

## The Regional Training and Certification Program for Biosafety and Biosecurity Professionals Examination and Certification Committee Members



### **Dr. Ali Asy**

**Professional Title:** Professor of Pharmacology and Biosafety Advisor  
**Nationality:** Egyptian  
**Institution:** Animal Health Research Institute, Agriculture Research Center

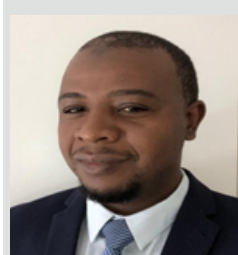
**Area of Expertise:**

- Biosafety and Biosecurity Technical Expert
- Teaching of Veterinary Medical Sciences.

Dr. Ali Asy is a professor and biosafety advisor at Animal Health Research Institute, Agriculture Research Center, Egypt. He has served as a chair of the North Africa Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity Technical Working Group (RBB-TWG) under the Africa CDC Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative. Dr. Ali is a subject matter expert at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). He earned a BA and Ph.D at Zagazig University, Egypt. He is International Federation for Biosafety Association (IFBA) Certified Professional in Biorisk Management and Biosecurity.

Dr. Ali has participated in many Biosafety and Biosecurity (BSBS) mentorship programs either as a mentee or mentor. He conducted many BSBS projects, in Egypt and the North African region, in cooperation with many international organizations like Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), UNMC and Gryphon Scientific. These projects focused on enhancing awareness, policies, procedures, and practices of BSBS in the North African region. He conducted many BSBS training programs in Egypt and other African Countries. He earned a "Bronze" level certificate from Sandia National Labs' (SNL) GBRMC Trainers' Registry and Certificate Program.

Dr. Ali has shared and presented in many advocacies and consultative BSBS meetings that have been conducted by Africa CDC. He shared, with North African experts, in the development, editing, and reviewing of Africa CDC's regional BSBS legal framework, terms of reference for the convening and function of the Regional BB-TWG and the Examination and Certification Committee. In addition, he participated in the reviewing the Regional Training and Certification Program framework and curriculum. He has led and coordinated the quarterly-basis meetings of the North Africa BB-TWG.



### **Anafi Mataka**

**Professional Title:** Project Lead  
**Nationality:** Zimbabwe  
**Institution:** African Society for Laboratory Medicine Academy

**Area of Expertise:**

- Diagnostics implementation
- Professional education

Mr Anafi Mataka is a Project Lead at the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM). He is a diagnostics expert with 17 years of experience ranging from the front line of health service delivery as a laboratory scientist to managing national, regional and international laboratory strengthening programs in limited-resource settings. Anafi provides leadership to several projects that include building laboratory and epidemiology workforce capacity for Antimicrobial Resistance in Africa and Asia; all ASLM education activities implemented under the ASLM academy; the accelerated adoption and implementation of technologies including SARS-CoV-2 antigen rapid diagnostic testing and community testing for COVID-19. He actively works within the flagship Laboratory Systems Strengthening Community of Practice (LabCoP)'s, fostering knowledge exchange, co-creation and joint learning among country teams across the continent and global experts. Before ASLM, Anafi worked for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation as a country implementation manager introducing new point of care diagnostics for HIV Early Infant Diagnosis in Lesotho. In addition, he has served in the government ministries of health of Zimbabwe, Botswana and Eswatini.



**Prof Ciira Kiiyukia**

**Professional Title:** Senior Biosafety and Biosecurity Officer

**Nationality:** Kenya

**Institution:** Biorisk Management Association of Kenya

**Area of Expertise:**

- Microbiologist
- University lecturer/examiner in Health sciences specialized in disease prevention and control, occupational health and safety and environmental health.

Ciira Kiiyukia is an emeritus university professor with more than 30 years of teaching and curricula development experience in health sciences. He is a graduate of Nairobi University and an alumnus of Hiroshima University, Japan for his MSc and PhD in food microbiology and hygiene. He has undertaken professional training in biosafety and biosecurity through the International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA) and has been certified as an expert in biosafety and biosecurity. He has also trained in the Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Organisms by the Centre for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA-USA) and appointed as a biosafety expert by the National Biosafety Authority (NBA-Kenya) in the areas of Risk Assessment of GMO Research.

Ciira is the current Chairman of the Biorisk Management Association of Kenya (BMAK), a national association of biosafety professionals and the CEO of the regional African Biosafety Association. He is the co-founder and the current patron of the Workplace Safety Professionals Association of Kenya (WSPAK), an association of occupational health and safety experts. He is an experienced trainer, examiner and mentor of the upcoming scientists having supervised many postgraduate students in health sciences. He taught at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Kenya) in the College of Health Sciences (School of Public Health) for seven years, medical microbiology at the Institute of Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases (ITROMID) based at KEMRI-Kenya and became Head of the Medical Microbiology Department in the School of Medicine at Mount Kenya University.

For the last two years, he has been a member of the Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity Technical Working Group (TWG) under Africa - CDC working on the biosafety and biosecurity policy guidelines to be adopted by the African Union Member states. He is a member of the International Risk-based Agent Prioritization –Technical Working Group (IRAP-TWG) Kenya-Chapter which is tasked to come up with a risk-based prioritized list of the agents of international health concern.

He is currently an adjunct Professor in the Epidemiology/Biostatistics Department, School of Pharmacy – USIU-Africa



**Mrs. Comfort Nyameba Opoku**

**Professional Title:** Senior Biosafety and Biosecurity Officer

**Nationality:** Ghanaian

**Institution:** Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

**Area of Expertise:**

- Teaching in health Sciences and Biosafety and Biosecurity at Tertiary Institution and Health sector
- Coordination and Management
- Regulation

Mrs. Comfort Nyameba Opoku is a Ghanaian and a Consultant Medical Laboratory Scientist with MSc Haematology from University of Westminster, United Kingdom (2005), Post Graduate Diploma in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Ulster, Coleraine, Northern Ireland (1993), and holds a BSc in Biological Sciences from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi (1984).

Mrs. Comfort Nyameba is a member of Ghana Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (GAMLS) and also a Council Member and Treasurer of the West African Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Scientists since 2018. She has served as the Head of the Tema General Hospital Laboratory (1995-2010), LEKMA Hospital (2010-2018) and Regional Biomedical Scientist, Greater Accra Region, Ghana, from 2010 to 2018. She also served as the Technical Advisor and Lecturer at Adom Medical Laboratory School, Tema in 2005 and lecturer at the University of Cape Coast Medical Laboratory Department from 2005 to 2015.

Mrs. Nyameba Opoku has participated in Biosafety and Biosecurity programme by Partnership for Health Improvement and research by the Ghana Public Health and Reference Laboratory the ESBL Tricycle Project. She has trained laboratory staff in Quality Systems Essential on Facilities and Safety per ISO15189 standards. Currently, she has developed equipment preventive maintenance protocols to meet ISO standards for training in clinical laboratory space.

Currently, as a Senior Clinical Quality Manager of USP, Comfort is offering Technical Assistance to the Greater Accra Regional Hospital (GARH) and Eastern Regional Hospital Koforidua (ERHK) for international accreditation in ISO15189 by end of June,2022. She has earlier on assisted the ABC laboratory to gain the ISO15189 accreditation in June 2021.



### **Mr Fouelifack Nzeko Eric**

**Professional Title:** Biosafety and biosecurity expert

**Nationality:** Cameroonian

**Institution:** University of Douala

**Area of Expertise:**

- Biosafety and Biosecurity Technical Expert
- Laboratory Quality Management System

Mr Fouelifack Nzeko Eric holds a Masters degree in Medical Biochemistry and Pharmacologist. He has more than 10 years of experience in the Africa implementing Biosafety and Biosecurity in Cameroon and in other countries including Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo Brazzaville and Niger.

Eric is an International Federation of Biosafety Association Certified professional. As a Regional Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation (SLMTA) Master Trainer, he has conducted trainings in Cameroon and across the West and Central Africa region. As a Strengthening Laboratory Quality Improvement Process Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) Auditor, he has conducted medical laboratory audits in several Africa countries. He has extensive experience in implementation of Laboratory Quality Management Systems (LQMS) and has facilitated more than 30 LQMS trainings. As a Biosafety and Biosecurity expert, he has provided technical assistance and mentorship in areas of risk assessment; risks management and mitigation; emergency response; and BSL/ABSL -2 facility design. In Cameroon, he has participated in development and revision if national policies and strategic plans. He is a member of the Cameroon National Biosafety and Association.



### **Mr. Byabajungu Henry**

**Professional Title:** Technical Supervisor

**Nationality:** Uganda

**Institution:** Uganda Supranational Reference Laboratory

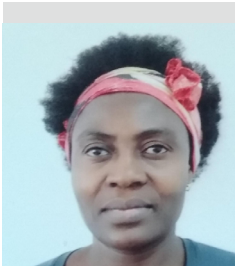
**Area of Expertise:**

- Expert in safety with TB culture laboratories
- Management of Biosafety Level 3 Laboratories.
- Competent in shipping of infectious materials according to IATA regulations.
- Certified Biorisk management professional and trainer in Biorisk management.

Mr Byabajungu holds a Masters degree in Laboratory Sciences and Management from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda with more than 10 years working experience in a TB culture laboratory at the Uganda Supranational Reference Laboratory ((SRL). He has been involved in the development and review of a lot of safety materials for both the Uganda laboratory diagnostic network and a number of other African countries that the Uganda SRL supports. He has supported the development of the Uganda's first biosafety and biosecurity training manual as well as conducted multiple safety audits in Uganda's laboratory diagnostic network.

He has been a biosafety officer for the Uganda National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory for a period of 5 years from 2010-2015, and later appointed as Technical Supervisor at the Uganda SRL. He is an IATA certified shipper of infectious substance since 2010 with a lot of knowledge about the challenges in safe shipment of infectious materials in the laboratory diagnostic network of a number of African countries.

Mr Byabajungu is competent in the preparation and delivery of both practical and theoretical training content for adults since a number of training courses offered at the Uganda SRL are accredited by the International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training-IACET.



**Madame Idosie KENFACK**

**Professional Title:** Head of Mycobacteriology section and Biosafety/ biosecurity officer

**Nationality:** Burundian

**Institution:** National Institute of Public Health (National Reference Laboratory)

**Area of Expertise:**

- Biosafety and Biosecurity,
- Mycobacteriology
- Quality management System
- Training and Capacity Building

Madame Idosie KENFACK holds a Master Degree in Animal Biology Option Applied Zoology from the University of Yaoundé I in Cameroon. She was recently recertified by the International Federation of Biosafety and Biosecurity Associations (IFBA) in Biorisk Management and now IFBA Recertified professional. She is also a Central African trainer with access to the Global Biorisk Management Curriculum (GBRMC) library which she has customized to meet specific BRM training needs.

Madame KENFACK is a Regional Strengthening Laboratory Management Toward Accreditation (SLMTA) Master Trainer as well as a Certified Strengthening Laboratory Quality Improvement Process Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA). She also trained and got certified as a COVID-19 Testing Laboratories Certification Program (CoLTeP) auditor.

She has worked for 17 years in the Ministry of health Burundi including as a Laboratory advisor at the PNILT Burundi from 2005 to 2008. Since 2009, she has worked as Head of the mycobacteriology section and same time biosafety/Biosecurity manager of the National Reference Laboratory at the INSP. She has been tasked with responsibility of trainings in Biosafety and Biosecurity trainings at her institution as well as across Burundi. Every year, she supervises about 15 students in biosafety. As a Biorisk Management expert, she has participated the review of the Training and Certification Program for Biosafety and Biosecurity Experts for Africa Region and regional Biosafety and Biosecurity Legislative Framework.



**James Robert Wakungwi Sakwa**

**Professional Title:** Principal Medical Laboratory Officer

**Nationality:** Kenyan

**Institution:** Masinde Muliro University of science and technology

**Area of Expertise:**

- Bio risk management
- Biosafety and Biosecurity Technical Expert
- Teaching in health Sciences

James Robert Sakwa holds a Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science, Higher National Diploma in Medical Laboratory Science and Diploma in Medical Laboratory Science. Has received further training in Next generation Biosecurity, responding to 21st Century Bio risks by University of Bath and Biosafety and Biosecurity training organized by National Biosafety/Security office and Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) /Centers for Disease Control (CDC). He is also a SLIPTA certified auditor

James has presented and represented Kenya in several forum, committees and working groups including the Biological Weapons Convention Youth Mobilization, the Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity Technical Working Group (RBB-TWG)- East Africa, the International Risk-Based Agent Prioritization (IRAP) project among others

Mr Sakwa has participated in the development and establishment of Biosafety and Biosecurity Training program at Masinde Muliro University of science and technology, in collaboration with the International Federation of Biosafety Association.



### **Khalid FARES**

**Professional Title:** Professor, Teacher Researcher  
**Nationality:** Morocco  
**Institution:** Cadi Ayyad University. Faculty of Sciences Semlalia. Marrakech.

**Area of Expertise:**

- Biosafety and Biosecurity,
- Waste Management and Valorization,
- Food Technology.

Professor Khalid FARES is an expert in waste management and valorization with 7 patents at the moment. He has also conducted many research in the field of food science and biochemistry. He is the Former President of the Moroccan Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Treasurer of the Federation of African Societies of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the General Secretary of Cluster Valbiom Morocco. He is also founder and member of the Moroccan Biosafety Association.

Pr Khalid Fares is IFBA certified in Biorisk Management. He has conducted many training both in the Moroccan Universities and outside the country. He was involved in the project "Promoting Security of Biological Samples and Sustainable Sample Management in West Africa" as a mentor and facilitator. His vast experience in the teaching field (more than 35 years) makes him a motivator, willing to share knowledge.

Prof Khalid Fares is currently with the Cadi Ayyad University. Faculty of Sciences Semlalia. Marrakech. He has more than 35 years experience in teaching



### **Maureen Ellis**

**Professional Title:** Executive Director  
**Nationality:** Canada  
**Institution:** International Federation of Biosafety Associations

**Area of Expertise:**

- International Professional Examination & Certification
- Biosafety and Biosecurity

Maureen Ellis is the Executive Director of the International Federation of Biosafety Associations and facilitates partnerships between their worldwide network of 50 National Biosafety Associations and governments in strengthening global health security. The IFBA administers an international professional examination & certification program in Biorisk Management, Biosecurity, Biological Risk Assessment, Biowaste Management, Biosafety Cabinets and Biocontainment Facilities. IFBA's additional programs include developing a university undergraduate degree program in Biosafety & Biosecurity, south-to-south peer mentorship, and advancing diversity, equity, & inclusion in global biosafety & biosecurity. Formerly, Ms. Ellis was the Advisor to Canada's Global Partnership Program where she was responsible for delivering biosafety and biosecurity programs worldwide. She also served as Director to Canada's Public Health Agency Office of Biosafety, and Director of the WHO's Collaborating Centre for Biosafety.





**Noel Odhiambo**

**Professional Title:** Senior Technical Advisor

**Nationality:** Kenyan

**Institution:** Amref Health Africa in Kenya

**Area of Expertise:**

- Biosafety and Biosecurity
- Emergency Preparedness and Response

Noel holds a Master's degree in Public Health, (Epidemiology and population health) and BSc in Medical Laboratory Sciences. He is a Laboratory scientist with over 15 years working experience within diverse clinical, public health and research. He is certified by the International Federation of Biosafety Association (IFBA) on bio-risk management and biosecurity.

Noel is a master trainer and a Mentor on Biosafety and Biosecurity. Previously he worked as a Biosafety and Biosecurity coordinator for Kenya Medical Research Institute/Centre for Global Health Research (CGHR), Biosafety/Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) coordinator for University of Maryland Baltimore in Kenya providing Technical Assistance in five Ministry of Health (MOH) departments.

He has trained and mentored Medical Laboratory professionals at the National Public Health Laboratory in Juba, South Sudan on biosafety and biosecurity. He also supported training on Biosafety and IPC at the Ports of Entry and airports. Currently he works as the Senior Technical Advisor in Amref Health Africa in Kenya under Sustainable Laboratory Quality System program which is the National Laboratory Implementing Partner supporting National Public Health Laboratory, Kenya through PEPFAR funding and as a WHO Consultant trained health workers on disease outbreaks investigation and control. During the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, he was deployed by the Regional Office of the World Health Organization for Africa to South Africa in as a consultant to support development of the National Preparedness Plan, National Preparedness Checklist, and the Response Actions in 72 hours of COVID-19 pandemic.



**Mrs. Sibongile N. Zimuto**

**Professional Title:** Laboratory Quality Systems and Accreditation Expert

**Nationality:** Zimbabwe

**Institution:** SADC Regional Centre of Excellence in Quality Systems (Zimbabwe)

**Area of Expert**

- Standards and Standardization
- Laboratory Quality Management Systems, Accreditation, Metrology (SQAM)

Sibongile graduated from the University of Zimbabwe as a Medical laboratory Scientist, specializing in Haematology and Blood Transfusion Sciences. She went on to study for a Master's degree in Quality Management with Robert Gordon University. She has more than 22 years experience in laboratory quality system strengthening.

Mrs Zimuto is a qualified trainer, technical and lead assessor for ISO 17025:2017, ISO 15189:2012, ISO 15190:2020, ISO 17043:2010 and related support standards. She has worked with various international organizations and partners, providing technical assistance in various capacities. As a trainer in the development and implementation of laboratory Quality Systems, she provided training and mentorship to numerous laboratories across Africa, 27 of which attained accreditation to the relevant international standards. She is qualified proctor for ASLM Academy Examinations.

She is qualified Master Trainer in the Development and Implementation of Laboratory Quality Systems based on the following standards, ISO 15189, ISO 17025, ISO 17043, ISO 15190 and related supporting standards. She sits on several technical committees relating to standardization, Quality Assurance and Metrology (SQAM). She is a member of the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO)'s Technical Committee (TC) 78, Medical Devices and Equipment, Chair of Zimbabwe's Mirror

Committee for ISO TC 212 – In-vitro Diagnostics, South Africa National Accreditation Service (SANAS) Standards Technical Committee (STC) on ISO 17043 and She also a member of the SADC Accreditation Service (SADCAS) Standards Technical Committee for Medical Laboratories.

Sibongile is the Executive Director of the Zimbabwe National Quality Assurance Programme, which also serves as a SADC Regional Centre of Excellence in Quality Systems.



**Stella Ngozi Udo**

**Professional Title:** Director Medical Laboratory Science/Public Health Consultant

**Nationality:** Nigeria

**Institution:** Starhealth Consultancy Limited and Nigeria Biological Safety Association

**Area of Expertise:**

- Biosafety and Biosecurity Teaching and mentorship
- Quality Management Systems (Auditing lead and Technical Expert, Teaching and Mentorship)
- Administration and Management.

Stella Ngozi Udo is a Medical Laboratory Scientist with over thirty years work experience in the field of laboratory medicine, Management and Administration. She has a PhD in Public Health with bias in Biosafety and Biosecurity, Master's Degree in Medical Laboratory Science and several International and National Certifications and trainings in the areas of Quality Management Systems, Biosafety and Biosecurity, Project Management, Strategic Planning, Laboratory Auditing/ Mentoring, Leadership and Management, Conflict Resolution

Stella is International Federation of Biosafety Association (IFBA) Certified Biorisk Management professional. She has trained over 400 professionals in the past 7years on Biosafety/Biosecurity (Basic/Advanced and Training Of Trainers), Waste management, shipping of infectious materials, Quality Management Systems and laboratory Leadership and Management. She is also WHO/AITA certified shipper of infectious substances, ASLM certified laboratory auditor (Lead and Technical).

Stella joined the Federal Ministry of Health Regulatory Agency the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) where she has worked for fifteen years as Director of Planning, Research and Statistics. She is also a Fellow and Member of the Board of Directors and Vice President of the Nigerian Biological Safety Association (NiBSA), Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria, African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), Association of Medical Laboratory Scientist of Nigeria.

She has worked as an independent Consultant for several organizations including the West African Health Organization (WAHO), International Foundation Against Infectious Disease in Nigeria (IFAIN) and Management Sciences for Health (MSH). She participated in the development of training Curriculum for some Universities in Nigeria that adapted the Global Biorisk Management Curriculum (GBRMC). She has coordinated and participated in the development of several policy documents and guidelines on Biosafety and Biosecurity in the Federal Ministry of Health, Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) and National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) in the Federal Ministry of Environment.

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