

### **HBNU FOGARTY GLOBAL HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAM**

Fall 2024 Newsletter

### **About the HBNU Fogarty Global Health Program**

The HBNU Fogarty Global Health Training Program (D43TW010543) offers 12-month mentored research fellowships in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to address some of the world's most urgent health challenges.

Since 2017, the program has supported over 130 fellows—U.S. pre- and post-doctoral students, as well as postdoctoral fellows from LMICs—by providing crucial mentorship and resources. Our network of over 200 mentors and site directors plays a pivotal role in helping fellows thrive in their research careers.

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Supported by the Fogarty International Center and several NIH Institutes, HBNU is a consortium of Harvard University, Boston University, Northwestern University, and the University of New Mexico, in collaboration with 21 partner institutions across LMICs.

The program responds to the NIH-Fogarty International Center's goal of building research capacity by training a new cadre of public health innovators and leaders in both the U.S. and LMICs. Fellows focus on conducting impactful clinical and implementation research aimed at reducing mortality and morbidity in areas such as HIV/AIDS, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) like cardiovascular disease and diabetes, mental health, and maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN).



# Fogarty Global Health Training Program

Harvard University Northwestern University Boston University University of New Mexico











## 2024 Fogarty Global Health Program Orientation Recap

The Global Health Program for Fellows and Scholars/LAUNCH in-person orientation and training took place the week of July 8th, 2024 at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland.

During this week-long orientation, our HBNU trainees were able to join valuable sessions, including fireside chats with Fogarty International Center Director, Dr. Kathleen Neuzil, and a keynote presentation by Dr. Anthony Fauci. Our HBNU trainees also listened to presentations on a wide range of topics, such as Gender and Global Health, Mentorship and Cultural Considerations, and Decolonizing Global Health.



2024-2025 (Y8) cohort, HBNU alumni, HBNU PIs, and staff at NIH orientation

We welcomed back several distinguished HBNU alumni, who generously shared their expertise with the new cohort throughout the week. Their continued involvement highlights the strength of our alumni community and its role in shaping future global health leaders.

Dr. Sikhulile Moyo hosted a coffee chat on his work with the Omicron COVID-19 variant and shared how his HBNU experience contributed to his successful research career. He also participated in a panel on South-to-South Collaborations and Capacity Building, highlighting the importance of regional cooperation and mentorship in advancing global health.

Dr. Prossy Bibangambah returned to discuss NIDDK's Global Research Agenda and shared her experiences as an HBNU alumna. She presented valuable perspectives on noncommunicable diseases and metabolic research, including her own research on fatty liver disease among people living with HIV.

Drs. Shela Sridhar and Leah Ratner participated in The Sujal Parikh Lecture: A Safety and Security Overview for U.S. trainees, providing key insights on navigating global health research safely. Dr. Ratner also joined a session on Supporting Equitable Pathways to Leadership through Allyship, emphasizing the need for inclusive leadership.

We are deeply grateful to our alumni for their ongoing contributions, which continue to inspire and strengthen our community.



### **Alumni Spotlight**

#### Sarah Kituyi

We are thrilled to spotlight Dr. Sarah Kituyi, an alumna of the 2022-2023 training class, whose remarkable work underscores the lasting impact of our program. Dr. Kituyi's fellowship project, "Chaperoning kinases in *P. falciparum* and their potential as anti-malaria drug targets and diagnostic biomarkers," has led to the establishment of a new biomedical laboratory at the University of Embu, Kenya.

This laboratory was developed in partnership with HBNU Principal Investigator Dr. DJ Perkins (University of New Mexico) and represents a major milestone in strengthening biomedical research capacity in Kenya as the first biomedical laboratory at the University of Embu. Its focus will be on expanding Dr. Kituyi's fellowship research into the role of chaperoning kinases in *Plasmodium falciparum* and their potential as therapeutic targets and diagnostic markers for severe malarial anemia in children.

The lab's mission is to address critical global health challenges, particularly in malaria-endemic regions of East Africa. Working in close collaboration with Dr. Perkins and the UNM Center for Global Health, the lab aims to generate key insights that could improve treatment and prevention strategies for malaria and related conditions, such as sickle-cell anemia.

Dr. Kituyi's journey has been supported by a strong network of mentors, including Dr. Collins Ouma, the Site Director for HBNU's partner site in Kenya, Maseno University and School of Medicine, where Dr. Kituyi completed her fellowship. Dr. Samuel Anyona, an HBNU alumnus from the 2018-2019 training class, also provided mentorship and now serves as a mentor at Maseno University and School of Medicine.

Looking ahead, Dr. Kituyi and her team are committed to expanding the laboratory's research capabilities, fostering new collaborations, and securing additional funding. These efforts will enhance the lab's ability to contribute to global health research and training, addressing pressing health challenges locally and globally.

We are deeply grateful to the outstanding mentors who supported Dr. Kituyi's work, including Dr. DJ Perkins, Dr. Collins Ouma, and Dr. Samuel Anyona. Their dedication has been instrumental in the success of this project and in advancing biomedical research in Kenya.



Photos of Dr. Sarah Kituyi working in the new biomedical laboratory at the University of Embu, Kenya

### **Recent Awards and Publications**

### **Prossy Bibangambah**

2024-2029 - 1K43TW012846 - NIH/FIC/NHLBI - PI: Prossy Bibangambah

"Pericoronary Adipose Tissue, Inflammation, and Subclinical Coronary Artery Disease in People with HIV in Uganda"

#### Hlengiwe Madlala

2024-2029 - 1K43TW012887 - NIH/FIC - PI: Hlengiwe Madlala

"Metabolomic predictors of weight gain during pregnancy and the postpartum period in South African women living with HIV"

#### **Alison Castle**

**Castle AC,** Moosa Y, Claassen H, Shenoi S, Magodoro I, Manne-Goehler J, Hanekom W, Bassett IV, Wong EB, Siedner MJ. Prior tuberculosis, radiographic lung abnormalities and prevalent diabetes in rural South Africa. BMC Infect Dis. 2024 Jul 11;24(1):690. doi: 10.1186/s12879-024-09583-8. PMID: 38992607; PMCID: PMC11238449.

### Jonathan Gwasupika

**Gwasupika J**, Hamer D, Daka V, Mfune RL, Jacobs C. Influence of HIV status on outcomes of children admitted with sepsis at a paediatric hospital in Zambia: protocol for a prospective longitudinal study. BMJ Open. 2024 Aug 21;14(8):e080607. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2023-080607. PMID: 39174062; PMCID: PMC11340703.

### Itai Magodoro

**Magodoro IM**, Guerrero-Chalela CE, Claggett B, Jermy S, Samuels P, Myer L, Zar HJ, Jao J, Ntsekhe M, Siedner MJ, Ntusi NAB. Cardioprotective effects of early versus late initiated antiretroviral treatment in adolescents with perinatal HIV-1 infection. Sci Rep. 2024 Jun 20;14(1):14234. doi: 10.1038/s41598-024-65119-9. PMID: 38902326; PMCID: PMC11189904.

### Samuel Anyona

**Anyona SB,** Cheng Q, Wasena SA, Osata SW, Guo Y, Raballah E, Hurwitz I, Onyango CO, Ouma C, Seidenberg PD, McMahon BH, Lambert CG, Schneider KA, Perkins DJ. Entire expressed peripheral blood transcriptome in pediatric severe malarial anemia. Nat Commun. 2024 Jun 12;15(1):5037. doi: 10.1038/s41467-024-48259-4. PMID: 38866743; PMCID: PMC11169501.

### **Felix Bongomin**

**Bongomin F**, Nantale R, Kibone W, Awekonimungu B, Oyoo N, Okello J, Muzoora C, Hamer DH. Organ donation and HIV: Awareness and willingness to be a living donor among people with HIV in Uganda. Transpl Infect Dis. 2024 Jun;26(3):e14300. doi: 10.1111/tid.14300. Epub 2024 May 29. PMID: 38809085.

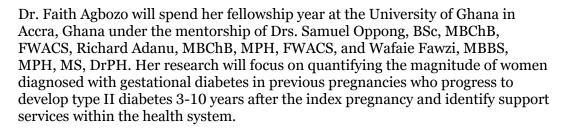


### **Introducing the 2024-2025 Cohort**

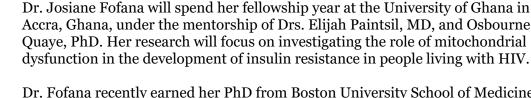
## **GHANA**



Faith **AGBOZO**, MPhil, PhD Ghana Fellow



Dr. Agbozo is currently a Senior Lecturer at the University of Health and Allied Sciences in Ho, Ghana. Driven by the passion to enhance academic and career mentorship, she desires to imbibe hard and soft skills to early career scientists and her postgraduate students. As she prepares to transition to independent research, Dr. Agbozo will strengthen the implementation of evidence-based interventions to promote health and transform lives through community service, science leadership, and policy advocacy leveraging her research expertise in reproductive and nutritional epidemiology.



Dr. Fofana recently earned her PhD from Boston University School of Medicine, where she researched the development of long-acting antiretroviral-loaded nanoparticles to target HIV persistence in secondary lymphoid tissues. She is committed to advancing science in Africa by mentoring the next generation of scientists. To this end, she founded Sunu Askan, a non-profit organization that provides STEM education to children in K-12 in her hometown in Senegal, with plans to expand across Africa. Outside the lab, she is a proud mother of a three-year-old who keeps her on her toes.



Josiane **FOFANA**, PhD U.S. Fellow

## **INDIA**



Sonia **TANEJA**, MD U.S. Fellow

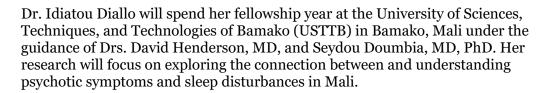
Dr. Sonia Taneja will spend her fellowship at the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), New Delhi, India and the Y.R. Gaitonde Center for AIDS Research and Education (YRGCARE) under the mentorship of Drs. Kenneth Mayer, MD, Lakshmi Ganapathi, MBBS, and Shomik Ray, MPH, MPhil. Her research will focus on Parents as Youth Allies supporting Recovery (PYAR), developing a family-centered psychosocial intervention to engage youth in HIV care and medications for opioid use disorder for young people who inject drugs in India. Dr. Taneja is a Chief Resident and Clinical Instructor at Boston Medical Center.

She aims to be a general/adolescent pediatrician and global health researcher focusing on implementation of community-based participatory research-driven interventions to optimize and de-stigmatize sexual and mental healthcare services for adolescents in India. She has been influenced and inspired by the work of queer and trans youth activists in India and the US who have organized to advocate for basic rights and needs, and she has been academically inspired by the work of Dr. Venkatraman Chandramouli and Dr. Kenneth Mayer in global HIV and adolescent medicine.

### **MALI**



Idiatou **DIALLO**, PhD U.S. Fellow



Dr. Diallo recently defended her doctoral thesis at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her passion lies in advancing public mental health and sleep research, particularly for underserved populations facing resource constraints globally. She envisions herself as an independent researcher in global mental health and sleep, dedicated to shaping services and healthcare interventions in low-resource settings. Rooted in her experience as an immigrant from Guinea, she is driven by a strong commitment to conducting research that directly informs interventions and services tailored for communities facing resource limitations.



Mohamed
TOLOFOUDIE,
MD, MSc
Mali Fellow

Dr. Mohamed Tolofoudie will spend his fellowship year at the University of Sciences, Techniques and Technologies of Bamako (USTTB) in Bamako, Mali under the mentorship of Drs. Yeya dit Sadio Sarro, PharmD, MSPH, PhD, and Chad J. Achenbach, MD, MPH. His research will focus on non-invasive diagnosis of tuberculosis in HIV-Infected children using tongue swabs in Bamako, Mali.

Dr. Tolofoudie is a clinical investigator at the University Clinical Research Center (UCRC)/USTTB. He has centered his own research projects on the development of new tools for diagnosis and treatment management of infectious diseases, specifically among children. He aspires to develop into an independent researcher with knowledge and skills to lead an exceptional research team, focused on major healthcare challenges in Mali, particularly in HIV/TB co-infected children and developing strategies for diagnosis, treatment management, and prevention. Finally, he hopes to contribute to improving data availability to help clinicians and policy decision makers for TB in children in Mali, Africa, and globally.

## NIGERIA



Margaret **AKINWAARE**, DSN Nigeria Fellow

Dr. Margaret Akinwaare will spend her fellowship year at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria under the mentorship of Drs. Chizoma M. Ndikom, RN, RM, PhD, and Jonah Musa, MBBS, PhD. Her research will focus on the effect of digitalized antenatal education on prevention of mother-to-child transmission and birth outcomes among pregnant women living with HIV in Southwest Nigeria.

Dr. Akinwaare is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Her research areas of interest include maternal health, reproductive health, and HIV. Her goal is to be a lead researcher in global health, through conducting ground-breaking research that will promote maternal health, especially in low and middle-income countries. She aims to develop innovative interventions, leveraging interdisciplinary collaborative research to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity. Dr. Akinwaare has been influenced by her mentors through their wealth of experience and passion, and her personal experiences which drive her commitment to reducing maternal mortality and morbidity.



Kolawole Oluseyi **AKANDE,** MBBS Nigeria Fellow

Dr. Kolawole Oluseyi Akande will spend his fellowship year at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan under the mentorship of Drs. Claudia Hawkins, MD, and Okechukwu S. Ogah, MBBS, MD, PhD. His research will focus on the characterization of novel biomarkers in African patients with chronic hepatitis B, with or without HIV co infection (CNAP-HBV/HIV study).

Dr. Akande is a senior lecturer in Gastroenterology & Hepatology in the Department of Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. He has clinical and academic interests in liver diseases especially hepatitis B and C which are the most common causes of liver diseases in Africa, including liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. His career goal is to reduce the burden of liver diseases through prevention, early detection and management of principal risk factors.



Priscilla **AMEH**, BDS, MSc Nigeria Fellow

Dr. Priscilla Ameh, will spend her fellowship year at University of Jos & Jos University Teaching Hospital in Nigeria under the mentorship of Drs. Godwin Imade, FMLSCN, MSc, PGD, PhD, and Jonah Musa, MBBS, PhD. Dr. Ameh's research will focus on human papillomavirus genotypes in the oral mucosa of HIV-positive pregnant women in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria.

Dr. Ameh is currently a senior lecturer and consultant in the Department of Preventive Dentistry, University of Jos and Jos University Teaching Hospital respectively. Her long-term career goal is to be an independent researcher with the ability to manage grants and build local capacity in her institution through mentoring and sharing her knowledge and skills. Dr. Ameh's research interests are in periodontal health, periodontal microbiology, oral human papillomavirus infection in vulnerable groups, and dental education.



Fatima **DAMAGUM**, MBBS Nigeria Fellow

Dr. Fatima Damagum will spend her fellowship year at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH) in Kano, Nigeria under the mentorship of Drs. Baba Maiyaki Musa, MBBS, FWACP, MPH, Phyllis Kanki, BS, DVM, DSc, and Muktar Aliyu, MD, DrPH, MPH. Her research will focus on female sexual dysfunction among women with diabetes: burden, correlates, and treatment modalities.

Dr. Damagum is a Consultant Family Physician working at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital. She is a highly skilled, ambitious, and dedicated consultant family physician with over 14 years of experience managing patients of all ages. Her special interests are in sexual health, infectious diseases and global health research. Her goals are to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes as well as to inform health policy to support women's health initiatives across the country. An avid reader, she is also passionate about literature and has established herself as a newspaper columnist in one of Nigeria's foremost newspapers.

## **RWANDA**



Phillip **HSU**, MD, PhD U.S. Fellow

Dr. Phillip Hsu will spend his fellowship year at University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) in Rwanda under the mentorship of Drs. Edmond Ntaganda, MD, MMed, Robin Petroze, MD, MPH, Barnabas Alayande, MD, and Robert Riviello, MD, MPH. His research will focus on advancing district hospital experience in pediatric surgery through training of trainers (ADEPT).

Dr. Hsu is a general surgery resident at the University of Michigan. He aspires to improve LMIC pediatric surgical capacity through working at the intersection of quality improvement and education. Dr. Hsu hopes to follow in the footsteps of surgeon mentors who have partnered with faith-based organizations to improve care in LMICs. As a surgical resident, he is passionate about education and capacity building, and he is thrilled to be continuing this work through the HBNU Fogarty and Harvard PGSSC Fellowships. In his free time, he enjoys cycling, rock climbing, and playing music.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**



Andrew **HALE**, MD, PhD U.S. Fellow

Dr. Andrew Hale will spend his fellowship year at the University of Cape Town Neuroscience Institute (UCTNI) in South Africa under the mentorship of Drs. Mubeen Goolam, PhD, Kristopher T. Kahle, MD, PhD, and Graham Fieggen, BSc, MBChB, MSc, FCS, MD. His research is focused on cerebral organoids as a model for genetic and acquired hydrocephalus.

Dr. Hale is a neurosurgery resident at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is a pediatric neurosurgeon-scientist with a long-term interest in elucidating the genetic and molecular basis of disorders encountered by neurosurgeons, including primary structural brain malformations and mechanisms governing response to neurologic injury using discovery-based, curiosity-driven approaches. Dr. Hale has been profoundly influenced by his past scientific and clinical mentors who have provided him with a diverse skill set to answer fundamental scientific questions relevant to neurosurgery. Combining his expertise in biochemistry, genetics, and neurosurgery, he aims to understand neurosurgical disease mechanisms in the populations that they disproportionately affect.



Tumelo MOSHOETTE, PhD South Africa Fellow

Dr. Tumelo Moshoette will spend his fellowship year at the HIV Pathogenesis Research Programme at the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN) in South Africa under the mentorship of Drs. Thumbi Ndung'u, BVM, PhD, and Douglas Kwon, MD, PhD. His research project will focus on characterizing antibody responses to the vaginal microbiota.

Dr. Moshoette is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the HIV Pathogenesis Programme at the University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban, South Africa. He aims to leverage his scientific knowledge to contribute towards the eradication of infectious diseases, especially HIV-1. His long-term goal is to be an independent investigator who can contribute meaningfully to knowledge production and mentor the next generation of scientists. Dr. Moshette's interest in science was driven by the devastating impact the HIV-1 pandemic has had on his native country of South Africa and a deep seated desire to be part of the solution.

## **TANZANIA**



Peter **KAROLI**, MD Tanzania Fellow

Dr. Peter Karoli will spend his fellowship year at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania under the mentorship of Drs. Grace Shayo, MD, MMed, PhD, and Lisa Hirschhorn, MD, MPH, PhD. His research is focused on dietary and physical activity knowledge and practices to reduce cardio-metabolic risk factors among people living with HIV in Dar es Salaam.

Dr. Karoli is a research officer at the Tanzania National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR). He is passionate about conducting research to improve the quality of healthcare services in the field of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and non-communicable diseases. Currently, he is a country coordinator for the WHO PEN Plus project, which focuses on improving the quality of NCDs management.

## **UGANDA**



Grace **KANSIIME**, MBChB Uganda Fellow

Dr. Grace Kansiime will spend her fellowship year at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Mbarara, Uganda under the mentorship of Drs. Francis Bajunirwe, MBChB, MSc, PhD, Mark Siedner, MD, MPH, Robert Kalyesubula, MD, PhD, and Esther Mugyenyi, PhD. Her research is focused on outcomes and healthcare needs of patients with HIV and kidney disease in Uganda.

Dr. Kansiime is a Lecturer at MUST and head of the Internal Medicine department. Her long-term career goals are to conduct implementation science research generating local evidence for adoption of evidence based strategies for prevention and early detection of kidney disease, and its risk factors, in Africa. Dr. Kansiime is passionate about prevention and early detection of kidney disease for better outcomes in LMICs, motivated by her witnessing the financial impacts to patients from the cost of dialysis and chronic kidney disease (CKD) care during her clinical work in a dialysis unit. Through this fellowship, she hopes to generate data that is urgently needed to motivate a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to the screening, detection, and care of CKD among people with HIV in Uganda, and to eventually integrate nephrology care services into the existing HIV care system in Uganda.



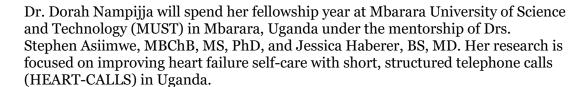
Winnie **KIBONE**, MBChB Uganda Fellow

Dr. Winnie Kibone will spend her fellowship year at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Mbarara, Uganda and Gulu University in Gulu, Uganda, under the mentorship of Drs. Muzoora K. Conrad, MBChB, MMed, Davidson Hamer, MD, and Felix Bongomin, MBChB, MMed, MSc. Her research focuses on navigating dual diagnoses and exploring the lived experiences of individuals living with sickle cell disease and HIV in Uganda.

Dr. Kibone is a medical doctor at Mulago National Referral Hospital in Uganda. She is passionate about advancing medical knowledge and enhancing healthcare interventions, as well as bridging the gap between communicable and noncommunicable diseases in low- and middle-income countries like Uganda. Dr. Kibone aspires to become a renowned global health specialist, addressing clinical issues of public health significance with insight and evidence-based interventions. Her career has been influenced by early exposure to medical research and formal training in Community-Based Education and Research, as well as mentorship from distinguished colleagues.



Dorah **NAMPIJJA**, MBChB Uganda Fellow



Dr. Nampijja is a Senior Lecturer and a cardiologist at Mbarara University of Science and Technology. Her long-term goal is to become an independent clinician-scientist in cardiac care management in sub-Saharan Africa. She hopes to improve knowledge and identify and solve other barriers to implementation of self-care and management among patients with heart disease, particularly heart failure through development of mobile health (mHealth) innovations that address health challenges with the goal of improving health outcomes in the face of the growing cardiovascular disease epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa. Through her experience as a cardiologist in Southwestern Uganda, she has seen first hand how self-care is essential in the management of heart failure, as it empowers patients to better care for themselves where access to health care is limited. This experience compels her to find practical and impactful means through which patients with heart failure can access information and be supported in managing this chronic disease.



Moses **OCHORA**, MBChB Uganda Fellow

Dr. Moses Ochora will spend his fellowship year at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Mbarara, Uganda under the mentorship of Drs. Kumbakumba Elias, MBChB, MMed, Sahera Dirajlal-Fargo, MS, DO, FAAP, FPIDS, and Reuben Robbins, PhD. His research will focus on adapting *NeuroScreen* as a screening tool to assess neurocognition among Runyankolespeaking adolescents aged 12-19 years with perinatally acquired HIV.

Dr. Ochora is a research clinician and volunteer lecturer at Mbarara University of Science and Technology. His career goal is to become a clinical researcher advocate for pediatric infectious disease, genetics, and global health equity. He aspires to build a bridge between research and clinical practice, translating scientific discoveries into practical interventions that can be implemented in resource-limited settings. He is passionate about leveraging MedTech and digital health to improve access to care, diagnosis, and follow-up. With training in pediatrics and child health, Dr. Ochora hopes to utilize these tools to make healthcare more individualized, affordable and sustainable for children in low-resource settings.



For more information, please contact: