Umuganda



Prof. Assane Gueye
Carnegie Mellon
University Africa

MODERATOR



Joris Cyizere
Strategy Lead, Rwanda Centre
for the 4th Industrial Revolution



Kigali Convention
Center

Room: AD12



8.00 AM - 9.00 AM



May 21, 2024



Side Event The role of PrEP Ring in reducing the risk of HIV transmission in Women

Kigali Convention Center - Room AD12

Monday, May 20, 2024 | 17.00 - 18.30



Hon. Dr. Yvan Butera
Minister of State | MoH



Dr. Gallican Rwibasira
Division Manager-HIV/AIDS
and STIs Diseases | RBC



Dr. Brian Chirombo
Country Representative | WHO



Diantha Pillay
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Jo Blisse Ngarambe
Youth Advocate

Moderator



Dr. Vanessa Mupenzi
Director of HIV Epidemiology
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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Organizing Committee

Chair: Prof. Claude Mambo Muvunyi, Director General Rwanda Biomedical Centre

Chair of Scientific Committee: Prof Stefan Jansen, Director of Research & Innovation, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Rwanda

Co-Chairs:

- Prof. Mutesa Leon-College of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Rwanda
- Dr.Eric Remera, Division Manager -RIDs

Program Manager:

- Dr.Clarisse Musanabaganwa, Medical Research Analyst/RIDs

Event Coordinators:

- Dr. Clarisse Musanabaganwa, Medical Research Analyst/RIDs
- Mrs. Sabine Umuraza, Senior Associate - Clinton Health Access Initiative – Rwanda
- Mrs Alida Ngwije, Associate Director, Infectious Diseases – Clinton Health Access Initiative – Rwanda
- Mrs Carol Mahoro Mugabo - Research Program Manager, PIH/IMB
- Dr. Joel Gasana - Research Specialist, RBC
- Pacifique Igiraneza, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Associate, RBC
- Elizabeth Kamarade, Study Manager, Partners in Health (PIH/IMB)

Scientific Committee

- Alexandra Fehr, PhD, MPH; Associate Director of Research, Partners in Health Rwanda/Inshuti Mu Buzima
- Dr Brenda Kateera, Country Director, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)
- Prof. Jeanine Condo Umutesi
- Mrs Marie Michelle Umulisa/Rinda Ubuzima
- Dr Vincent Cubaka, Director of Research and Training Partners In Health | Inshuti Mu Buzima
- Dr. Jean Claude Semuto Ngabonziza, Innovation analyst, Research, Innovation and Data Science Division, Rwanda Biomedical Centre
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- Mrs. Alida Ngwije, Associate Director, Clinton Health Access Initiative
- Mrs. Marie Claire Iryanyawera, SRHR specialist, UNFPA
- Mrs Frida Temple, Midwifery Specialist, UNFPA
- Dr. Candide Tran Ngoc, M&E Officer, WHO Rwanda
- Ms. Fiona Gambanga, Associate Primary Health Care- Clinton Health Access Initiative
- Mrs Sabine Umuraza, Senior Associate, Clinton Health Access Initiative – Rwanda
- Ms Harriet Webster, Senior Associate, Monitoring & Evaluation- Clinton Health Access Initiative
- Marie Michele Umulisa, Rinda Ubuzima, Executive Director
- Erigene Rutayisire, PhD, MPH, Learning and Research Advisor/Jhpiego
- Dr. Christian Nsanzabaganwa, Innovation and Data Science Division, Rwanda Biomedical Centre

Communications Committee

- Mrs. Sumana Dhanani, Senior Research Coordinator, CIIC-HIN

THE THREE MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

21 MAY 2024

The Three Minute Thesis Competition



Overview

Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is a research communication competition developed by The University of Queensland in 2008. During this competition, research higher degree (PhD and MPhil) students have three minutes to present a compelling oration on their innovative research (thesis topic) and its significance. The 3MT is not an exercise in trivializing or 'dumbing-down' research, but challenges students and young scientists to consolidate their ideas and research discoveries so they can be presented concisely to a non-specialist audience. These last years, the enthusiasm for the 3MT concept grew and its widespread implementation has led to the development of an international competition.

Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) through Research Innovation and Data Science Division (RIDS) and in collaboration with the University of Rwanda, organized a yearly 3MT Competition to provide a unique opportunity to profile and celebrate the innovative research conducted by postgraduate students (from Rwanda and eventually, in the future, East Africa Community).

Objectives

- The 3MT competition provides to students and young researchers the opportunity to:
- Communicate (share) innovative research ideas to the wider community;
- Generate public and media interest in your research
- Acquire strong and useful communication skills = careers in research
- Gather research higher degree students, academicians, research funders and policy-makers
- Develop research students' capacity to effectively explain their research in language appropriate (concise and clear manner) to a non-specialist audience.
- Give research higher degree students the chance to win great prize money.
- To participate in a fun activity with a purpose!

Prizes

The 3 to 5 winners of the RIDS 3MT competition are awarded different prizes, including research travel grants, small research support, etc..

Competition rules and guidelines

Eligibility

The 3MT competition are open to all Rwandan students (and eventually to EAC students) who are currently enrolled in a research higher degree, such as a Master of Philosophy (MPhil), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), and Professional Doctorates. Students whose thesis is under examination are eligible to enter, but graduates are ineligible.

Judging Criteria

At every level of the competition, each competitor is judged on the three judging criteria listed below.

1. **Comprehension:** Did the presentation help the audience understand the research?
2. **Engagement:** Did the presentation (oration) make the audience want to know more?
3. **Communication style:** Was the thesis topic and its significance communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?

A Judging Panel selects the overall winner and consists of people from a variety of backgrounds, including academics, non-specialists, and fellow students.

Rules

The following rules are considered for the competition:

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description, the slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration and does not have to include any text.
- No additional electronic media (e.g., sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- The presentation should be delivered in English.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum, and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (eg., no poems, raps or songs).

- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through movement or speech.

Application Process

Students are asked to submit a 350-word summary of their research and its potential impact on the society/economy. The summaries are reviewed by a panel that include academics and non-specialists. The most informative and engaging summaries are selected, and the top 5 to 10 students are then invited to compete in the RIDS 3MT final.

