







UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

C.I.I.R
CENTRE for IMMUNOLOGY & INFECTION RESEARCH

P.I.G
Parasite Immuno-epidemiology Group

tiba

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CHANGING THE TRAJECTORY OF DIAGNOSTICS IN POOR RESOURCE SETTINGS:
A generation of excellence

Workshop

Jul 18 | 8AM - 4:30PM | Harare
Bronte Hotel

Synopsis

The symposium aims to explore the intersection of diseases, diagnostics, and emerging pandemics, with a focus on the development of innovative tools required for effective disease surveillance. The workshop will provide a platform for experts from diverse backgrounds, including healthcare professionals and researchers, to discuss the current landscape of disease diagnostics, trends in new tool development, and the crucial role of diagnostics in disease surveillance. Through engaging presentations and interactive discussions, participants will gain valuable insights into the challenges, opportunities, and advancements in this rapidly evolving field, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange to drive future advancements in disease diagnostics and surveillance. There is high anticipation for great advancement in disease diagnostics
for this generation.

OBJECTIVES

- Appraisal on the current diagnostics tool development in the field of Infectious diseases.
- To provide a platform to graduates for networking and pitch their research endeavours in diagnostics.
- To take account of over 30 years (1992 – 2023) of excellence in research, capacity building and impact made in immunology of infectious and Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Programme

WORKSHOP CONVENER

Professor Takafira Mduluza

SESSION A

Plenary and Key Themes

CHAIR

Prof. Simbarashe Rusakaniko

8:40 AM

Prof. Tivani Mashamba-Thompson
University of Pretoria
Implementation of Point-of-Care diagnostics for research limited settings and underserved populations.

9:20 AM

Dr Arthur Vengesai
Midland State University
Developing and evaluating a comprehensive multiplex peptide microarray for serological diagnostics and surveillance of Neglected Tropical Diseases in Zimbabwe.

9:40 AM

Prof. Elopy N. Sibanda
University of Zimbabwe
Allergy and Diagnostics in Resource Limited Settings.

10:00 AM Morning Tea

SESSION B

CHAIR

Prof Elopy Sibanda

10:30 AM

Prof. Francisca Mutapi
University of Edinburgh, Tiba
Delivering diagnostics in rural settings during a pandemic.

10:50 AM

Dr Emilia Choto
Great Zimbabwe University
The Association of Urogenital Schistosomiasis with Prostate Cancer Development in Adult Males: A Case of Murehwa District in Zimbabwe

11:10 AM

Dr Tariro Mduluza-Jokonya
University of KwaZulu Natal, SA
Manifestation of Early Schistosoma haematobium Co-infection and Development of a Diagnostic Algorithm using Prodromal Signs and Symptoms in Pre-school Age Children in an Endemic District in Zimbabwe

11:30 AM

Dr Lorraine Pfavayi
University of Edinburgh, Tiba
The Silent Threat: Exploring the Burden of Fungal Infections and Allergies in Zimbabwe

11:50 AM

Tanaka Choto
University of Zimbabwe
Determination of Lymphocyte Profiles and Cytokine Profiles Associated with Coronavirus Disease 2019 Severity

12:10 – 1:30PM Lunch Break

SESSION C

CHAIR Dr Emilia Choto

1:30 PM

Dr Luicer Olubayo
University of Witwatersrand
Mechanisms and effects of inflammatory immune response and COVID-19 vaccination outcome: Immunogenetic and immunome priming.

1:50 PM

Dr Maritha Kasambala:
University of Zimbabwe
Assessment of Schistosoma haematobium infection effects on the neurodevelopment of pre-
school age children in Murehwa district, Zimbabwe.

2:10 PM

Herald Midzi
University of Kwazulu-Natal
Metabolomic profiling and fingerprinting for biomarkers and pathophysiological changes during urogenital schistosomiasis in pre-school aged children under five years

2:30 PM

Daniel Mutangadura:
University of Zimbabwe
Thermosensitive poly(N-acryloyl glycinamide) hydrogel as an antimalaria drug delivery agent for malaria transmission blocking

SESSION D

CHAIR

Dr Lorraine Pfavayi

2:50 PM

Gabrielle Thompson
University of Edinburgh, Tiba
Bridging the Gap: Effective Science Communications for NTDs

3:10 PM

Dr Robin Nxele
University of Pretoria
The Co-creation of Strategies and Interventions to Improve POC Diagnostics User Experience In South Africa: Nominal Group Technique

3:30 PM	Dr Felix Ansah University of Ghana Progress towards the development of cost-effective isothermal amplification kits for the diagnosis and surveillance of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)
3:50 PM	Kuhlula Maluleke University of Pretoria Spatial Distribution of COVID-19 diagnostic services in Mopani District, Limpopo Province, South Africa.
SESSION E	Over 30 Years of Excellence
CHAIR	Dr P. Tagwireyi
4:00 PM	Prof. Takafira Mduluza University of Zimbabwe Diagnostic Targets for Universal Reduction of Schistosomiasis Transmission and Infection.
4:20 PM	A Generation of Excellence TOKENS
	Tea and close