

Diagnostics Advisory Committee (DAC)

Africa CDC is committed to accelerate the access to diagnostics in the continent. In this light, Africa CDC is supporting the AMRH programme through AMDF to close the gap between the laboratory and regulatory work streams for IVDs. Africa CDC will provide this support by mapping and building capacity in laboratories that will serve as centres of excellence of validation of IVDs (biobanking networks) and establishing a Diagnostics Advisory committee (DAC). In line with this, Africa CDC organized a joint meeting among the AMDF Technical Committee, representatives of AMRH program and the newly formed DAC from August 15-17, 2023 in Dakar, Senegal. In this meeting, the diagnostic Advisory Committee composed of 15 well experienced laboratory experts representing all regions of Africa and few partners was officially established and Terms of Reference (TOR) endorsed. The establishment of the DAC is an important milestone in the implementation of comprehensive strategies outlined under the AFCAD initiative. The purpose of the DAC is to provide technical support to the African Medicine Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) programme through the AMDF TC in the regulation of IVDs to improve access to diagnostics in Africa.

Here, we present the profiles of the 15 DAC experts that will be supporting Africa CDC's diagnostic access efforts.



Pr. Hicham Oumzil

Mr Hicham OUMZIL, PhD, Professor of Medical Biology (specialist in Virology) at the Faculty of Medicine, Mohammed V University in Rabat and former Head of the Virology Department at the National Institute of Hygiene (MoH).

In January 2002, Mr H. OUMZIL obtained his national doctorate in Biology from Mohamed V University in Rabat, before joining the Neuro-Virology laboratory at the Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique (CEA) in Fontenay aux Roses, France, as a virology research associate. In early 2004, he joined the Institut National d'Hygiène in Rabat.

During his professional career, Pr. Oumzil has attended more than twenty-five training courses (quality management and laboratory certification and audit standards, biosafety and biosecurity, new laboratory technologies, molecular biology, high-throughput sequencing (NGS), bioinformatics, flow cytometry, public health investigations, laboratory leadership and management etc...) provided by international institutions.

For two decades, Pr. OUMZIL has specialized in the evaluation of diagnostic strategies based on POC technologies, laboratory quality management, capacity building and the setting up of national laboratory networks.

His focus was held also upon the virological surveillance of communicable diseases targeted by vaccination, the molecular epidemiology of infectious diseases,

He is or has been the principal investigator of several

Dr Lucia Hans(co-chair) is a clinical virologist in the National Health Laboratory Service, HIV Molecular Laboratory, Department of Molecular Medicine and Haematology at the Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital, and the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. She holds MBChB and Master of Medicine (Virological Pathology) degrees from the University of Cape Town in South Africa. Furthermore, she obtained Fellowship of the College of Pathology in Virology and a Diploma in Obstetrics from the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa.

Since 2013, she has worked as a pathologist in the Department of Molecular Medicine and is currently the pathologist- in-charge of the HIV Molecular Laboratory which performs approximately 15% of South Africa's public sector HIV viral load tests. She is involved in day-to-day routine HIV molecular diagnostic testing including quantitative, qualitative HIV molecular tests, hepatitis B and C quantification, and HIV drug resis-

projects funded by various funding agencies, and has acted as an expert advisor or a consultant for several international organizations (CDC Atlanta, WHO, Human link).

Thanks to his expertise in laboratory technologies, Pr. OUMZIL was assigned as a member of the national authorization commission for reagents used for in vitro diagnostics at the ministry of Health since 2010, and served on a number of national or international panels dealing with different topics: laboratory policy, laboratory-based surveillance, laboratory investigation during outbreaks, communicable diseases surveillance and public health essential functions.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Pr. OUMZIL was at the forefront of the management of the COVID-19 diagnosis in Morocco, through his contribution to the implementation of SARS-CoV2 testing strategies from rapid screening to genomic survey using NGS.

He was appointed a member of the national scientific committee for the management of COVID-19.

Pr. Oumzil is member of the WHO Guideline Development Group (GDG) for SARS-CoV2 Diagnostic Strategies and testing implementation.

Since 2021, Pr. Oumzil is member of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Validation Committee (RVC) for the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and Syphilis, and for HCV eradication

tance testing. She extensive in experience in molecular automation and high-volume molecular testing. Moreover, she supports the national operations of the HIV Viral Load and Early Infant Diagnostics Laboratory Programmes of the National Priority Programme of the NHLS as the pathologist mandated to support tender procedures, validation and implementation of new assays and quality assurance measures post-implementation across the HIV testing laboratories across the South African public sector.

Additionally, she is involved in HIV IVD research including being the PI for multiple WHO PQ HIV molecular qualitative and quantitative evaluations, collaborating with the International Lab Branch of the CDC as well as overseeing molecular HIV testing for local and international clinical trials. Other interests include identifying use cases for HIV molecular POC in high burden settings and large-scale HPV testing implementation.



Dr Lucia Hans



Anafi Mataka

Anafi Mataka, a seasoned diagnostics expert with 19 years of diverse experience, currently serves as the Portfolio Lead at the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM). His professional journey, extending from the frontline of health service delivery as a laboratory scientist to steering national, regional, and global laboratory strengthening initiatives in resource-constrained settings, underscores a profound commitment to advancing diagnostic capabilities and shaping healthcare landscapes.

In his current role at ASLM, Anafi is key in leading critical initiatives such as laboratory and epidemiology workforce development for AMR surveillance in Africa and Asia, the Africa and Asia, Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use Partnership in Africa, and training under the ASLM academy. He actively drives the adoption of diagnostic technologies, including COVID-19 testing, and provides technical assistance for strengthening laboratory systems in the African region. Anafi's dedication is evident in his extensive involvement with the ASLM Laboratory Systems Strengthening Community of Practice (LabCoP), fostering knowledge exchange and joint learning across African country teams and global experts.

Anafi's commitment to advancing healthcare is further underscored by his critical contributions to regional and global technical guidance. In 2020, he chaired the AMDF TC working group, tasked with developing a list of COVID-19 diagnostic and surveillance tests to empower African regulators and health workers in informed decision-making. Additionally, his contributions to the WHO HIV Molecular Diagnostic Toolkit and the Africa CDC COVID-19 Testing Strategy highlight his dedication to shaping healthcare strategies on a global scale. Anafi continues to demonstrate his commitment to advancing healthcare through resources several ASLM LabCoP's Cookbook of Best Practices. In these valuable contributions, he shares insights and best practices on topics ranging from HIV viral load scale-up to COVID-19 diagnostics.

Prior to his pivotal role at ASLM, Anafi served as a country implementation manager for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. During this time, he introduced innovative point-of-care diagnostics for HIV Early Infant Diagnosis in Lesotho. He also served in critical roles in various government health ministries, including those of Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Eswatini.

Anafi Mataka's impactful leadership and technical expertise persistently drive positive change in diagnostics, solidifying his role as a key figure in the global health and diagnostics community. His enduring commitment to advancing healthcare, coupled with a wealth of experience and a collaborative approach, positions him as a catalyst for transformative change in the realm of diagnostics and beyond.



Dr Clement Zeh

Dr Clement Zeh is the CDC Atlanta Team Lead for HIV Viral Load, Early Infant Diagnosis, and HIV drug resistance and doubling as the Agency point of contact for the West Africa Region. He was the CDC Ethiopia Laboratory Associated Director, supporting PEPFAR and the Laboratory component of the Global Health Security Agenda. Prior to his assignment in Ethiopia, Dr Zeh was the CDC Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP) Laboratory Advisor in Kisumu, Kenya, doubling as the acting Program Director for DHAP activities in Kenya. He has over 20 years of experience in HIV/AIDS and STI. Dr Zeh has been honored with multiple CDC Directors for Excellence in Laboratory Quality and US Ambassadors awards in Kenya and Ethiopia due to his diligent service. Dr Zeh has authored over 90 articles published in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters and serves as a guest reviewer for several journals (JIAS, PLoS, AIDS), including serving as a reviewer for CROI diagnostics abstracts since 2014 and a member of the editorial board of the African Journal of Laboratory Medicine and Madridge Journal of AIDS.



Kekeletso Kao

Kekeletso Kao is a Deputy Director on the FIND Access team. She has over 20 years' experience in diagnostic networks systems strengthening in low and middle-income countries. She currently focuses on FINDs initiatives that enable countries to develop and implement diagnostics strategies, including national essential diagnostics lists, that are appropriate for their financial, infrastructure and workforce capacity, are responsive to national demands for testing while also enabling decentralization of testing to primary and community health care levels. Kekeletso is also part of the FIND Women's Health team and oversees the Access work-package that focuses on increasing access to HPV DNA testing through the adoption community based self-sampling. She has previously managed projects enabling the decentralization of molecular TB/DR-TB testing, integration of TB/HIV testing on multiplex platforms, development of laboratory strategic plans and the strengthening of laboratory quality management systems. She has an MPH from the University of Liverpool.



Dr Cheikh Tidiane Diagne

Dr Cheikh Tidiane Diagne trained at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and at the University of Toulouse (France) where he graduated in 2013 with a PhD in Structural and Functional Biology. His PhD research was focused on the dynamic analysis and assembly of site-specific DNA recombination machineries using single molecule techniques. From 2014 to 2016, he worked at the Electronics Department (LETI) of the French Commission for Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies (CEA) in Grenoble (France) as a postdoctoral researcher. There, his research efforts were focused on bio-inspired technologies for molecular electronics.

Dr Diagne joined the virology department and the WHO collaborating for arboviruses and haemorrhagic fever viruses of the Pasteur Institute of Dakar in Senegal in 2016. His primary interests were centred on innovation for Global Health, particularly on the development and evaluation of point-of-care diagnostic tools, digital health for biosample transportation and banking and rapid extraction method for nucleic acid amplification. Since March 2020, he has been leading the DIATROPIX laboratory, a social venture founded by the Institut Pasteur de Daka (Senegal), the Merieux Foundation (France), the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostic (Geneva) and the Institut de Recherche et de Développement (France). DIATROPIX focuses on local manufacturing of rapid diagnostic tests for neglected and epidemic diseases in Africa.



Dr Fatim Cham-Jallow

Dr Fatim Cham-Jallow leads the Integrated Laboratory Systems Strengthening Team at the Global Fund. In her role as Senior Medical Laboratory Specialist, Fatim supports and provides technical advice on effective use of global Funds investments in diagnostics product management and integrated lab systems strengthening. Prior to joining the Global Fund, she was with the WHO Regional Office for Africa during which she served as the Laboratory Technical adviser. Prior to that, joining WHO AFRO, she held several posts with The Medical Research Council (MRC), The Gambia and The Henry F Jackson Foundation (HJF) for the advancement of Military Medicine. At HJF, she was assigned to the Makerere University Walter Reed Project (MUWRP) where she provided leadership and guidance in the development, implementation, and evaluation of laboratory services in support of HIV/Ebola vaccine trials.

Fatim has published extensively in peer review journals including a book publication and a submission to the United States (US) patent office.



Prof. Matilu Mwau

Matilu Mwau is Senior Principal Clinical Research Scientist at Kenya Medical Research Institute

He obtained a bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery (University of Nairobi) in 1998, a doctorate Clinical Medicine (Immunology, Oxford University) in 2003 and a Master's degree in Tropical Medicine (Nagasaki University) in 2007.

In 2022 and 2023, he was the Acting Director, National Quality Control Laboratory, Kenya

Since 2021, he has been a Council Member of the End Malaria Council

Between 2020 and 2023, he was the Chairman, Kenya Smart Vaccines Production Facility Implementation Committee.

His research interests include infectious diseases, immunology, virology, health systems, clinical trials, bioinformatics and biotechnology. More than 85 publications in peer reviewed journals have arisen from his work.

He has been an Associate Professor at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and a Visiting Professor at Nagasaki University. In his university faculty positions, he has mentored many graduate students and they have gone on to become independent world-renowned researchers. He has supervised 10 PhD students, and more than 35 postgraduates to completion of their Masters' degree theses.

Since 2004, Prof Matilu has set up research and diagnostic laboratories, as well as diagnostic networks and Laboratory Information Management Systems in Kenya and in Swaziland. He has evaluated more than 100 diagnostic technologies.

Prof Matilu has been the principal investigator of numerous research studies and clinical trials.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Pr. Matilu Mwau repurposed research laboratories to test SARS CoV2, and was instrumental in assembling the national testing networks.

He has consulted for WHO, UNICEF, URC, MSH, ECSA HC and many other international organizations.



Sikhulile Moyo

Professor Sikhulile Moyo, Laboratory Director/ Virologist, Research Scientist based at the Botswana Harvard Health Partnership (BHP), formerly the Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership (www.bhp.org.bw), an Research Associate with the Harvard T.H Chan School of Public Health (www.hsph.harvard.edu) with more than 20 years in clinical trials, basic science research and laboratory medicine. Sikhulile is extraordinary full professor at University of Stellenbosch (www.sun.ac.za) division of medical virology and an adjunct scholar with the University of Botswana faculty of health sciences and the University of Pretoria School of Health Systems and Public Health. Sikhulile is a former McGoldrick Fellow in Biostatistics (Harvard School of Public Health) and completed 2 post-doctoral fellowships [US NIH Fogarty Global Health Post-Doctoral Fellow (Harvard School of Public Health & Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership); and Post-Doctoral Fellow (Sub-Saharan African Network for TB/ HIV Research Excellence (SANTHE) & Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute)]. Sikhulile has served in international working groups such as the WHO Technical Working group on Cross-Sectional Incidence estimation, and HIV Resistance Network, as Chair and co-chair of the International Laboratory technologist of the Adult Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) and International Maternal and Adolescent Clinical Trials Group (IMPAACT). He is passionate about capacity building and is actively mentoring several researchers and graduate students at the University of Botswana, BIUST and Stellenbosch University, contributing to the graduation of number Masters and PhD students.

Moyo is a laboratory specialist for Clinical Trials including supervision of an ISO-accredited laboratory and Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) laboratory activities, managing repository, protocol development, assay evaluations and implementation, training, and capacity building. Moyo's is interested in pathogen genomics (multiple pathogens), viral evolution, drug resistance, molecular epidemiology and phylogenetics to inform interventions. He is involved studies to characterizae early HIV-1 subtype C infection, HIV cure and viral reservoirs, cross-sectional methods for estimating HIV incidence. His laboratory team is involved in various clinical trials, observational studies, and pathogen genomics research, including HIV, SARS-COV-2, Hepatitis, Human Papillomavirus, Tuberculosis, sapovirus, Norovirus, and STIs. He has made several significant contributions in the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission studies and studies that have informed birth outcomes, health of HIV-exposed uninfected infants, surveillance of HIV incidence and monitoring of HIV mutations associated with drug resistance and emergence of variants of SARS-COV-2. Recently, he led a team at the BHP that was the first in the world to sequence the Omicron variant that has become the most dominant circulating variant worldwide. Sikhulile recently several awards for his and his team's scientific contributions, including Festus Mogae HIV Research Excellence Award (2022), National Outstanding Researcher Award (2023), Presidential Order of Honor (P.H.) and Order of the Great Zimbabwe (OGZ) national award. His laboratory team received a Presidential Order of Meritorious Service for the scientific contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Other International awards include, the German Afrika Foundation Award 2022, Martin Luther Jr Humanitarian Award and was nominated by Time Magazine for the most influential people in 2022, Top 100 most influential Africans by the New African Magazine. He has over 195 publications in peer-reviewed journals and recently received Presidential Order of Honor (Botswana),

Pubmed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/1xEvrNnomxt5f/bibliography/public/

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https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/profile/sikhulile-moyo/



Prof Yap Boum II

Professor Yap Boum II is Executive Director of the Institute Pasteur of Bangui in Central Africa Republic and the former Representative of Epicentre, The research arm of MSF. He has implemented studies on TB, malaria, HIV, Ebola, COVID-19 and teaches Public Health and Microbiology across Africa. He was the Chief of Operations of COVID-19 response in Cameroon. Prof Boum II has a strong interest on equity and the contribution of African scientists in Global Health. He has co-found Kmerpad, that developed washable sanitary pads to empower women. He has also co-found iDocta a digital platform that take healthcare services to the community. Recently, he co-started Homegrown Solutions for Health (HS4Health) to find innovative solutions to address health challenges Africa faces. The Village digital platform from HS4Health uses AI to connect scientist toward decolonizing Global Health. He is inspired by the vision of a healthy and wealthy Africa that relies on local resources and equitable partnership.

He holds a degree in Engineering, School of Industrial Biology, Cergy; Master's in Microbioology University of Paris XI; PhD in Microbiology, University Paris XI; MPH in Epidemiology, University of Liverpool; and a MBA specialized in Entrepreneurship and Leadership, University of Cape Town.



Dr Akenji Blaise Mboringong



Trevor Peter



Prof William Kwabena Ampofo

Akenji currently serves as the head of the molecular biology unit of the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) in Cameroon, a position he has held since 2018. In this capacity, he has been heavily involved in verification and validation of PCR and RDT kits for in-country use, setting up infectious disease genomic surveillance platform, training of laboratory personnel on molecular diagnostic techniques and quality management. He is skilled in molecular techniques and in performing genome sequencing bioinformatics analysis. He also a CDC trained

Trevor Peter heads global diagnostics work at the Clinton Health Access Initiative. He is a public health expert with extensive experience in infectious disease epidemiology and diagnostic medicine across both human and animal health. He has over 10 years of experience in vector-borne animal health research in epidemiology, vaccines, and diagnostic test development, as well as over 10 years of experience in human infectious disease research and control program design and implementation and general laboratory system strengthening.

His research has a focus on the evaluation of the performance and impact of novel diagnostic

William Ampofo is Associate Professor and former head of the Virology Department, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana. Prof. Ampofo was until recently, the focal point for the National Influenza center and the national HIV Genotyping laboratory in the Virology Department. He served as Coordinator for the national laboratory network for COVID-19 Testing in Ghana for the Ministry of Health and was a member of the national task force. He is currently on post-retirement contract overseeing research projects on HIV prevalence in key populations and a COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness study. He teaches and oversees students' theses in the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, College of Health Sciences. Prof Ampofo's work has not only focused on basic virology, epidemiology and prevention of virial infections but has included capacity building of laboratory medicine practioners. He led the introduction of domestic evaluation of test kits for HIV testing for the Ghana Health Service and has continued to support the revision of national testing algorithms including T cell CD4 measurements and viral load testing. He has participated in several studies and has over 120 publications covering virology and medical research. He coordinated participation of the NMIMR in the emerging dangerous pathogens laboratory network for the World Health Organization (WHO) African Region. He continues to spearhead efforts to utilize advanced molecular diagnostic applications for disease surveillance field epidemiologist with vast experience in laboratory-based surveillance and outbreak response.

Prior to working as a clinical biologist and field epidemiologist, Akenji spent several years at the start of his career working as a physician in a remote area in Cameroon. His vast experience in several health fields has provided him with a rare insight for linking research work with patient care and applying the public health approach to disease control and management.

tests, on optimal implementation design, and on market-based interventions to improve the affordability and accessibility of diagnostic tests.

He managed the Botswana-Harvard HIV Reference laboratory from 2000 – 2005 and was chair of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine from 2012 - 2016. He has been an advisor on scaling up access to diagnostics tests and laboratory capacity strengthening across numerous countries Asia, Africa, Central and South America, and Eastern Europe, as well as advisor to the World Health Organization and other international and regional technical and implementing agencies.

in Ghana. He has served on several national committees for disease outbreak and response and is currently member of the Ghana Food and Drugs Authority Vaccines and Biologicals Advisory Committee. He served as Secretary for the Presidential Committee on Vaccine Development and Manufacturing and is acting Chief Executive Officer of the new National Vaccine Institute on secondment from the University of Ghana, Legon. He has conducted various assignments throughout Africa with the WHO, Commonwealth Secretariat Health Division, US Department of Defense, German International Development Agency and the US Agency for International Development. He represented Africa on WHO advisory groups for influenza vaccine production, immunization, pandemic influenza preparedness. Recently, he was member of the COVAX Procurement Reference Group and is now member of the COVID-19 Vaccine Procurement Reference Group of UNICEF and Gavi. William is on the Board of Trustees, Kano Independent Research Trust and is Chair, African Vaccine Manufacturing Initiative. He is also serving on the WHO Lassa virus research and development (R&D) roadmap taskforce and Influenza vaccine roadmap taskforce. He was also an Advisor, WHO International Health Regulations Emergency Committee on Ebola. Prof Ampofo previously coordinated capacity strengthening of ECOWAS countries for improved detection of diseases of public health importance and helped establish zoonotic and public health laboratory services in Sierra Leone.



Lesley Scott



diagnostics) and the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics in evaluating technology such as the GeneXpert (Cepheid) and enabled scaled implementation in South Africa as an early adopter of innovation. She also has a keen interest in translating "big data" into improving patient care, and during the COVID19 pandemic, Lesley led a team of data scientists to continuously monitor laboratory derived SARS-CoV-2 N-gene target cycle threshold (Ct)values as an early indicator of change in disease caseload, which helped inform the scientific community to the circulation of variants of concern. This skill set is now also being applied to similarly monitor and understand gaps in the TB care cascade.

Lesley has successfully sustained, and project managed a team of research and development scientists, biomedical and data engineers, since 2004 with funding from NIH, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (iLEAD program), Pepfar, NRF, EDCTP, SAMRC and CDC, and continues collaborations with scientists at the University of North Carolina, University of Washington, University of Boston, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as well as working closely with South African clinical partners such as wRHI, CHRU, DTHF and PHRU. Lesley has consulted to funding bodies such as the Thrasher Research Foundation, the MRC (UK & SA) and the NRF (South Africa). Lesley has co-authored >116 peer reviewed manuscripts and >240 abstracts and chairs several conference proceedings at local and international meetings. Through the Wits DIH Lesley continues to support student career growth of scientists and data engineers



d Tedla Gebrehiwot

Medical doctor with Master of Science Training in medical microbiology is working for more than twenty years in Clinical, Laboratory as well as programmatic setup focused on HIV, TB, and other priority disease in Ethiopia. Extensive experience in provision of trainings to all level health professionals, development of national training materials, set up of diagnostic and specialized treatment center for multi-drug resistance Tuberculosis in Ethiopia. Ample involvement in basic and operational research with emphasis on laboratory medicine. Currently, as branch chief, and before as technical officer of CDC-Ethiopia laboratory program, responsible for planning and implementation of laboratory program operations, strengthen National Reference Laboratory for multi-disease response, support survey and surveillance of HIV and related infections, institutes quality assurance programs, ensures proper budgeting of all lab program activities supported by CDC-Ethiopia, ensures laboratory program monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. Provides technical assistance to ongoing work related to laboratory renovation and establishment of new laboratories.



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