Infectious Diseases & Women Health
28th and 29th of November 2016
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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White Paper

Scientific Committee

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Briefing Document
UNESCO-MERCK AFRICA RESEARCH SUMMIT (UNESCO-MARS)

A valuable opportunity for all those engaged and interested in health and life science research in Africa to learn about the full spectrum of ground-breaking scientific research currently underway, and prepare for the road ahead in Africa’s development as an international hub for research excellence and scientific innovation.

Introduction

Since the advent of modern health research and early studies of antibiotics, health research and clinical trials have been essential to the development of myriad drugs to help treat infections, manage long term or chronic illness, and prolong the life of patients with cancer and HIV. Health research has transversal reach since it not only contributes to society’s well-being, but also influences a nation’s economic output through increasing productivity. Disparities and inequities in health remain a major development challenge in the new millennium, and malfunctioning health systems are at the heart of the problem. Countries with the highest disease burden are struggling with poor service delivery and infrastructure, inadequate financing, severe shortages of doctors, nurses and other trained scientific researchers, and a lack of basic information on health indicators. It has also become apparent, following the recent Ebola crisis in West Africa, that there is paucity in the health research milieu; (scientific and) health researchers do not have the capacity to provide adequate scientific solutions to problems at the local level.

In this context, Merck motivated and guided by its values along with its responsibility towards the African societies and scientific community, a link was established with UNESCO to conceptualize UNESCO-MARS initiative with the aim of empowering researchers from within Africa. As a result, UNESCO and Merck organized the first Africa Research Summit (UNESCO-MARS) last year in October 2015, in Geneva, Switzerland.
The Summit focused on the vital role of research in translating knowledge into action - to improve health condition and the well-being of communities with special focus on HIV and Emergent Infectious Diseases such as Ebola; it was attended by 102 researchers from 30 African countries where they deliberated extensively on infectious diseases, and policy environment for research; and it was a good environment for research networking, knowledge sharing and exchange. The Summit concluded with a declaration that addresses the need to reinforce capacity building and international efforts in order to cope with unpredictable events and risks associated to the poor management of weak health systems. On the other hand, several participants were recognized and awarded for excellence in research, in which, two scientists were awarded six-month fellowships in Merck’s Biotechnology R&D hub in Germany.

Building on the success thereon and the lessons learned from the 1st Summit, UNESCO and Merck is organizing the 2nd UNESCO MARS Summit from 28 to 29 of November 2016 to be hosted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This year’s Summit theme of Infectious Diseases and Women Health was designated after extensive discussions among the organizers; scientists that participated in the 1st Summit; the scientific commission; among others. The theme was also recommended and commended by the numerous feedback received from scientific institutions and civil societies. www.unesco-mars.com.

UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit- MARS 2016

The 2nd UNESCO MARS Summit is a unique opportunity for Africa’s young and talented scientists to share their research output and findings with the top echelon of scientists from Africa and abroad. It is also an opportunity for networking and career development. The Summit will present a platform where young scientists will be able to discuss the enabling environment for better research among others. On another note, the organizing committee will launch the Best African Woman Research Awards to recognize the outstanding contribution of African female scientists.

Rationale

The theme of the Summit “Infectious Diseases and Women Health” is an outcome of extensive consultation that was motivated and inspired by the 1st World Women’s Health and Development Forum and its declaration “Global Action Agenda for Women’s Health”; the First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Non-communicable Diseases; the Beijing Declaration of the BRICS Health Minister’s Meeting; the Nassau Declaration on Health; the Jakarta Declaration on Occupational Health for All; the Abuja Declaration and the Plan of Action from the African Summit on Roll Back Malaria; the International Conference on Population and Development Programme for Action; the Resolutions of the UN General Assembly on Global Health and Foreign Policy.
In Africa, the issue of health research has been comprehensively covered in Africa Agenda 2063 and the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa – 2024 (STISA-2024) which was adopted in 2013 and 2014 by the African Union Summit. The Abuja+12 Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (July 2013) highlighted the need to utilize and build on Africa’s research capacities to produce new and effective medicines, diagnostic tools, vector control tools and vaccines; and to promote research, invention and innovation in traditional medicine. Similarly, it emphasized the urge to strengthen local health ecosystems, taking into account the socio-cultural and environmental situation of the people.

For many infectious diseases, women are at higher risk and have a more severe course of illness than men for many reasons, including biologic differences, social inequities, and restrictive cultural norms. Therefore, efforts to recognize and reduce health disparities among women have particular relevance for global health.

The need to focus on Women Health in this year’s Summit is further justified by reflecting on the statistical evidence that women are 30% more likely than men to be HIV-infected. Consequently, HIV infection in women drastically affects children’s health and well-being, creating new health obstacles for future generations. Malaria disproportionately affects women (pregnant women are especially vulnerable), and similarly STDs, the tropical parasitic disease Schistosomiasis and Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection. With these evidences the renewed call for Women Health must be more vigorous than ever before globally and regionally.

**The Summit Objectives**

The main objectives of the UNESCO MARS 2016 Summit will be the following:

- Build research capacity in the African (scientific) health research community with special focus on Women Health and Emergent Infectious Diseases.

- Showcase innovative research taking place in projects, programs and initiatives across African universities and institutes and the wider African research community.

- Discuss challenges, opportunities and proposed strategies to support health decision making in low and middle income countries.

- Empowering African Young Researchers and Women Researchers and advance their research capacity and promote their contribution to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

- Provide networking opportunities to strengthen the scientific community and their impact on African society and media communication, where they exchange experiences, knowledge, and best practices, and establish cooperation for future research and development projects.
Areas of Reflection

UNESCO-MARS 2016 is a perfect occasion to understand the state-of-the-art of women's health related research, planting the seed for potential collaborations – endogenous or exogenous, national or international - among African research institutes. To this extend, the following are the areas of reflection:

- Vulnerability of women to infections
- Zika virus infection
- AIDS, Malaria, Ebola
- STDs, Human Papillomavirus and Cancer in Women
- Infectious diseases and infertility
- International standards and ethics for a resilient health system

Speakers and Participants

The faculty includes a diverse set of speakers from academia, research institutions, major funding organizations on Health/Medical research, chairs of medical research councils, NGOs, industry, established and emerging researchers, policy makers, Ministers of Health/Science from the AU Member States among others.

UNESCO-MARS 2016 will bring together up to 100 researchers who will be sponsored by Merck to attend the Summit. Their selection will be based on their abstract submission.

Abstracts are invited from final year PhD students and young investigators involved in research related to Infectious Diseases with the aim to improve Women Health. All should be primarily based at African research institutes and universities, collaboration within Africa as well as outside is encouraged.

All abstracts will be peer reviewed and 100 winners will be eligible for Sponsorship.

First three winners will be eligible for further number of Research Awards.

Further Research Award will be dedicated for Best African Women Researchers.
**Summit Work Organization**

The two days Summit will be organized in accordance with the following modalities upon which its work programme and agenda to be developed.

1. The Summit will be organized through sets of keynotes, panel discussions, poster sessions and workshops. The sessions will revolve around the following themes:

   - Identifying research priorities for evolving health needs
   - Enhancing policy environment and mechanisms to support research translation in Africa
   - Networking opportunities to strengthen the scientific community and their impact on African society and media communication

2. Launching of the Best African Woman Researcher Award to recognize the outstanding contribution of women researchers/scientists with the aim to promote women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

**Organizers and Partner Institutions**

UNESCO-MARS 2016 is in partnership with Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia. UNESCO-MARS 2016 will be organized by UNESCO and Merck and co-organized by the African Union Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (AU-STRC), while it will be scientifically supported by UNESCO, the University of Cambridge (UK), Institute Pasteur International and Merck.
The Summit’s objectives will be accomplished through sets of keynotes, panel discussions, poster sessions, field visits and workshops.

**The sessions will revolve around the following themes:**

- **Identifying scientific research priorities for evolving health needs: The case of infectious diseases and Women Health**

The funding and implementation of scientific research is essential to health systems. However, it is necessary to prioritise research in critical areas, where the resources allocated will have maximum impact. Emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) represent an increasingly significant burden on health and sustainable development, which falls disproportionately on developing countries, infants, children and minority groups. There is an increase in Emerging Infectious Diseases linked to ecological changes, the HIV pandemic, the prevalence of drug resistant microbes resulting from sustained use of antimicrobial drugs, and rising international travel and commerce. The Ebola epidemic, Zika virus and Sexually Transmitted Diseases and its association with cervical cancer has highlighted the need to address the health challenges affecting women, which requires both basic and applied research, as well as a focusing of scientific resources onto areas at high risk, as part of a coordinated global approach.

- **Building Life Science and Medical Research Capacity in Africa and promote Women participation in Scientific Research**

Addressing complex issues in a coherent manner requires partnerships between key stakeholders; a systems based approach to the health environment enables health, research, and innovation to be linked in a way which is complementary and mutually supportive. To build public confidence in the research underpinning health systems research protocols must be both transparent and ethical, and operate within a clear, robust regulatory framework. Supporting this framework with advocacy for women in science and understanding the media’s role as a broker of knowledge generates trust in institutions and individual scientists, facilitating public engagement with research. A community of scientists where networking and collaboration are encouraged is fundamental to developing the intersectoral understanding needed to confront regional and global challenges in health.
Effective health policy and practice should be fully informed by evidence generated through research. The successful translation of evidence to policy operates within a complex social setting that is specific and localised, and therefore requires dialogue between researchers, policy makers, the pharmaceutical industry and civil society. Research translation is contingent upon accessible, high quality research, which has been subject to ethical review, and challenges such as copyright restrictions on the use of data, the high cost of scientific articles and the lack of global standards in health informatics must still be overcome.

Launch of Merck research on-line community

In order to improve networking between Young Researchers with their peers and established Researchers in Africa and beyond, Merck has created Merck CAP on-line community blog to enable researchers to interact and exchange experience, knowledge and information. www.merck-cap.com Register now for free.
**Unesco-Merck Africa Research Summit (Unesco-Mars)**

Le Sommet constituera une occasion précieuse où tous les parties engagés et intéressés par la recherche en santé sur le continent africain peuvent s’informer sur le spectre complet des innovations de la recherche scientifique en cours. De plus, l’évènement contribuera au développement des sciences en Afrique afin de devenir une plateforme d’excellence en matière de recherche et innovation scientifique.

**Introduction**

Depuis l’arrivée de la recherche moderne en santé et les premières études sur les antibiotiques, les recherches et essais cliniques ont été essentiels au développement de nombreux médicaments pour le traitement des infections, la gestion des problèmes chroniques et la vie des patients avec le cancer ou la VIH. La recherche en santé joue un rôle crucial, parce qu’elle ne contribue pas uniquement au bien-être de la société mais aussi influence la croissance économique à travers une augmentation de la productivité. Cependant, les disparités et les inégalités en matière de santé restent un défi majeur du nouveau millénaire, avec le dysfonctionnement des systèmes de santé au cœur du problème. Les pays où le fardeau des maladies est le plus lourd ont peine à maintenir leurs infrastructures et services concernés avec leurs faibles ressources. Aussi les financements inadéquats mènent à une grave pénurie de médecins, d’infirmiers et de chercheurs, et à un manque d’informations basique sur les indicateurs de santé. Au cours de la crise de l’Ebola en Afrique occidentale, l’on a pu observer aussi une insuffisance dans le milieu de la recherche médicale ; les chercheurs en (sciences et) santé qui n’avaient pas la capacité de donner des solutions scientifiques adéquates au niveau locale.
Dans ce contexte, Merck motivée et guidée par ses valeurs et sa responsabilité envers la communauté scientifique et la société africaine, a établi un lien avec l’UNESCO afin de conceptualiser l’initiative « UNESCO-MARS », qui a pour objectif de renforcer le rôle des chercheurs en Afrique. Ainsi, l’UNESCO et Merck ont réalisé le premier « Sommet africain de recherche » (UNESCO-MARS) en octobre de l’année dernière (2015) à Genève, Suisse. Le Sommet a mis l’accent sur le rôle vitale de la recherche pour traduire les connaissances en actions concrètes, pour l’amélioration de la santé et du bien-être des communautés avec une attention particulière sur le VIH et sur les maladies infectieuses émergentes, comme l’Ébola. L’on a pu compter 102 chercheurs ressortissants de 30 pays africains, lesquels ont longuement examiné la question des maladies infectieuses et le terrain des politiques pour la recherche. C’était un bon milieu pour faciliter la mise en réseau de la recherche ainsi que pour le partage et l’échange des connaissances. Le Sommet a été clôturé avec une déclaration soulignant le besoin de consolider le renforcement des capacités et d’intensifier les efforts internationaux afin de faire face aux événements imprévisibles et aux risques associés à la mauvaise gestion des faibles systèmes de santé. D’autre part, plusieurs participants ont été reconnus et récompensés pour leur excellence dans la recherche ; deux scientifiques ont été récompensés avec des bourses de recherche d’une durée de six mois à « Merck’s Biotechnology R&D hub » en Allemagne.

La deuxième édition de l’UNESCO-MARS constitue une opportunité unique pour les jeunes et expérimentés scientifiques africains de partager les résultats de leurs recherches et découvertes avec des grandes personnalités du monde scientifique, tant africaines qu’étrangères. Le Sommet permettra également de créer des réseaux et de s’informer sur les évolutions de carrière. De plus, UNESCO-MARS constituera une plateforme où les jeunes scientifiques auront la possibilité de discuter sur la création d’un environnement favorable à l’amélioration de la recherche. En outre, le comité organisateur compte lancer le Prix attribué à la meilleure chercheuse africaine dans le domaine (Best African Woman Research Award) afin de reconnaître et récompenser le travail exceptionnelle d’une scientifique africaine.

Le sujet

Le thème du Sommet, les « Maladies infectieuses et la santé de la femme », a été choisi suite à de grandes consultations et une inspiration par la première édition du Forum sur la santé et le développement mondial de la femme et la déclaration du Programme d’action globale pour la santé de la femme ; la Première conférence ministérielle sur les modes de vie sains et les maladies non-transmissibles ; la déclaration de Pékin sur la réunion des ministères de santé des pays BRICS4 ; la Déclaration de Nassau sur la santé ; la Déclaration de Jakarta sur la santé au travail pour tous ; la Déclaration d’Abuja et le plan d’action du Sommet africain sur la malaria ; la Conférence internationale sur la population et le développement ; les résolutions de l’Assemblée Générale des Nations Unis . En Afrique, le sujet de la recherche en santé est abordé dans son intégralité dans l’Agenda Afrique 2063 et dans la stratégie de la science, technologie et innovation pour l’Afrique 2024 (STISA-2024), laquelle a été adoptée en 2013 et 2014 par le Sommet de l’union africaine. Le Sommet spécial d’Abuja sur le sida, la tuberculose et la malaria de juillet 2013 , a souligné le besoin d’utiliser et de renforcer les capacités pour produire de nouveaux médicaments efficaces, outils de diagnostic, des vaccins et des outils de lutte anti-vectorielles ; et de promouvoir la recherche, l’invention et l’innovation dans la médecine traditionnelle. De plus, l’évènement a souligné l’urgence de renforcer les milieux de santé faibles, en prenant en considération les aspects socio-culturels et environnementaux des populations.
Cependant, pour plusieurs maladies infectieuses, les femmes sont plus vulnérables et ce en partie à cause de leurs différences biologiques, des inégalités sociales, et des normes culturelles restrictives. Ainsi, les efforts fournis afin de réduire les disparités en matière de santé entre les hommes et les femmes ont une importance particulière dans le cadre de la santé mondiale.

L’attention apportée à la santé des femmes pour ce Sommet est justifiée par l’évidence statistique indiquant que les femmes sont 30% plus susceptibles que les hommes d’être infecté par le VIH. Par conséquence, l’infection par le VIH des femmes affecte drastiquement la santé et le bien-être des enfants, créant ainsi de nouveaux obstacles en matière de santé pour les générations futures. La malaria touche de façon disproportionnée les femmes (surtout les femmes enceintes), d’autres MTS aussi, ainsi que la schistosomiase, maladie parasitaire tropicale, et le Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Ceci étant dit, les efforts en matière de santé des femmes doivent être plus soutenus qu’auparavant au niveau régional et global.

Les objectifs du Sommet

Les objectifs principaux du Sommet UNESCO-MARS 2016 sont :

1. Renforcer les capacités (scientifiques) de la communauté scientifique africaine en mettant l’accent sur la santé des femmes et les maladies infectieuses émergentes

2. Présenter les recherches novatrices de projets, programmes, et initiatives, mises en place par les universités et instituts africaines ainsi que la communauté scientifique africaine

3. Discuter et échanger sur les défis, opportunités et stratégies proposés pour renforcer la prise de décision en matière de santé dans les pays à revenus faibles et moyens

4. Habiliter les jeunes chercheurs et chercheuses et améliorer leur capacité de recherche ainsi que promouvoir leur contribution dans STIM

5. Offrir des possibilités de mise en réseau pour renforcer la communauté scientifique et son impact sur la société africaine et dans les Médias. Au travers desquels, les chercheurs pourront échanger leurs expériences, savoirs et meilleures pratiques, créant un terrain fertile pour des futures collaborations de projets de recherche et développement

3. Science, Technologie, Ingénierie et Mathematiques (STIM)
**Domaines de réflexion**

L’UNESCO-MARS 2016 est l’occasion idéale pour mieux comprendre les recherches de pointes en matière de santé des femmes, créant un terrain fertile pour de potentielles collaborations – internes et externes, nationales et internationales – parmi les instituts de recherche africains. Les suivants sont les domaines de réflexion :

La vulnérabilité des femmes aux infections

- Le virus Zika
- La SIDA, la malaria/le paludisme, l’Ebola
- Les MTS, le papillomavirus humain et le cancer chez les femmes
- Les maladies infectieuses et l’infertilité
- Les standards internationaux et éthiques pour un système de santé résilient

**Participants/Conférenciers**

Des orateurs du monde universitaire, des instituts de recherche, des principaux organismes de financement de la recherche en matière de santé, responsables des conseils de recherche médicale, des ONG, de l’industrie, de nouveaux chercheurs et chercheurs confirmés, des décideurs politiques, les Ministres de la santé, de l’éducation et des sciences de différents pays de l’Union Africaine.


Tous les résumés feront l’objet d’un examen par pairs et les 100 sélectionnés seront éligibles pour un parrainage.

Les premiers trois sélectionnés seront éligibles pour les Prix de recherche Un autre prix sera consacré pour la meilleure chercheuse africaine.
L'organisation du Sommet

Le Sommet de deux jours sera organisé en accord avec les modalités suivantes, qui constitueront le programme et l’agenda de l’évènement.

1. L’organisation du Sommet inclura des interventions, de groupes de discussion et de travail, d’ateliers et une exposition d'affiches. Les séances seront organisées autour des thèmes suivants :

   - Identifier l’évolution des besoins et priorités en matière de santé ;
   - Améliorer les politiques de renforcement de la recherche en Afrique
   - Les opportunités de mise en réseau pour renforcer les compétences scientifiques et leur impact sur la société africaine et les Médias.

2. Lancer l’initiative du prix de la meilleure chercheuse africaine (Best African Woman Researcher Award), pour rendre hommage à l’exceptionnelle contribution des femmes chercheuses/scientifiques et ce afin de promouvoir leur rôle dans STEM.

organisateurs et institutions partenaires


The Summit’s objectives will be accomplished through sets of keynotes, panel discussions, poster sessions, field visits and workshops.

The sessions will revolve around the following themes:

**Identifier les priorités scientifiques pour répondre aux besoins émergeants en matière de santé :** le cas des maladies infectieuses et de la santé des femmes

Le subventionnement et la mise en œuvre de la recherche scientifique est un élément essentiel dans le système de santé. Cependant, il faut identifier quels sont les priorités des zones critiques, où les ressources mises à disposition pourront avoir un impact maximum. Les maladies infectieuses émergentes (MIE) représentent une charge de plus en plus lourde sur le plan de la santé et du développement durable, qui pèse de manière disproportionnée sur les pays en développement, les enfants et les minorités. Les augmentations de maladies infectieuses sont liées à de nouveaux défis, parmi lesquels : les changements climatiques, les pandémies du VIH, l’apparition de microbes résistants aux antibiotiques, l’intensification des voyages et du commerce international. Le virus Ébola, le virus Zika, les maladies sexuellement transmissibles pouvant être associées au cancer du col de l’utérus, sont de nouveaux défis de la santé des femmes auxquels il faut faire face. Ces difficultés font appel à la recherche fondamentale et appliquée, ainsi qu’au besoin de rassembler les « ressources scientifiques » dans les zones à risque, notamment dans le cadre d’une coopération globale.
Renforcer les capacités scientifiques de la recherche en science de la vie et en santé en Afrique, promouvant la participation des femmes dans la recherche scientifique

Pour résoudre les problématiques complexes d’une manière cohérente, il serait nécessaire d’établir des partenariats avec des acteurs-clés. Un système de partenariat intégré dans le milieu de santé favorise aussi la recherche et l’innovation, créant un réseau synergique et complémentaire. Afin de renforcer la confiance des citoyens dans le système, il faut que les protocoles de recherches soient transparents et éthiques, opérant de manière claire et suivant une réglementation solide. La promotion des femmes scientifiques et des médias qui créent des liens entre scientifiques et institutions sont des instruments qui facilitent l’engagement public envers la science. Une communauté de scientifiques qui encourage la mise en réseau et les collaborations, constitue une base essentielle pour développer une coopération intersectorielle qui fera face aux défis régionaux et globaux en matière de santé.

Le renforcement des politiques et mécanismes pour améliorer la recherche en santé : opportunités et défis

L’efficacité des politiques en matière de santé et leurs pratiques doivent être bien appuyés par les évidences de la recherche. La mise en pratique des connaissances, depuis la recherche jusqu’aux politiques et pratiques, est sujet aux restrictions d’un cadre social complexe. Ce cadre nécessite un dialogue parmi les chercheurs, les décideurs-politiques, les industries pharmaceutiques et la société civile. En politique publique, les recherches sont subordonnées à des investigations et des travaux de haut niveau, après avoir été soumises à des contrôles éthiques stricts. Les limites liées aux restrictions imposées par les droits d’auteur sur l’usage des données scientifiques, les coûts des articles scientifiques et l’absence, au niveau global, de normes informatiques en matière de santé constituent encore un handicap à surmonter.

Le lancement de la plateforme et communauté en ligne Merck

UNESCO-Merck Africa Research Summit- MARS aims to bring together researchers from across Africa to discuss the generation, sharing and dissemination of research data and to prepare for the road ahead in Africa’s development as an international hub for research excellence and scientific innovation.

UNESCO-Merck Africa Research Summit - MARS 2016 will have scientific support from UNESCO (United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organization), African Union Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (AU-STRC), the University of Cambridge, UK, University of Rome, Institute Pasteur International and Merck. The annual Summit aims to contribute to building research capacity in the African research community, with special focus on "Infectious Diseases and Women Health". The Summit will also showcase innovative research taking place in projects, programs and initiatives across African universities, and by the wider African research community. The summit is a unique opportunity for Africa’s young and talented scientists to share their research output and findings with the top echelon of scientists from Africa and abroad. It is also an opportunity for networking and career development. The Summit will present a platform where young scientists will be able to discuss the enabling environment for better research among others.

On another note the organizing committee will launch the “Best African Woman Researcher Award” to recognize the outstanding contribution of African female scientists with aim to promote women in research and advance their contribution to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). The annual Summit – UNESCO-MARS will address the vital role of research in the improvement and sustainable development of population health with specific emphasis on how to translate knowledge into action—the ‘know-do gap’ - to improve health and make an impact on society.

Abstract Submission Details

Abstracts are invited from final year African PhD students and young investigators involved in research related to Infectious Diseases with the aim to improve Women Health. All should be primarily based at African research institutes and Universities, although collaboration within Africa as well as outside is encouraged. All abstracts will be peer reviewed.

Deadline 30th of August 2016

Apply Now

website: www.unesco-mars.com/application_form.php
Submit your paper on award@mars2016.net

MARS 2016 Awards

All abstracts will be peer reviewed and 100 winners will be eligible for Sponsorship.

First three winners will be eligible for further number of Research Awards.

Further Research Award will be dedicated for Best African Women Researchers

Stay tuned..

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The Scientific Committee

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Ahmed Fahmi                          Elijah Songok
Pauline Essah                        Nadia Khelef
Ahmed Hamdy                          Mahlet Habtemariam

Chairperson of The Steering Committee

Rasha Kelej
Rasha Kelej
Chief Social Officer & Vice President
Merck Healthcare
Chairperson of the Steering Committee

28th November 2016 08:30 – 08:40

Rasha Kelej was born in February 1972 and has been Vice President and Chief Social Officer of Merck Healthcare since May 2014.

In this position she is responsible for the Social Responsibility and Market Development Strategies and Plans that are integrated with business Strategy.

She has elaborated a structured and coherent social responsibility agenda that is adding significant value to society and scientific communities in Africa and developing countries such as India and Indonesia.

Rasha has applied the concept of CSR integration with business strategy and developed Global Merck Capacity Advancement Program (CAP) that started in Sub-Saharan Africa for improving access to innovative & equitable healthcare solutions and encompassing capacity and capability building initiatives in R&D, supply chain integrity, pharmacovigilance, patient safety practices and medical education support for undergraduates and physicians in rural areas and awareness creation for communities in support of the overall Merck Africa Strategy.

Rasha Kelej has more than 20 years of experience in the international pharmaceutical Industry. She joined Merck Serono in 1996 and holds a degree in Pharmacy of Alexandria University and an MBA at Robert Gordon University, Scotland on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) integration with Business Strategy.

About the Merck Capacity Advancement Program (CAP)
Merck CAP is a 5-year program aiming to expand the professional capacity in developing countries in the areas of research and development, advocacy building, supply-chain integrity and efficiency, pharmacovigilance, medical education, and community awareness.
Merck CAP has several initiatives:

**Merck Universities Program**: by the end of 2016; the program will reach more than 12,000 medical students in partnership with African universities such as University of Nairobi, Makerere University, Namibia University and University of Ghana, in addition to Asian universities such as Maharashtra university, India and University of Indonesia will benefit from European-accredited clinical chronic diseases management training, which is seeking to equip them with skills to better manage and prevent these diseases.

Merck is planning to target more than 25,000 students by the end of 2018 expanding to more African, Asian, Latin American and Middle Eastern countries with special focus on non-communicable diseases such as Diabetes, Hypertension, Cancer and Fertility management.

The program has also launched Merck Diabetes and hypertension Awards to help creating a platform of Diabetes and hypertension experts in Africa and Asia.

- **Merck Cancer Access Program**: includes two important initiatives:
  1- **Merck Africa fellowship Program** for sub- Saharan Africa countries with the aim to increase the limited number of medical oncologists hence improve access to cancer care in Africa.
  2- **Merck More than a Patient**: is a new initiative to empower women cancer survivors through helping them to establish small business so that they become productive members in society.

- **Merck More Than a Mother Initiative**: will not only provide medical education and awareness for medical students and general practitioners but will also support governments to define policies to improve access to safe and effective fertility care, address the need for interventions to reduce stigmatization and social suffering of infertile women and raise awareness about male infertility and the necessity for a team approach to family building among couples.

Merck More Than a Mother Initiative addresses together with local stakeholders, the key challenges that are associated with resource-constrained settings such as prevention of infertility, education & self-development, assisted reproductive technology (ART) & in vitro fertilization (IVF) regulation, geographic barriers, reproductive rights and over-population and limited resources arguments.

- **UNESCO- Merck Africa Research Summit**: The program has also kick off initiatives on building research capacity in Africa and prepare for the road ahead in Africa’s development as an international hub for research excellence and scientific innovation.
"Merck More Than a Mother" objectives

1. Creating a Culture Shift to de-stigmatize infertility and to respect and appreciate infertile women in Africa.

2. Raising awareness about Infertility Prevention & Management and Male Infertility by integrating it into Healthcare Infrastructure that already exist, such as HIV, Maternal Health and Mother and Child Programs.

3. Education and Training for African Embryologists since the lack of trained and skilled staff is a big challenge.


5. Building Advocacy and Open Dialogue and work closely with Governments, Policy Makers, Parliaments, Healthcare Providers, Fertility Experts and Media to define interventions to reduce the Social Suffering and Improve Access to Regulated, Effective and Safe Fertility Care in Africa.

6. Empowering Infertile Women Socially and Economically through Access to Awareness, Health, Change of mind-set and Empower Women who cannot be treated anymore through starting a small business for them to build their independent and happier lives through “Empowering Berna” project.

Together we can change this culture.
After a peripatetic education in Africa, Asia, Italy and the UK, Ahmed Fahmi settled for a PhD on investigating the role of membrane proteins in controlling the electro-chemical behaviour of cardiac cells, which he obtained in 2000 from the University of Cambridge.

Thereafter he worked as a post-doctoral fellow at the Imperial College and Kings College of the University of London and the Max Planck Institute in Germany before landing a university post for teaching biochemistry at the University of London. Dr Fahmi joined UNESCO in 2006 working in South Asia and the Asia-Pacific region on managing and coordinating the execution of the organization global programme in Basic and Engineering Sciences and Science Policy. He worked on a variety of projects, notably the development of a field guide manual on repair and retrofitting of historical building for earthquake engineers, e-learning programme in renewable energy, Teachers training program for Sri Lanka, policy formulation on the marine environment of the Maldives, the planning and execution of the reform of the Kingdom of Bhutan’s science and higher education system and the establishment of the UNESCO Regional Centre for Biotechnology in India. He was a visiting professor at the United Nations University in Japan in 2012, working on socio-economic theories of development. He was transferred to UNESCO Head Quarters in Paris in 2013 and has been involved in the establishment of UNESCO centres of excellence and in the reform of the biotechnology sector of Ethiopia.

He also leads the Global Observatory of Science Policy Instruments (GOSPIN) working on the review and formulation of STI policies in Africa. He has many peer-reviewed articles in his name.
Ahmed Hamdy
Executive Secretary
Scientific, Technical, and Research Commission
African Union Commission

Dr. Ahmed HAMDY is an Egyptian born in Cairo in 1968. He is the Executive Secretary of the African Union, Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (AU/STRC); and former Head of Science & Technology and ICT Division of Department of Human Resources Science and Technology of the African Union Commission (AUC).

Dr. Hamdy has 24 years of national and international work experiences out of which 10 years are devoted fully to Science and Technology policy development. His main achievements in the field of Science policy were the development of the book of lighthouse projects; and Africa’s Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy and its book of flagship projects. This resulted in successful projects and programs such as the African Union Research Grant; Connect Africa Research and Education; African Leadership Programme on ICT, African Internet Exchange Points; African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award; the African Network of Infectious Diseases Surveillance; African Scientific Research and Innovation Council; and the African Network of Sciences.

He had a significant contribution to other continental project and programs such as the establishment of the Pan African Intellectual Property Organization and the African Science Technology and Innovation Observatory. Most recently he was among the core contributors to the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA 2024) which is a continental strategy for next 10 year to shape and direct the continent on the STI landscape among others.
Andrew Kambugu
Director of the Research Program at the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) Makerere University, College of Health Sciences (MakCHS), Uganda

29th November 2016 14:30 – 16:30

Dr. Kambugu is the Director of the Research Program at the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) at the Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS), and is an honorary Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medicine at MakCHS. He is also an adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota (UMN), USA. He received his basic medical training as well as his residency in Internal Medicine at Makerere University in Uganda and undertook specialist training in Infectious Diseases in the USA and Canada. He has over 12 years of clinical experience in HIV medicine and is a member of 2 National HIV Subcommittees (Adult Antiretroviral Therapy and HIV Drug Resistance) of the Ugandan Ministry of Health. He directed the HIV Clinic at the IDI for seven years. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP), London, UK.

Dr. Kambugu’s research interests include HIV treatment outcomes in resource limited settings, as well as the diagnosis and management of opportunistic infections in these settings with a focus on cryptococcal meningitis and tuberculosis. He has accrued considerable experience in assembling clinical cohorts as well as conducting fairly large clinical trials in Uganda.

He is a principal investigator on a number of clinical trials spanning the fields of HIV therapeutics, HIV treatment strategies and implementation science in Uganda.
Elijah Songok
Assistant Professor, Department of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases College of Medicine, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg Canada & Principal Research Scientist Kenya Medical Research Institute, Nairobi, Kenya

29th November 2016  14:30 – 16:30

Prof. Elijah M. Songok, is a Principal Research Scientist at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) in Nairobi. He also holds the position of Assistant Professor at the Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Manitoba Canada and is similarly cross appointed as a professor at the Department of Virology and International Health, Kanazawa University, Japan.

Prof. Songok holds a BSc and MSc in Biochemistry from the University of Nairobi, a PhD in Virology from Kanazawa University Japan, and a post doctorate in genomics from University of Manitoba. He has published more than forty articles in peer reviewed journals, most as a first or corresponding author, and has supervised more than 8 students for the PhD degrees and 14 for their MScs. He has two patents and one innovation currently undergoing clinical trials. On grants, Prof Songok has won more than twenty research grants and awards as principal investigator from diverse grant making organizations as Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Glaxo Smith Kline (GSK), Canada Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), USAID, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Third World Academy of Sciences, Canada International Development Research Centre (IDRC) among others.
Dr. Mahlet Kifle Habtemariam is a medical doctor with a Master's Degree in Public Health from the University College, Dublin. She has served both as a Clinician and Public Health Specialist in the Ethiopian Health system.

Dr. Mahlet has held the post of Director General in the Office of the Minister of Health since October 2015. In her current role, Dr Mahlet is in charge of managing the office of the Minister and overseeing the operations of the various directorates and parastatal agencies.

During her tenure at the Ministry, she has served as a focal person for the national HIV/AIDS program, lead coordinator for the prevention and control of NCDs and acting director for Disease Prevention and Control Directorate. In addition to leading the engagement to roll out cervical cancer screening services, Dr. Mahlet has also been a champion and led the development of the first national strategic action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs, and the first national cancer control plan.

She is also the chair of the National Coordinating Committee tasked to support the establishment of an IGAD Regional Cancer Center.
Born in Rome on December 7, 1949, Dr Colizzi received the medical degree at the University of Rome “La Sapienza” with full honour. Dr Colizzi is a specialist in Clinical of Infectious Diseases (University of Rome) and in Hygiene and Public Health (University of Pisa), and PhD in Immunology (Brunnel University, England).

His doctorate and post-doc experience have been carried out at the Clinical Research Centre in Harrow (England). He has been Assistant in Microbiology, and Associate professor in Immunology at the University of Pisa. Since 2000 to now, Dr Colizzi is Full Professor of Immunology and Director of the UNESCO Chair in Biotechnology at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. Dr Colizzi has been also President (2007-2010) of the Board of the National Institute for Infectious Diseases “Lazzaro Spallanzani” in Rome, Italy.

He is a consultant for several agencies of the United Nations (UNESCO, UNDP, OMS) and is the scientific coordinator of several European and International Projects. Dr Colizzi has been Scientific Director and member of the Board of the International Reference Centre for AIDS “Chantal Biya” in Yaoundé, Cameroon and President of the University Spinoff Eurobiopark (European Group of Biotechnology at the Tor Vergata Science Park).

Actually, Dr Colizzi is the coordinator of the European Project STARBIOS2 (Structural Transformation to Attain Responsible BIoSciences). VC published over 300 scientific publications on peer-review journals (Nature, Journal of Immunology, Infection and Immunity, Journal of Infectious Diseases, Immunology, Clinical Experimental Immunology, A, IDS, AIDS and Human Retrovirus Journal, etc.) in the sector of Microbial Immunology and Infectious Diseases, with special focus on AIDS and Tuberculosis.
Dr Pauline Essah is appointed by the University of Cambridge as Manager of the Cambridge-Africa Programme (http://www.cambridge-africacam.ac.uk/) which is a key strand of its official international strategy.

Originally from Ghana in West Africa, Dr Essah obtained a first class honours degree in Agriculture at the University of Ghana, Legon. She then moved to the University of Cambridge to study for MPhil and PhD degrees in biological sciences. This was followed by three and a half years of post-doctoral research at the Department of Plant Sciences in Cambridge. In 2009, Dr Essah joined the Cambridge-Africa Programme as its first Coordinator (for the THRiVE initiative).

Dr Essah has been instrumental in growing THRiVE into the unique, coordinated, multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary umbrella Cambridge-Africa Programme (which now incorporates initiatives such as THRiVE, MUII and CAPReX, the ALBORADA Research Fund, and the Wellcome Trust-Cambridge Centre for Global Health Research) that she now manages at the University of Cambridge.
Nadia Khelef is Senior Advisor for Global Affairs at Institut Pasteur, in charge of reinforcing the partnerships between the Institut Pasteur (and the International Network of Institut Pasteur) and the International Organizations in Geneva.

Her scientific career began in the pharmaceutical industry, then she spent most of her research career in academia at the Institut PASTEUR, France, and in New York City, USA (Columbia and Cornell Universities), in the field of bacterial infectious diseases.

She has published around 20 peer review publications, given international seminars and taught at international level. She is the co-inventor of a patent for a vector exploited to develop a therapeutic cancer vaccine.

In 2007, she has set up and managed a Grants Office at the Institut Pasteur. She was also in charge of the European Affairs at the Institut PASTEUR, where she dealt with Science and European Policies. In 2011, she has contributed to setting up the first French Public Private Partnership in Health: the Research Technology Institute, BIOASTER, dedicated to accelerate the translation of biomedical discoveries in microbiology and infectious diseases.

More recently, she has served as Diplomatic Advisor to the French Minister of Higher Education and Research.
Merck CAP is a 5-year program aiming to expand the professional capacity in developing countries in the areas of R&D, advocacy building, supply-chain integrity and efficiency, pharmacovigilance, medical education, and community awareness.

Merck Africa Research Summit is a signature initiative of Merck CAP
A valuable opportunity for all those engaged and interested in health and life science research in Africa to learn about the full spectrum of ground-breaking scientific research currently underway, and prepare for the road ahead in Africa’s development as an international hub for research excellence and scientific innovation.
# UNESCO-Merck Africa Research Summit 2016

## DAY 1
### 28th November 2016 (Monday)
**Capital Hotel, Addis Ababa**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30 – 11:00</td>
<td><strong>Inauguration Session</strong></td>
<td>River Nile</td>
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</table>
| 08:30 – 08:40 | Welcome notes and introduction                                          | Dr. Rasha Kelej  
Chief Social Officer & Vice-President, Merck Healthcare  |
| 08:40 – 08:55 | Merck’s Vision to Build Research Capacity in Africa                     | Prof. Dr. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp  
Chairman of the Executive Board & Family Board of E. Merck KG  |
| 08:55 – 09:10 | UNESCO Vision to Build Research Capacity in Africa                      | Mr. Getachew Engida  
Deputy Director - General, UNESCO  |
| 09:10 – 09:25 | Keynote Speech                                                          | Hon. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus  
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ethiopia  |
| 09:25 – 09:40 | Keynote Speech                                                          | Hon. Prof. Yifru Berhan  
Minister of Health of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  |
| 09:50 – 10:00 | UNESCO-Africa Research Summit 2015 Declaration                          | MARS 2015 First Award Winners  
Rebecca Chuwuanukwu & Benard Kulohoma  |

### 10:00 – 10:15
**Coffee Break and Group Photo**

### 10:20 – 13:00
**Ministerial High Level Panels**

**Ministerial Panel 1:** Define interventions to Advance Research Capacity and Empower Women in Research to Improve Women Health in Africa

**Moderated by:**
- Rasha Kelej  
Chief Social Officer- Merck  
- Romain Murenzi  
Director of Science Policy and Capacity Building - UNESCO  

- Prof. Frank Stangenberg Haverkamp  
Chairman of Executive Board and Family Board of E-Merck KG  
- Hon. Sarah Opendi  
Minister of State of Health-Uganda  
- Hon. IDI Illiassou Mainassara  
Minister of Public Health - Niger  
- Hon. Dr. Ashraf ElShihy  
Minister of Higher Education and State for Scientific Research - Egypt  
- Hon. Julia Duncan Cassell  
Minister of Gender, Children and Social Development-Liberia  
- Hon. Filiga Michel Sawadogo  
Minister of Education & Science Burkina Faso  
- Hon. Jesús Engonga Ndong  
Minister of Education & Science- Equatorial Guinea  

### River Nile  
**Capital Hotel**
## UNESCO-Merck Africa Research Summit 2016

**DAY 1**  
**28th November 2016 (Monday)**  
**Capital Hotel, Addis Ababa**

### 10:20 – 13:00  
**Ministerial High Level Panels**  
**River Nile**  
**Capital Hotel**

**Ministerial Panel 2 : Research and Policy Making Gap in Africa - Challenges and Opportunities - Africa as a new international hub for research excellence and scientific information.**

Moderated by:
- **Rasha Kelej**  
  Chief Social Officer - Merck
- **Romain Murenzi**  
  Director of Science Policy and Capacity Building - UNESCO

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hon.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Ministry</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assane</td>
<td>NGUEDAOUM</td>
<td>Minister of Health - Chad</td>
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<td>Yifru</td>
<td>Berhan</td>
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<td>Isaac</td>
<td>Adewole</td>
<td>Minister of Health - Nigeria</td>
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<td>Octave</td>
<td>Nicoué Broohm</td>
<td>Minister of Education - Togo</td>
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<td>Léon</td>
<td>N’ZOUBA</td>
<td>Minister of Health - Gabon</td>
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<td>João</td>
<td>Sebastião Teta</td>
<td>Secretary of State - Angola</td>
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<td>Zuliatu</td>
<td>Ms Cooper</td>
<td>Deputy Minister of Health &amp; Sanitation - Sierra Leone</td>
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### 13:00 – 14:30  
**LUNCH**  
**All**  
**Capital Hotel**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Role of women in life science and medical research in addressing the SDGs</td>
<td>HRH Princess Nisreen El-Hashemite Founder of the World Women's Health and Development Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Session 1: Identifying scientific research priorities for evolving health needs: The case of infectious diseases and Women Health</td>
<td>Prof. Pontiano Kaleebu Director MRC/UVRI Uganda Research Unit on AIDS, Deputy Director, Uganda Virus Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>The Emergence of Zika Virus</td>
<td>Prof. Jutta Reinhard-Rupp Head of Translational Innovation Platform for Global Health Research- Merck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:15</td>
<td>Identifying the scientific research priorities for evolving health needs: the case of infectious diseases and women's health</td>
<td>Dr. Joe Leigh Simpson Past President of IFFS (International federation of Fertility Society)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30</td>
<td>Untreated infectious diseases and infertility prevalence in Africa: The importance of prevention- Merck more than a mother</td>
<td>Dr. Joe Leigh Simpson Past President of IFFS (International federation of Fertility Society)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:45</td>
<td>The University of Cambridge Africa Initiative - Strengthening the fight against infectious diseases in Africa</td>
<td>Prof James Wood Co-Director of Cambridge Africa Initiative, University of Cambridge</td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
<td>Prof. Nicholas Anthony Othieno-Abinya Medical Oncologist and Professor of Medicine/Program Director for Medical Oncology Fellowship, University of Nairobi, Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:15</td>
<td>Infectious Diseases in Women and Cancer Prevention</td>
<td>Dr Bich-Tram Huynh Institut Pasteur, INSERM, University of Versailles Saint-Quentin</td>
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<td>16:30</td>
<td>Bacterial Infections and antibiotic Resistant Diseases among Young children in low-Income countries</td>
<td>Prof. Serge Eholie Professor of Tropical and Infectious Diseases, Medical School of University Félix Houphouet-Boigny, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire</td>
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<td>16:45</td>
<td>HIV and Clinical Trials in Sexual Workers in Africa</td>
<td>Prof. Manoel Barral-Netto Head of Research and Director of the Centro de Pesquisas Goncalo Moniz, Brazil-Awardee of UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>Research perspectives in the area of communicable neglected diseases and its relation to women health</td>
<td>Prof. Vittorio Colizzi Professor of Immunology, Director UNESCO Chair of Biotechnology, University of Rome</td>
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<td>19:00</td>
<td>Merck Africa Research Summit - MARS 2016 Award Ceremony</td>
<td>All Capital Hotel</td>
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UNESCO-MARS entails a diverse set of speakers from academia, research institutes, major funding organizations of life/medical research, Chairs of biology and medical research councils, NGOs, industry, policy makers and editors of scientific/medical journals. Read our Speakers Profile.
Dr. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp, born in 1948 in Dorsten, Germany.

He is The Chairman of the Executive Board and Family Board of E. Merck KG and member of the Merck family. Following his German University entrance qualification (Abitur) he served with the German Air Force, which he left as Lieutenant.

At the University of Freiburg/Br. he studied economics and economic history. After completing his studies, he worked at Commerzbank and the Investment Bank Baring Brothers and Hambros in London.

In 1984 he was elected to the Board of Partners of E. Merck KG and has been the Chairman of the Board since 2004.

In January 2014 he was elected as the Chairman of the Executive Board and the Family Board of E. Merck KG.

Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp is married and has 7 children.
Together we can Lead the world to a better future.

Let’s work together to prepare for the road ahead in Africa’s development as an international hub for Research Excellence and Scientific Innovation.
Mr. Getachew Engida holds a BA Econ (Honours) Upper Second Class in Economics / Agricultural Economics at the University of Manchester, England (July 1981), and his MBA with commendations in International Banking & Finance at the City University Business School, London (April 1993). He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales. Getachew was appointed as Deputy Director-General of UNESCO in April 2010. In this capacity, he supports the Director General in crafting strategic directions, policy development and program execution.

Before his appointment as DDG, Getachew served as the Comptroller of UNESCO for almost six years, responsible for the financial management of some $1 billion dollars budget over a biennium including treasury management, financial information systems, members’ contributions, etc.

Responsible for making sure that appropriate delegation of authority and accountability mechanisms exist throughout a decentralized organizational set up and implement strategic input to decision making as a Senior member of the Direction General. Interface with the External Auditor and a resource person for the Finance & Administration Commission of the Executive Board.
Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. He took up his post in November 2012. Prior to this he served as Minister of Health from October 2005 to November 2012.

Dr. Tedros also served in a number of expert and leadership positions within the Ministry of Health at both federal and regional levels, including the positions of Minister of State and as Head of the Tigray Regional Health Bureau. First joining the Ministry in 1986, Dr. Tedros has dedicated his entire career to public service and scientific research, focusing on health concerns.

After joining the health sector in 1986, Dr. Tedros dedicated his career to public service and scientific research on health concerns. A globally recognized researcher on Malaria, Dr. Tedros has co-authored numerous articles on the subject in scientific publication.

Dr. Tedros holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Community Health from the University of Nottingham in the UK in 2000. He obtained a Master of Science degree in Immunology of Infectious Diseases from the University of London (UK) in 1992, and completed his undergraduate studies in Biology at Asmara University in 1986.
H.E Professor Yifru Berhan is Minister of Health of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and a medical doctor with a specialty in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Since graduating from a medical school in 1997, H.E. Professor Yifru has served as a medical practitioner in the most remote areas of Ethiopia, culminating in 2015, as Dean of College of Health Sciences of Addis Ababa University with the rank of vice president. Such a wide ranging sustained experiences and accomplished academic credentials have provided the necessary depth and breadth for him to be appointed as Minister to provide leadership to the vibrant and internationally recognized Ethiopia’s health sector transformation plan.

H.E. Professor Yifru’s contributions to Ethiopia’s health sector development has spanned, both in health service delivery and academic settings, and have resulted in major contributions to fighting and mitigating disease outbreaks, scaling up of health service and medical education.

H.E. Professor Yifru is committed to public services and to ensuring the delivery of quality and equitable services to all regardless their station in life.

As an accomplished researcher, his passion to public service and promotion of health delivery systems is reflected in over 70 articles he has published in reputable and refereed national and international journals.
Hon. Sarah Opendi
Hon. Minister of State of Health, Uganda
Primary Health Care/Member of Parliament

28th November 2016
10:20 – 13:00

Hon. Sarah Opendi is the Minister of State for Health – Primary Health Care/Member of Parliament from 2014 to date. Her professional career began at Uganda Consolidated Properties Limited, a subsidiary of the government-owned Uganda Development Corporation (UDC).

She went on to serve as the Deputy Speaker of Tororo District Council from 1998 until 2000. She also served in the office of the Inspector General of Government, and was promoted to Principal Inspectorate Officer in 2004.

She has held roles in many other organizations, such as the DANIDA Anti-Corruption Project, where she was Deputy Project Coordinator; the Acholi Bursary Program, a project of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, where she was the accountant; and the Windle Trust Uganda, where she was the finance manager.

In 2011, she successfully contested the parliamentary seat of Women's Representative for Tororo District, and was appointed to her current position in 2012.

She has a distinguished and long experience in politics, management and corporate affairs in the public and private sector.

Hon. Sarah Opendi holds Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Master's Degree in Business administration.
Hon. Ashraf Mohamed El Shihy
Minister of Higher Education and
Minister of State for Scientific Research

28th November 2016  
10:20 – 13:00

Egyptian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Professor Dr. Ashraf El Shihy, obtained his PhD in 1986 from Southampton University England in Instruction Engineering after being graduated from the Faculty of Engineering of Cairo University, in 1977. In 1981, he attained his Master’s degree in Materials Engineering from the University of Zagazig and the University of Southampton in England. Professor El Shihy assumed various positions throughout his professional career, including Professor at the Construction Engineering Department, University of Zagazig, in 1991 and Director of the Faculty’s Consultancy and Research Center, in 1997. He became Vice Dean of the Faculty of Engineering in 1999, then Dean in 2005. He also became Vice President, then President, of the University for Graduate Studies and Research in 2011. In 2014, he then became President of the University of Zagazig.

Prof. El Shihy enjoys membership in many cultures, education and research related organizations and institutions. He is a member of supreme council of culture. He is also a member of Alexandria library board of trustees. He is a member of supreme committee for promoting professors of construction engineering in Egypt and in Arab Gulf countries. He is president of board of directors of Egyptians university sports union; supreme council for university hospitals; council of private and community universities; and supreme council for research institutes, centers and institutions. He is also president of supreme council of universities and Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO. At the African level, he is a number of Pan African Council. As Egypt is a pioneering country in all fields especially the educational and research ones on the African continent, Prof. El Shihy is holding the office of president of Association for the Development of Education, Science and Technology.
Hon. Julia Duncan-Cassell
Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Liberia

28th November 2016
10:20 – 13:00

Julia Duncan-Cassell has been passionate about the promotion of gender equality and protection of women's rights since adolescence. She is a born motivator in bringing about change. Change, which brings people together, encourages good governance and advocates for a just and peaceful society that will inspire social and economic progress. Minister Cassell is a great source of strength and leadership to local communities across Liberia and in the diaspora. Her analytical, intuitive, results-driven approach, complimented with 20 plus years of progressive management makes her an asset to any project that she is a part of.

Sworn in as Liberia’s Minister of Gender and Development since early 2012, she played a critical role in helping shape, coordinate and implement the Government of Liberia’s National Gender Policy, through the enabling of Gender Mainstreaming as a goal of achieving gender parity and equality. In 2014 Minister Cassell assumed further responsibility when the Ministry changed to Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

She studied business with an emphasis in banking and finance from A&M University in Texas and University of Phoenix in California. In the United States she spent ten years excelling in the private banking and finance sector; at the same time remaining actively involved in Liberian organizations and communities throughout the country before returning home in 2006, with great determination to help rebuild her country. She is married to Mr. Josephus Monyue Cassell. They have three children (two girls and one boy).
Hon. Filiga Michel Sawadogo
Minister of Education & Science
Burkina Faso

28th November 2016

Professor Michel Filiga Sawadogo is the Minister of Secondary and Higher Education of the transitional government, since 23 November 2014. Prof Sawadogo is a Professor of Law, holder of l’UFR Juridical and Political Sciences of the University of Ouaga II, head of department of 3rd cycle (2001 to 2011), former dean, former president of the University of Ouagadougou (1995 to 2000), and former member of Constitutional Council of Burkina Faso (2002 to 2008).

Prof Sawadogo was also advisor to ARCEP (l’Autorité de Régulation des Communications Électroniques et des Postes) from August 2009 to August 2012, former General Director of Tax from 9 June 2010 until 3 July 2012. Furthermore, Prof Sawadogo occupied functions such as Director of Studies from 1983 to 1986; director of l’Ecole Supérieure de Droit; then dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences from 1986 to 1995.

Prof Sawadogo has been a member of the Administrative Council of l’ERSUMA since 2003, the Management Board of National Funds for research and innovation for development (FONRID), since April 2012.

He has also mediated in several arbitration cases alongside the International Chamber of Commerce of Paris and the Arbitration, Mediation and Conciliation Centre of Ouagadougou (CAMC-O).
Hon. Jesús ENGONGA NDONG
Minister of Education & Science
Equatorial Guinea

28th November 2016  10:20 – 13:00

Hon. Jesús Engonga Ndong is currently the Honourable Minister of Education and Science to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. He received his graduate degree in History from la Universidad Complétense de Madrid, in Spain.

Previously, however, Hon. Ndong occupied the positions of Minister Delegate of Education and Science; Deputy in the Chamber of Representative of the people; General Director of Secondary Education; and Regional Delegate of the Ministry of Education and Science in the continental region.

Before his ministerial positions, Hon. Ndong assumed various academic positions, including Director of the National Institute of Secondary Education “Carlos Lwanga” de Bata; Professor at la Universidad Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial (UNGE); and finally, Professor at the National Institute of Secondary Education ”Carlos Lwanga”.

Hon. N’gueadoum Assane was born on January 1, 1964, in N’Djaména. He studied at the University of N’Djaména, Ecole Nationale d’Administration de Paris, in France; Institut Forhom de la Rochelle, in France; Institut Supérieur de Gestion, in N’Djaména; and Educatel, in Paris. Hon Assane received his Certificate of Higher Education in Management and Human Resources in 2002, and his Diploma of Higher Education in Management of Projects and Programs in 2004. Hon Assane also has certification and training in domains against mines, unexploded ordnance, cluster munitions, disarmament, and public security.

Previously, Hon Assane assumed the positions of: Head of Administration and Finance for the High National Commissioner for Mine Clearance (HCND), from 2001 to 2003; Administrative, Financial and Logistic Director for HCND, from 2003 to 2005; Program Administrator for HCND, from 2005 to 2007; Technical Advisor of the National Center of Mine Clearance, in charge of implementing Strategic Plan and Operations, from 2007 to 2011; Minister of Regional Planning, Urban Planning, and Housing, from 2011 to 2013; and Secretary of State for Public Health, Social Action, and National Solidarity, from 2014 to 2015. Since the end of 2015, he has been the Minister of Public Health.
Hon. Isaac Folorunso ADEWOLE
Minister of Health
Nigeria

28th November 2016

Professor Isaac Folorunsho Adewole was born on May 5, 1954. In 1973, he entered the University of Ibadan and obtained his Bachelor’s Degree in Medicine in 1978, winning the Glaxo Allen-bury prize for the best performance in Pediatrics. He then started practicing in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, as a Senior House Officer in 1981, and at the same time underwent further medical training, which qualified him as a Senior Registrar in the Department in 1984. Later, he studied for the Research Fellowship in the Department of Medical Oncology at Charring Cross Hospital London. In 1997, he became a Professor of Medicine from the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, and was appointed Provost, College of Medicine in 2002.

At different periods, Professor Adewole served in the following capacities: Director of the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV Project at UCH; Chairman of the PMTCT National Task Team Subcommittee on anti-retro-viral for the PMTCT of HIV; Coordinator of the Campaign Against Unwanted Pregnancy in Nigeria; Principal Investigator for ‘Operation Stop Cervical Cancer’ in Nigeria; Secretary-General of the Confederation of African Medical Associations and Societies (CAMAS) from 1997-2003; President Elect of African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC); Chairman of the sub-Saharan African Cervical Cancer Working Group (CCWG); and Chairman, National Task Team on prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV. Professor Adewole is also a member of several professional bodies, including: Nigerian Medical Association; Society of Gynecology & Obstetrics of Nigeria; European Research Organization on Genital Infection and Neoplasia (EUROGIN); the International Network on Control of Gynecological Cancers. On December 1, 2010, he became the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan.
In 1987, Hon. Octave Nicoué Broohm received his Doctorate in Ethics and Politics, from the University of Paris, Sorbonne. From 2005 until 2009, he was the head of the Philosophy Department at the University of Lomé. Hon. Broohm was also the Minister of Labour and Social Security from 2007 until 2008.

In 2008, Hon. Broohm became the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security, a position that he maintained until 2012. Since 2012, he has occupied the esteemed position of Minister of Higher Education and Research.

He is currently a member of the General Council, of the Confédération Syndicale Internationale (CSI) and the Vice- Pan-African President, of CSI-Afrique. In addition, he is a former member of the Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme and a coordinator of the Conseil National du Dialogue Social (CNDS).

Hon. Broohm is the recipient of the 1993 Lorenzo Natali prize, European Union, and the recipient of the 2010 Officier de l'Ordre du Mono.
Mr Léon N'ZOUBA completed his medical studies at l'Ecole Royale du Service de Santé Militaire Rabat, obtaining his Doctorate in Medicine on 14 November 1984 with ‘honorable mention’. During his postdoctoral curriculum, Mr N'ZOUBA obtained the following diplomas and distinctions: in 1985, Diploma of Tropical Medicine and Disaster Medicine from l'Institut de Médecine Tropicale du Service de Santé des Armées de Marseille (France); in 1990, assistant of Hôpitaux des Armées in ORL/CCF; in 1993, Diploma Inter-University of Specialisation; in 1994, specialist at Hôpitaux des Armées in ORL/CCF; and in 2000, Agrégation du Val de Grâce in Paris.

At a professional level, Mr N'ZOUBA has occupied high responsibility positions, including: from 1985 to 1988, Head Physician of l'Infirmérie de Garnison de Port-Gentil; from 1995 to 1997, Associate Physician to Head of Service ORL/CCF at Centre Hospitalier de Libreville; in December 1997, Head of Service ORL/CCF at Centre Hospitalier de Libreville; in 2006, Head of Department ORL/CCF, Ondo-Stomatologie and Chirurgie Maxillo-faciale at l'Hôpital des Instructions des Armée Omar Bongo Omdimba and at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences; finally from 1999 to 2009, Director General of Service of Military Health.
Hon. Dr. João Teta is an engineer, professor and politician, as well as an expert in higher education institution management. He studied at the Technical University of Wroclaw (UTW) and at Academy of Mining and Metallurgy at Cracovia Academy, both in Poland. He was awarded BSc, MSc and PhD degrees.

Dr. Teta was Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at University Agostinho Neto and Rector and Chancellor at the same University for 2 mandates. He was also Chairman of the Portuguese Language Universities Association.

From 2010 to date, he is working as a Member of the Angolan Government. He was appointed Secretary of State for Science and Technology at the Ministry of Science and Technology and he represents the Angolan government at the UNESCO Executive Committee.
Zuliatu M. Cooper is the Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation in Sierra Leone. In addition she was the Regional Coordinator for the western area ebola response Center since 2014 to 2015. She was the one that set up the District ebola response centers (DERC) all across the country. She was in the Medical field for over 30 years and was awarded a silver medal from the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone Dr Ernest Bai Koroma for the fight against ebola. And as a Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation she is in charge of sanitation and head of public health in the country.

She was recognized by the World Health Origination in the country for the good work in the fight against Ebola and the Social secretary of Women’s Congress under the ruling party.
HRH Princess Nisreen El-Hashemite
Founder of the World Women’s
Health and Development Forum

28th November 2016

HRH Princess Nisreen has not only dedicated herself to serving mankind, but is also an internationally recognized medical doctor and scientist and winner of awards in the fields of science, arts, literature, and humanitarian affairs. Qualified in science and medicine, with a Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences, Master of Science, Medical Doctorate (MD) and a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in Human Genetics, she published several scientific papers and studies as original investigations and is the author of four books. As a medical doctor and scientist at University College London, she developed techniques for diagnosing single gene disorders from one cell (a technique known as Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis) that is now in use as a preventive procedure in more than 100 centers worldwide. At Brigham and Women’s Hospital - Harvard Medical School, she conducted research on sex differences in tuberous sclerosis related cancers, which will lead to new therapeutic strategies and early detection of major types of cancer through accurate blood tests.

In 2007, Princess Nisreen left her scientific career at Harvard Medical School, to which she was very committed, to devote herself to serving Science Technology & Medicine Education and Research in the world, throughout RASIT and its programs. Currently, she is working on establishing an International Institute of Medicine and Public Health for Science and Innovation in the MENA Region. She also is working on serving the children and women of Iraq in particular and those in need of help in all aspects of their lives. At present, Princess Dr Nisreen is the Executive Director of the Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT), and President of the Women in Science International League.
Session 1
Identifying scientific research priorities for evolving health needs: The case of infectious diseases and Women Health
Pontiano Kaleebu is the Director of the MRC/UVRI Uganda Research Unit on AIDS and Acting Director Uganda Virus Research Institute, Entebbe. The MRC Unit is one of the two MRC-UK Units outside of the United Kingdom and is a multidisciplinary Programme studying the HIV epidemic in rural and urban settings and recently expanding work in non-communicable diseases.

The UVRI is the largest Government Research Institution in Uganda dealing in health research pertaining to human infections and disease processes associated with or linked to viral etiology.

He holds a medical degree from Makerere University and a PhD from Imperial College, London. He is honorary professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

He is a Fellow of Royal College of Physicians-Edinburgh. He leads a number of national and regional networks including the EDCTP East African Networks of Excellence. He is also a member of the EDCTP General Assembly representing Uganda.

His main research interests are HIV vaccine research especially understanding protective immune responses, HIV diversity and resistance to antiretroviral drugs. He has co-authored more than 200 publications in peer reviewed journals.
Joe Leigh Simpson
President of IFFS
International Federation of Fertility Society

28th November 2016          Session 1                    15:30 –  15:45

Joe Leigh Simpson, M.D. received his medical education and training at Duke University in 1968. He subsequently trained in Obstetrics and Gynecology and in Pediatrics at Cornell University Medical College (New York City), and took laboratory training in cytogenetics. Previous positions were at Northwestern University (1975-86), and as Chair at University of Tennessee Memphis (1986-94), and then Baylor College of Medicine (1994-2007). He is certified in medical genetics as well as in obstetrics and gynecology.

Dr. Simpson has played leadership roles in many professional organizations. He was 1993-1994 President of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, 1994-1998 President of the International Society of Prenatal Diagnosis, and 1998-1999 President of the Society for Gynecologic Investigation. 2007-2009 President of the American College of Medical Genetics and 2006-2009 President of the Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis International Society. He is President Elect of the International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS) (2010-2013). He is a member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies of Sciences.

Dr. Simpson has written 15 major books and over 700 articles and chapters. He is active in many areas of prenatal genetic diagnosis, cytogenetics and reproductive genetics. At FIU Dr. Simpson and colleagues in the College of Engineering are seeking to develop nanoscale devices to detect exposure to toxins unspecified with respect to nature and magnitude, thus providing application in both civilian (superfund contaminated sites) and military theatres.
Merck More Than a Mother
Together we can create a culture shift

Please join the conversation on our Merck More Than a Mother Social media campaign

Merck More Than A Mother
Merck More Than A Mother
@merckandmother
www.merckmorethanamother.com

“Merck More Than a Mother” objectives

1- Creating a Culture Shift to de-stigmatize infertility and to respect and appreciate infertile women in Africa

2- Raising awareness about Infertility Prevention & Management and Male Infertility by integrating it into Healthcare Infrastructure that already exist, such as HIV, Maternal Health and Mother and Child Programs

3- Education and Training for African Embryologists since the lack of trained and skilled staff is a big challenge

4- Supporting Policy Makers to define ART Policies to Improve Access to Regulated Fertility Care

5- Building Advocacy and Open Dialogue and work closely with Governments, Policy Makers, Parliaments, Healthcare Providers, Fertility Experts and Media to define interventions to reduce the Social Suffering and Improve Access to Regulated, Effective and Safe Fertility Care in Africa

6- Empowering Infertile Women Socially and Economically through Access to Awareness, Health, Change of mind-set and Empower Women who cannot be treated anymore through starting a small business for them to build their independent and happier lives through “Empowering Berna” project

Together we can change this culture
Merck, au-delà des objectifs:

1- Mettre en place une culture capable de stigmatiser l’infertilité et lutter contre l’infertilité des femmes en Afrique.

2- Éveiller les consciences sur la prévention et la gestion de en l’intégrant à l’infrastructure sanitaire déjà existante, tel que les programmes de lutte contre le VIH, la santé maternelle et la santé mère/enfants.

3- Éducation et formation pour les embryologistes d’Afrique, afin de combler le manque de personnel expert et qualifié.

4- Les décisionnaires définissent les politiques ART pour améliorer l’accès aux soins liés à la fertilité.

5- Mettre en place un plaidoyer et un dialogue ouvert avec les différents gouvernements, décisionnaires, prestataires de santé, experts en fertilité et médias, dans le but de définir les interventions et réduire les souffrances sociales et améliorer l’accès à des soins sécurisés, fiables et contrôlés en Afrique.

6- Donner plus de pouvoir aux femmes infertiles et éveiller les consciences à propos de la santé de ces femmes, qui ne peuvent avoir accès aux soins, afin de les aider à vivre mieux et plus sainement, grâce au projet BERNABé
James Wood
Co-Director of Cambridge Africa Initiative
University of Cambridge

28th November 2016  Session 1  15:45 – 16:00

James Wood is Head of the Department of Veterinary Medicine. He is a veterinary epidemiologist and joined the Department in Cambridge in 2005, initially as Director of the Cambridge Infectious Diseases Consortium, prior to appointment as Alborada Professor of Equine and Farm Animal Science in 2009. He studies the dynamics of emerging infectious diseases, including viral infections of fruit bats in West Africa, focused in Ghana, mammalian influenza, rabies and bovine tuberculosis. Funders include BBSRC, EU FP7 (Antigone Consortium), ESPA, Defra, the RAPIDD program of the Science and Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security, Fogarty International Centre, National Institute of Health and the Alborada Trust.

He has an MSc in Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (1991) and a PhD from the Open University (1997) which he completed when Head of Epidemiology at the Animal Health Trust. He is an RVC graduate (1988), having also completed a BSc in Physiology at UCL (1985).

In addition to his research, his is also involved in the Cambridge-Africa programme, which focuses on building links between Cambridge and African Institutions and which aims to strengthen Africa's own capacity for a sustainable research.
Prof. Nicholas Anthony Othieno-Abinya is Professor of Medicine, head of section of Haematology/Oncology, Department of Clinical Medicine and Therapeutics, University of Nairobi and Kenyatta National Hospital.

He holds a masters degree in internal medicine of the University of Nairobi. He did fellowship in medical oncology at the Royal London Hospital (University of London), London, England, and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

His research interests are in the areas of malignant haematology and breast cancer, in which he has published widely in peer-reviewed journals. He has also authored a text book titled ‘Drug Treatment in Neoplastic Disorders of the Haematopoietic and Lymphoreticular Systems’ by Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, 2006. The second edition is in press. He has also written chapters in several text books.

Dr. Othieno-Abinya was founder and first chairman of Kenya Society of Haematology and Oncology (KESHO). He is also a member of ESMO , and ASCO , of which he was a member of the International Affairs Committe from 2010 to 2013. He is a member of AORTIC, of which he was vice chairman representing Eastern Africa in 2012-2013, and is currently a member of AORTIC Council and co-Chair of Education and Training Subcommittee of AORTIC.
1- “Merck Africa Medical Oncology Program”
The first Medical Oncology Fellowship Program for Sub-Saharan Africa at University of Nairobi, Kenya and at Tata Memorial Center in India with the aim to increase the limited number of oncologists in the continent.

2- “Merck More than a Patient “
In Partnership with cancer patient organizations across Africa will support Women Cancer survivors to establish small businesses in order to re-build their independent lives and become productive members in society.
Bich-Tram Huynh
Institute Pasteur, INSERM
University of Versailles
Saint-Quentin

28th November 2016       Session 1       16:30 – 16:45

Bich-Tram HUYNH (MD, PhD) is a medical epidemiologist in the Pharmacoepi-
demiology and Infectious Disease Unit at Institut Pasteur, Paris. Her main
research topics focus on maternal and child health in low income countries
(LICs).

More specifically, Bich-Tram worked at the Research Institute for Development
on the consequences of malaria during pregnancy for both mother and child
in Benin from 2008 to 2011.

Since 2012, she is interested in antibiotic resistance in LICs.

Currently, she is the coordinator of the BIRDY program (http://www.birdypro-
gram.org) which is an international mother and child cohort implemented in
Madagascar, Senegal and Cambodia.

The program is dedicated to tackle bacterial infections and antibiotic resist-
ance in children in LICs.
Serge Paul Eholié, MD, PhD, is a professor of Tropical and Infectious Diseases in the Medical School of University Félix Houphouet-Boigny, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. He also works as a Medical Doctor in the Unit of Infectious Disease, Treichville University Teaching Hospital, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.

Dr. Eholié is the President of African Network for HIV Practitioners on HIV/AIDS (ANEPA), Vice-President of Alliance Francophone des Acteurs de Santé contre le VIH (AFRAVIH) and Coordinator of steering committee of therapeutic handbook for HIV in Africa.

Furthermore, Dr. Eholié is a Member of the Guidelines developing Group of HIV WHO guidelines 2013. Dr. Eholié is a member of the WHO GDG for HIV, treatment and prevention 2015, for HP C guidelines 2014, deputy treasurer of Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA).

He was the Principal Investigator of ANRS 12 269-THILAO Study (Third Line Antiretroviral Optimization). Third line trial in sub-Saharan countries (Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina-Faso, Cameroun, Mali, Sénégal) and Principal Investigator of ANRS_HIV-2 First line trial in West Africa (Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina-Faso, Guinée, Sénégal, Togo).
Manoel Barral-Netto
Head of Research and Director of the Centro de Pesquisas Gonçalo Moniz, Brazil-Awardee of UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea Award

28th November 2016 Session 1 17:00 – 17:15

Manoel Barral Netto, MD, PhD is a Professor at the Federal University of Bahia and Oswaldo Cruz Institute at Salvador, Bahia. At present he is one of the four directors of the Brazilian Research Council (CNPq), and has been the Dean of the Medical School and the Research Provost of the Federal University of Bahia.

He is one of the most recognized Brazilian researchers in human immunology and parasitology. On the basis of Web of Science, he has published 154 articles and received 3,000 citations (h=28).

He has dedicated most of his career to the study of Leishmaniasis and Malaria and has contributed to the development of science and control tools in the area of transmissible diseases and the neglected diseases of poverty.

He is one of the 2015 Laureates of the UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences.
Merck CAP is a 5-year program aiming to expand the professional capacity in developing countries in the areas of R&D, advocacy building, supply-chain integrity and efficiency, pharmacovigilance, medical education, and community awareness.

Merck Africa Research Summit is a signature initiative of Merck CAP
UNESCO- Merck Africa Research Summit

UNESCO-MARS

Empowering Researchers
From Africa For Africa

Objectives:

Contribute to Social and Economic Developments in Africa

Advance Healthcare Capacities and Capabilities

Improve Access to High Quality and Innovative Healthcare Solutions

Day 2
29th November 2016
## UNESCO-Merck Africa Research Summit 2016

### DAY 2  
**29th November 2016 (Tuesday)**  
**Capital Hotel, Addis Ababa**

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>Session 2: Building Life Science and Medical Research Capacity in Africa and promote Women participation in Scientific Research</td>
<td>River Nile Capital Hotel</td>
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<td>08:00 – 08:15</td>
<td>Empowering Women in Research to improve Women Health - The case of cervical cancer</td>
<td>Prof. Clairette Volololontenaina Institute Pasteur Madagascar</td>
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<td>08:15 – 08:30</td>
<td>Building African research capacity through access to training programs (South- South Collaboration)</td>
<td>Prof Iqbal Parker Director, International Centre of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) Cape Town Component</td>
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<td>08:30 – 09:00</td>
<td>The triad model of education, training and research in biotechnology</td>
<td>Dr. B Chandrashekar Director UNESCO Regional Centre for Biotechnology Education, Research and Training (India)</td>
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<td>09:00 – 09:15</td>
<td>Health Education for Girls and Women</td>
<td>Dr. John Vulule Chief Research Scientist at the Kenya Medical Research Institute</td>
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<td>09:15 – 09:30</td>
<td>UNESCO-L’Oreal Program to empower women in research</td>
<td>Prof. Rashika El Ridi Professor, Cairo University, Egypt. UNESCO-L’OREAL Award</td>
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<td>09:30 – 09:45</td>
<td>Building Research Capacity to improve access to Healthcare in Africa - The case of Untreated infectious Diseases</td>
<td>Prof Oladapo Ashiru President of Africa Fertility Society</td>
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<td>09:45 – 11:00</td>
<td>Session 3: Enhancing Policy Environment and Mechanism to improve Research in Health: Opportunities and Challenges</td>
<td>River Nile Capital Hotel</td>
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<td>09:45 – 10:00</td>
<td>The African renaissance in biotechnology</td>
<td>Prof Endashaw Bekele Head of Ethiopia Biotechnology Task Force</td>
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<td>10:00 – 10:15</td>
<td>WHO policies and strategies in Health Research in Africa</td>
<td>Dr Akpaka Kalu World Health Organisation(WHO), Addis Ababa</td>
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<td>10:15- 10:30</td>
<td>Ethical Guidelines for Conduct of Research in Africa</td>
<td>Dr Steven Hildemann Chief Medical Officer, Merck Healthcare</td>
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<td>10:30 – 10:45</td>
<td>Q&amp;A session</td>
<td>All</td>
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<td>10:45 – 11:00</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>11:00 – 13:30</td>
<td>Poster Exhibition Session</td>
<td>Chaired by: Dr. Jutta Reinhard Head of Translational Innovation Platform for Global Health Research-Merck</td>
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<td>14:30 – 16:30</td>
<td>Workshops and The Launch of Merck Research on-line community <a href="http://www.merck-cap.com">www.merck-cap.com</a></td>
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**Workshop:**
Chairled by Ahmed Hamdy - Executive Secretary Scientific, Technology and Research Commission- African Union

**GP1:**
Mentoring workshop – Empowering Women and Youth in Research

- Rose Leke  
  University of Yaoundé, Cameroon

- Golbahar Pahlavan  
  Institute Pasteur-France

- Andrew Kambugu  
  Infectious Diseases Institute- IDI, Uganda

- Elijah Songok  
  Kenya Medical Research Institute- KEMRI

- Clairette Volololonantenaina  
  Institute Pasteur Madagascar

- Ahmed Hamdy  
  African Union

**GP2:**
Networking in Research, Challenges and Opportunities,
The launch of Merck Research and Healthcare On-Line community www.merck-cap.com

- Ahmed Hamdy  
  African Union

- Vittorio Collizzi  
  University of Rome, Italy

- Rashika El Ridi  
  Cairo University, Egypt.

- Amany Asfour  
  Chair of ECOSOCC African Union, Egypt

- B Chandrashekar  
  Director UNESCO Biotechnology Centre India

- Irukaku Nwamaka Okeke  
  Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

16:30  
Closing Remarks  
All
Session 2
Building Life Science and Medical Research Capacity in Africa and promote Women participation in Scientific Research
Dr. Raharisolo Vololonantenaina was part of three research projects within the female genital schistosomiasis with the Danish Bilharziasis Lab in Denmark. These projects were realized in schistosomiasis endemic areas of Madagascar: in 2010, case definition of female genital bilharziasis (Danish Bilharziasis Laboratory, bilharziasis unit IPM, Oslo University Hospital, Norway; in 2001, Monitoring urogenital schistosomiasis and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Madagascar (WHO-TDR); in 2000, Implementation of the program on schistosomiasis of the female genitals in a hyperendemic area of S. haematobium in Madagascar (2000) (Danish Bilharziasis Laboratory). Additionally, she was part of ACIP Projects (Actions Concertées Inter-Pasteuriennes): from 2007 to 2009, she was the local investigator: "Study of the frequency of Helicobacter pylori infection in patients with peptic disease, the sensitivity of strains to antibiotics and diversity of the 3 'region of cagA gene." (IPM, IPD); then in 1998, she was part of an ACIP project for a study on HHV-8 and Kaposi's sarcoma. Finally, she was the principal investigator of the HPV genotyping project on invasive cervical cancer. It was an internal project in collaboration with the Virology Unit and financed by Institut Pasteur of Madagascar. This project was conducted in 2014.
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Merck Africa Research Summit is a signature initiative of Merck CAP
Professor M. Iqbal Parker is Director of the UCT/MRC Oesophageal Cancer Research Group. Professor Parker obtained his PhD at UCT in 1979, and proceeded immediately with a postdoctoral fellowship to the University of Florida in the USA.

He returned in 1981 with expertise in molecular biology and his research focus has been on gene mutation and transcriptional deregulation of genes in cancer.

In 1998, he was appointed as head of the Division of Medical Biochemistry (1998 to present), Director of the School of Biomedical Sciences (2001–2003) and Director of Research (2003 – 2006). He is currently the holder of a personal Research Chair in Cancer Biology.

In August 2007, he was appointed as the Director of the newly established Cape Town Component of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). One aspect of his research is on the transcriptional regulation of the type 1 human procollagen genes and the identification of transcription factors that modulate the expression of these genes in diseased states, such as in cancer.
B. Chandrasekar  
Director UNESCO Biotechnology Centre  
India

29th November 2016  
29th November  

Session 2  
Workshop 2  

08:30 - 09:00  
14:30 - 16:30

Dr. Chandrasekar is presently the Registrar, UNESCO-Regional Centre for Biotechnology, NCR Biotech Science Cluster, Faridabad, (a Category 2 Centre) set up by the Govt. of India under the auspicious of UNESCO, as an institute of National Importance set up by an act of parliament. The Regional Centre serves as a hub for education, training, research and development sector not only for India including the Asian region at large. He was instrumental in organising and conducting “Regional Dialogue in Science & Technology Policy in the Context of Sustainable Development 2015” at Delhi supported by UNESCO Delhi Office.

Currently he is actively pursuing projects for the Regional Centre in building the capacity by design and developing Integrated Masters’ and PhD programmes in Biotechnology & related areas, networking with international institutions for designing Joint Masters’ degree on the lines of Erasmus Mundus programmes for the Asian Region, which is in line with the mandate of the Centre.

He also held key positions as Head, Technical Assistance Division, EdCIL, (a Govt. of India enterprise of MHRD), Vice President, Grant Thornton International Ltd., Vice President, IL&FS Education Technology Services Ltd. and IL&FS Skill Development Corporation Ltd. (a JV of NSDC). Dr. Chandrasekar holds a Doctorate and Post Graduate degree in Biotechnology from IITDelhi and IITKharagpur (respectively) and specialised in Management of the Environment, Renewable Energy. He was awarded NUFFIC fellow by the Royal Govt. of Netherlands lead to award of a PG Diploma in Management from the Maastricht School of Management, The Netherlands.
John Vulule
Chief Research Scientist at the
Medical Research Institute, Kenya

29th November 2016 Session 2 09:00 - 09:15

Dr John Mudegu Vulule is a PhD-level scientist with over twenty years’ post-PhD qualification experience in biomedical research in different aspects of vector biology/malaria immunology including molecular biology, population genetics, insecticide resistance, vector ecology and other cutting edge science. Currently he is a Chief research officer with the Kenya Medical Research Institute based in Western Kenya.

Over the years he has served in different research and training leadership positions both within his home institute and national bodies including being the Director of the Centre of Global Health Research of KEMRI (leading and supervising a staff force of 1500 people) for a period of 13 years. He has wide experience in student mentorship and research leadership.

Apart from his formal training in genetics and vector biology, he has research interests and has collaborated on several projects in the areas of HIV and enteric diseases. Currently he is involved in studies in malaria immunology and programmatic work on malaria prevention.

Among his other areas of interest are Integrating research with educational curricula, Capacity building for young African Scientists and Building research partnerships and collaborations. John has extensive linkages and networks with researchers and institutions across the globe.
Dr Rashika El Ridi is an Egyptian scientist, a pioneer in immunology. She is a part of the faculty of Sciences at Cairo University, in Egypt. She was awarded the 2010 Laureate for Africa and the Arab States.

She received the UNESCO-L’Oréal Foundation award for Women in Science “for paving the way towards the development of a vaccine against the tropical parasitic disease bilharzia, which affects over 200 million people.” The program serves to distinguish exceptional women in science who are helping change the world.

She has devoted a large part of her research to the development of a vaccine against schistosomiasis. Also known as bilharzia or “snail fever”, this tropical parasitic disease affects over 200 million people, making it one of the most devastating epidemics in the world, second only to malaria.

While showing unfaltering resolve in her research, Dr El Ridi has preserved her independence. This independence can be seen in her determination to help advance science.
Dr. Oladapo Ashiru is the President of the Africa Fertility Society, Nigeria. He has a MB.BS from the University of Lagos, MS and Ph.D. from the Universities of Nebraska at Omaha.

One of the significant contributions of Prof. Ashiru in the field of reproductive endocrinology is in the elucidation of mechanisms controlling pituitary gonadotropins (FSH) release. He showed that exogenous FSH has a positive feedback on the release of endogenous FSH. That is the basic science behind the use of exogenous gonadotropins (Pergonal, Metrodin and others) for extra follicular development, in infertility management and IVF cycles. Currently his area of research is in embryo culture techniques and implantation failure.

He pioneered the IVF program in Nigeria in 1984 and his team successfully delivered the first test tube baby in Africa in 1986. He has over twenty five years in the management of difficult cases of infertility, twenty eight years experience in IVF and fifteen years experience with ICSI and new assisted reproduction technologies. He obtained a joint appointment with the departments of Anatomy and Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Illinois at Chicago(UIC) at Professorial level.

He established two IVF programs for the University in 1996 and became the pioneer director of the University based IVF program at Chicago in 1996. It is currently one of the best IVF centres in the US. He has established collaborations with several infertility centres internationally. Professor Ashiru obtained the licentiate of the American Board of Bioanalysis in High Complexity Laboratory Director HCLD (ABB) in 1997. (The American regulatory and licensing body for assisted reproduction technologies).
Merck More Than a Mother
Together we can create a culture shift

Please join the conversation on our Merck More Than a Mother Social media campaign
Merck More Than A Mother
Merck More Than A Mother
@merckandalmother
www.merckmorethanamother.com

"Merck More Than a Mother" objectives

1. Creating a Culture Shift to de-stigmatize infertility and to respect and appreciate infertile women in Africa

2. Raising awareness about Infertility Prevention & Management and Male Infertility by integrating it into Healthcare Infrastructure that already exist, such as HIV, Maternal Health and Mother and Child Programs

3. Education and Training for African Embryologists since the lack of trained and skilled staff is a big challenge

4. Supporting Policy Makers to define ART Policies to Improve Access to Regulated Fertility Care

5. Building Advocacy and Open Dialogue and work closely with Governments, Policy Makers, Parliaments, Healthcare Providers, Fertility Experts and Media to define interventions to reduce the Social Suffering and Improve Access to Regulated, Effective and Safe Fertility Care in Africa

6. Empowering Infertile Women Socially and Economically through Access to Awareness, Health, Change of mind-set and Empower Women who cannot be treated anymore through starting a small business for them to build their independent and happier lives through “Empowering Berna” project

Together we can change this culture
Session 3
Enhancing policy environment and mechanism to improve research in health: opportunities and challenges
Prof. Bekele has the capacity for scientific leadership in an academic setting. He has ably served as a research executive of the university. Earlier on, he has also served as a Dean of an academic faculty.

He has administered research at Addis Ababa University and coordinated many big research programs interacting and negotiating on behalf of the University and the country at large with major global partners like SIDA-SAREC, NUFU, NORAD, IPGRI and many others. He was doing this while undertaking his own research, advising M.Sc. and PhD students and organizing a high-level, up-to-date genetics laboratory within the Department of Microbial, Cellular and Molecular Biology.

During his leadership, Addis Ababa University has made a great stride forward and many of his colleagues have their highest appreciation and regard for what he did based on a good scientific leadership quality to rely on which definitely contributed to the success of his plans.

Professor Endashaw Bekele has been a member of various professional societies and science academies including the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, the World Academy of Sciences and the New York Academy of Sciences to mention some among many others. He had a faculty position at Kyoto University and is a fellow of Japanese advancement for Science and a member of the international advisory committee of Kyoto University. He has extensively published in the leading and referred international and national journals and has supervised a large number of PhD and M.Sc. students in the graduate programmes of Addis Ababa University and others.
Dr. Akpaka Kalu holds M.PH and M.B.B.S degrees from the University of Lagos, Nigeria and the University of Nigeria, respectively. Before his assumption of duty in Addis Ababa, he had previously served between June 1999 and May 2016 in the WHO regional office for Africa in Harare, Zimbabwe and in Brazzaville, Congo; in WHO Inter-country support teams in Harare, Zimbabwe and in Libreville, Gabon; as well as in the WHO country offices for Kenya and Sierra Leone.

Over the years Dr. Kalu’s professional interest has been in disease control, programme performance management and health entrepreneurship. Thus in the regional office and inter-country offices, Dr. Kalu served either as Coordinator of Malaria Action Coalition or Malaria strategic information and planning Officer; in the country offices he served either as Immunization Adviser, Malaria Adviser or as acting Country Representative.

Dr. Kalu is a Nigerian Citizen. He assumed the position of WHO Representative to Ethiopia in May 2016.
Steven Hildemann, MD, PhD, Global Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Head of Global Medical and Safety for the Merck Serono division, is responsible for Global Medical Affairs, Global Drug Safety and External Scientific Affairs for Merck Serono. Prior to joining Merck Serono, Dr. Hildemann was Associate Vice President, Global Clinical Trial Operations Europe, MSD (in the U.S.: Merck & Co). In this capacity, he was responsible for the execution of all early- and late-stage development programs, including life cycle management, in Europe across all of MSD’s therapeutic areas with a focus on Infectious Diseases, Central Nervous System Disorders and Oncology.

Dr. Hildemann is a board-certified Internist and Cardiologist trained in the U.S. and Germany. Dr. Hildemann joined the pharmaceutical industry in 1998 as the country medical director cardiovascular for Searle in Germany. After the merger with Pharmacia, he progressed to positions of increasing responsibility and in 2002 moved to New Jersey / U.S. as the Senior Global Medical Director Cardiovascular for Pharmacia, and later Pfizer. In this role, he co-designed and implemented a global Phase IIIb / IV program for the NCE-Eplerenone. This medicine is now included in current treatment guidelines around the world and a standard-of-care in patients with moderate and severe heart failure.

In 2004, Dr. Hildemann joined Schering-Plough (SP) as the country medical director in Germany. In this role, one of his joint responsibilities was the world-wide first launch of a novel combination in lipid-therapy (Ezetimibe-Simvastatin) in partnership with MSD. In 2006, Dr. Hildemann led the design and full implementation of major global change efforts, such as Global Clinical Harmonization at Schering-Plough and global integration activities for MSD-Research-Laboratories during the merger of SP and MSD.
Poster Session

Up to 100 scientists / researchers will be fully sponsored by Merck to attend the Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Their selection was based on their abstract submission. Abstracts are invited from final year African PhD students and young investigators involved in research related to **Infectious Diseases with the aim to improve Women Health.**

All should be primarily based at African research institutes and Universities, although collaboration within Africa as well as outside is encouraged.

All abstracts were peer reviewed and will be eligible for sponsorship and first three winners will be eligible for further number of research awards.

Further Research Award will be dedicated for **Best African Women Researchers.**
Jutta Reinhard-Rupp is Head of the R&D Translational Innovation Platform for “Global Health” at Merck Serono. Her focus is the discovery and development of new drugs and health solutions for children suffering from poverty-related diseases such as malaria and schistosomiasis.

Jutta Reinhard-Rupp studied Biology in Mainz and Tübingen and received her PhD at the Max-Planck Institute in Tübingen. After her postdoctoral training at Novartis, she was lab head at Evotec Biosystems in Hamburg. In 1997, she joined Aventis in various assignments in Research and Development. Under her leadership, a gene therapy project was moving into clinical phase III worldwide.

Since January 2008, she works with Merck Serono in Switzerland, with her main responsibilities on the implementation of key strategic initiatives in drug discovery and development. This includes the lead of the internal IMI office (European public-private partnerships) and the lead of several “Global Health” programs, such as the development of a new pediatric formulation of praziquantel to treat young children in schistosomiasis endemic areas.
Workshop – Group 1

Mentoring workshop – Empowering Women and Youth in Research
Rose Gana Fomban Leke
Director of Biotechnology Center
University of Yaounde

29th November 2016  Session 3  14:30 – 16:30

Rose Gana Fomban Leke is Professor of Immunology and Parasitology. Until March 2013 she was Head of Department at the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Yaounde 1, and Director of the Biotechnology Centre of the same University (replaced upon retirement). She serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Medical Research Institute in Cameroon, IMPM. She also serves as Vice President of the Scientific Committee of Cameroon First Lady’s Research Centre (CIRCB), in Yaounde. She is a Fellow of the Cameroon Academy of Sciences. She was invited as the 2014 Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg Memorial Lecturer at the University of Ghana. She also then received the Doctor Honoris Causa (DSc) from the University of Ghana.

In 2011, she was one of six women who received the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award for Women, which recognizes female excellence in scientific research. She had a letter of congratulations from the President of the Republic as well as the First Lady. She also received the 2012 award for Excellence in Science from The Cameroon Professional Society (CPS).

She is Executive Director of the Cameroon Coalition against malaria, and is the Chair of the Multilateral Initiative in Malaria (MIM) Secretariat launched on October 15, 2010 at the Biotechnology Centre of the University of Yaoundé. She was President of the Federation of African Immunological Societies (FAIS) from 1997-2000, and a Council member of the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS) for two terms: 1998-2004.
Golbahar Pahlavan
Deputy Director of the Center for
Global Health at Institute Pasteur, Paris, France

29th November 2016  Session 3  14:30 – 16:30

Golbahar Pahlavan has worked for over 20 years in biomedical research, management and policy in both public and private sectors across the Research, Development & Innovation value chain.

During the past 9 years she has coordinated programs in sub-Saharan Africa, spanning capacity building in research and public health, clinical research as well as biotechnology and bioentrepreneurship. Golbahar holds a PhD in Life Sciences from Université Paris 7, Paris, France, an MBA from Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain and a Master in International Negotiation and Policy Making from the Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland.

She is currently the Deputy Director of the Center for Global Health at Institut Pasteur Paris, France.
Workshop – Group 2

Networking in research, challenges and opportunities

The launch of Merck Research and Healthcare On-line community www.merck-cap.com
Amany Asfour
Chairwoman, Human Resources,
Science & Technology Cluster
AU-ECOSOCC

29th November 2016 Session 3 14:30 – 16:30

Dr. Amany Asfour graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Cairo University and has her Master’s Degree & M.D. degree in Pediatrics from the National Research Center of Egypt. She joined the private sector since she was a student at the Faculty of Medicine. Within few years she was able to establish a company for medical equipment, with more than 30 brands. She realized the importance of creating an organization targeting economic empowerment of women, young women entrepreneurship promotion and creating new jobs and descent work for women. As a result, she established the Egyptian Business Women Association in 1995 with the objectives of promoting young generations of Women Entrepreneurs & giving guidance to women business owners of small and medium enterprises. Dr. Asfour then established the Federation of Business & Professional Women BPW in Egypt. From her belief that financial independence for women gives them the Power of Choice & Voice, she directed her activities toward Economic Empowerment of Women, Capacity Building, Development of Human Resources & to stress on equal opportunity for girls and women for education & training and promotion of Women in Science and Technology.

Due to the importance of civil society organizations as a partner of development Dr. Asfour was elected as Chair of Human Resources, Science and Technology Cluster of the African Union ECOSOCC (Economic, Social and Cultural Council). Dr Asfour is also the Chair of the FEMCOM-Egypt Federation of Business Women Associations in the COMESA Region (Common Market for Eastern & Southern African). Dr Asfour is also elected the Chair of the COMESA Business Council the apex Body of Private sector in COMESA and she is the first Woman to chair this organization. Dr. Asfour has been awarded many awards from Egypt, Africa, Arab world, Islamic world and from all over the world.
Iruka N Okeke is a Professor at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria and an MRC/DfID-supported African Research Leader. Her research focus on diarrhoeal pathogens, bacterial drug resistance, and laboratory practice in Africa. She studies the molecular epidemiology and pathogenesis of enteroaggregative Escherichia coli, other diarrhoeagenic E. coli and Salmonella. The Okeke lab is also elucidating the genetic basis for antimicrobial resistance in enterics.

Iruka received B.Pharm, MSc and Ph.D. degrees from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife, Nigeria and post-doctoral training at the University of Maryland, USA and Uppsala Universitet, Sweden.

She is author of several scientific articles and chapters as well as the books Divining Without Seeds: The case for strengthening laboratory medicine in Africa (Cornell) and Genetics: Genes, Genomes and Evolution (forthcoming Oxford). Iruka has served as a consultant on drug resistance to the Center for Disease Dynamics and Economics, the United States Pharmacopoeia, WHO and other organizations.
Addis Ababa (the name means 'new flower') is of fairly recent origin - Menelik 11 founded the city in 1887. Situated in the foothills of the Entoto Mountains and standing 2,400 metres above sea level it is the third highest capital in the world. The city has a population of about two million. Before moving to the present site of Addis Ababa, Menelik had established temporary capitals at six different locations caused by exhausting the fuel wood at each of these sites. Addis itself was in danger of being abandoned until the introduction of fast-growing eucalyptus trees from Australia provided the city with a regular source of fuel.
Addis Ababa is an important administrative centre not only for Ethiopia but also for the whole of Africa. The headquarters of the UN Economic Commission for Africa was established here in 1958 and it is the site of the OAU's secretariat.

**AIRPORT TRANSFERS**

**Arrival Transfer**

Airport arrival transfers have been arranged on your behalf. Upon arrived in Addis Ababa-Bole Int. (ADD) Airport, please proceed through passport control, collect your baggage and then make your way to the Arrival Greeting Area. Please look for a representative with a Merck Sign.

**Departure Transfer**

The Airport departure transfers from have been arranged approx. 3.00 hours before your departure time. Upon arrival at the hotel, you will receive a "Departure Notice" with the information about your exact pick-up time from the hotel for the departure transfer to the airport. When you have checked out of the hotel, please wait in the lobby for the driver, who will direct you to your vehicle. Kindly convene in the Lobby 10 minutes before the departure transfer time.
**Capital Hotel**
22 Mazzoria Haile G/Silassie Ave.
(Next to Ministry of Water or Waryt Building)
Addis Ababa
18786 Ethiopia
Ph. 251 116 672 100 – 251 116 192 000

**DREAMLINER HOTEL**
Gabon Street, Meskel Flower area
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Ph. +251 11 467 4000
Ph. +251 118 681 790

**APHRODITE HOTEL**
Addis Ababa
Kazanchis Street
Addis Ababa
(walking distance from UNECA Main Gate)
Ph. +251 11 552 2228

**Check in:**
Please note that official check-in time is at 15:00 You will be required to provide your Credit Card in case of incidentals (credit card accepted Visa, Mastercard, American Express)

**Check out:**
Kindly settle your own hotel **Extras** upon check out. Please note that official check-out time is at 12:00
USEFUL INFORMATION

Climate Forecast
The weather in November is arid with scarcely any rain. The average temperature in Addis Ababa in November is mild at 15C (59F). Afternoons can be fairly hot with average high temperatures reaching 23C (73.4F).

Currency
The currency of the country is the "Ethiopian Birr". The currency code for Birr is ETB, and the symbol is Br.

1 EUR = 24,6241 ETB
1 USD = 22,0094 ETB

Credit Cards
Credit and Debit cards are widely accepted in the major supermarkets and hotels.

Electricity
Voltage: 220-240 Volts (U.S./Canada are 110-120 Volts) The electrical frequency is 50 Hz.
The plugs used in Ethiopia are C/E/F/L Kindly suggest to use the below link verify the used plug.
http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/
Passport and Visa

To enter Ethiopia, a passport valid for six months is required by all nationals. Except Kenya and Djibouti nationals, visas are required for all visitors to Ethiopia. Visitors should obtain a visa from an Ethiopian Embassy before departure. All visas will be valid from the date of issue.

Tourist visa, can be issued on arrival at Bole International Airport for nationals and residents of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Democratic people's Republic of Korea (northern Korea), Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea (south Korea), the Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.

If applying for a tourist visa on arrival, visitors require two passport photographs and at least US$50.

NOTE: Eritrean Nationals shall not be issued a visa on arrival. They must obtain an entry visa prior to their departure to Ethiopia. Delegates who wish to obtain visa before arriving should address to the Ethiopian Embassy in their country and check the needed documentation (each embassy has different form depending on the country).
Insurance

It is essential to take out comprehensive travel insurance before travelling to Ethiopia and to make sure that necessary vaccinations are up to date.

Those with pre-existing medical conditions, which require medication, should bring the necessary medication with them to last the entirety of their trip. They should also bring a letter from their doctor showing the generic names of the medication and listing any syringes or needles being carried.

There are good private health care facilities within Addis Ababa but outside of the capital, hospitals are often inadequate and lack basic medicines and supplies. The Red Cross Ambulance emergency service number is 917 but it only works in the capital.

Vaccinations

The following vaccines are recommended:

**Yellow fever** yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from traveler aged over one year travelling from an infected area. Ethiopia is listed in the endemic zone for yellow fever and travelers arriving from non-endemic zone should note that vaccination is strongly recommended for travel outside the urban areas.

**Diphtheria**
**Hepatitis A and B**
**Tetanus**
**Typhoid**
**Malaria** Malaria is present throughout the year in all areas below 2000m including some of the Great Rift Valley, Lakes. There is no risk in Addis
Objectives:

Contribute to Social and Economic Developments in Africa

Advance Healthcare Capacities and Capabilities

Improve Access to High Quality and Innovative Healthcare Solutions
UNESCO-Merck Africa Research Summit - MARS 2016

Accelerating Access & Sustaining Innovation

From Africa For Africa

UNESCO-Merck Africa Research Summit aims to bring together researchers from across Africa to discuss the generation, sharing and dissemination of research data and to prepare for the road ahead in Africa’s development as an international hub for research excellence and scientific innovation.

UNESCO-MARS 2016 Summit aims to contribute to building research capacity in the African research community, with special focus on “Infectious Diseases and Women Health”. The Summit will also showcase innovative research taking place in projects, programs and initiatives across African universities, and by the wider African research community.

For the first time, the “Best African Woman Researcher Award” to recognize the outstanding contribution of African female scientist with the aim to promote women in research and advance their contribution to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).
"Merck More Than a Mother" objectives

1- Creating a Culture Shift to de-stigmatize infertility and to respect and appreciate infertile women in Africa

2- Raising awareness about Infertility Prevention & Management and Male Infertility by integrating it into Healthcare Infrastructure that already exist, such as HIV, Maternal Health and Mother and Child Programs

3- Education and Training for African Embryologists since the lack of trained and skilled staff is a big challenge

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