AfricaCDC
Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

Safeguarding Africa's Health

BUILDING ACADEMIC CAPACITY IN mRNA RESEARCH FOR HUMAN & VETERINARY HEALTH IN AFRICA

About the training

Africa CDC, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), is convening a continental training on mRNA research for human and veterinary health.

Date: 3-5 November 2026
Venue: Africa CDC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

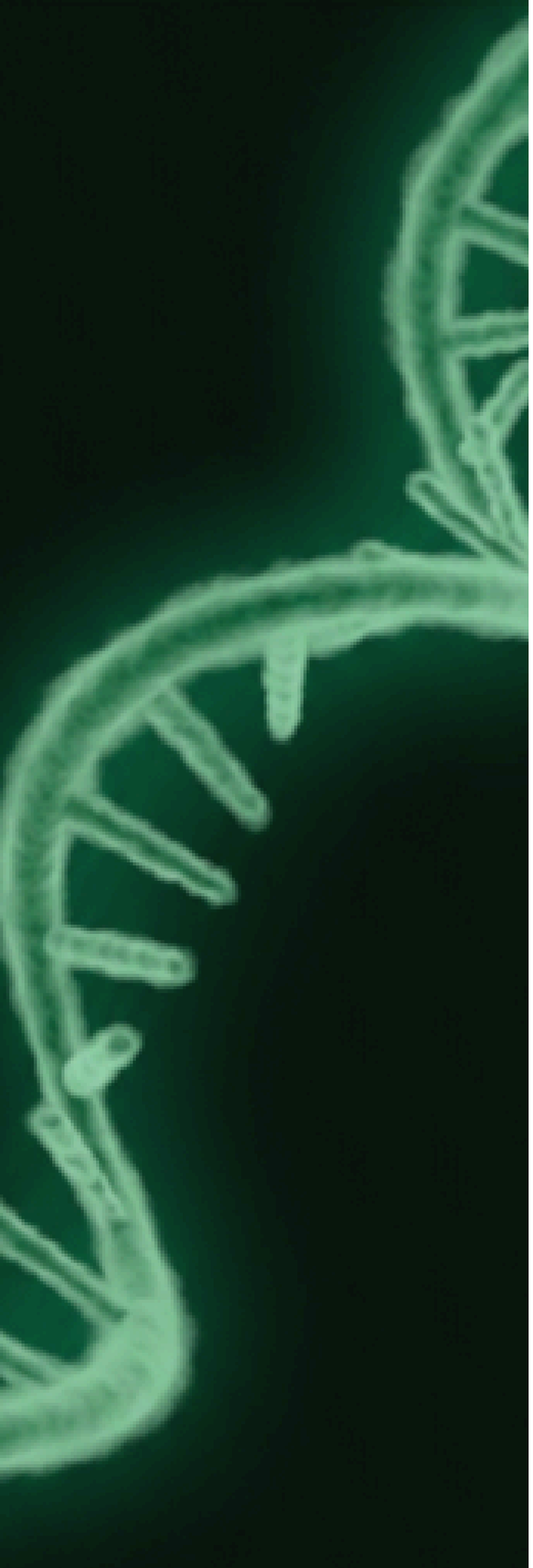
Target Audience: Early-career scientists (including PhD students, Post-Doc fellows) and Mid-career scientists affiliated to African universities and research institutions

Facilitators: Africa CDC, WHO, MPP, regional and international partners.

African Union

World Health Organization

mpp



This training aims to build foundational and applied knowledge of mRNA technologies among African academic researchers and institutions, strengthening research, innovation and translational capacity or RNA-based vaccines and therapeutics for human and veterinary health.

Objectives

- To strengthen academic and research capacity in RNA-based technologies across Africa.
- To enhance understanding of mRNA, self-amplifying RNA (saRNA) and circular RNA (cRNA) platforms
- To improve knowledge of RNA design, production, delivery systems and quality considerations
- To foster awareness of regulatory, safety and pharmacovigilance considerations for RNA-based products
- To promote locally driven research aligned with African public health priorities
- Facilitate collaboration between researchers, manufacturers, regulators and public health institutions.
- Support the long-term sustainability of Africa's mRNA manufacturing ecosystem.

Expected Outcome

- Understand the principles underpinning RNA-based technologies
- Design research questions related to RNA vaccines and therapeutics
- Engage effectively with manufacturing, regulatory and public health stakeholders
- Contribute to regional innovation and outbreak preparedness initiatives
- Strengthen academic programmes and collaborative research networks in Africa

Training Methodology

The course combines expert lectures, interactive discussions, case studies, group exercises and research-planning sessions, grounded in real-world examples from mRNA development programmes. The training will emphasize conceptual understanding, translational application and research planning; the format is not laboratory-based practical work.

Course Structure

The training programme will cover the following thematic areas;

- RNA Modalities and Design
- Laboratory Production of RNA
- Delivery Systems and Biological Response
- Quality, Scale-Up, and Process Optimization
- Applications and Platform Comparison
- Regulatory and Safety Considerations
- RNA Technologies in Outbreak Preparedness

Eligibility Criteria

Applicant must:

- Be citizens of an African Union Member State
- Be affiliated with a recognized university, research institution, public health institution or related organization
- Demonstrate academic or professional interest in RNA technologies, vaccines, therapeutics, biotechnology or molecular sciences
- Be available to participate fully during the three-day training

Selection Process

Participants will be selected based on:

- Academic and professional background
- Relevance of current work and research interests
- Motivation and potential impact
- Geographical and gender representation
- Institutional diversity across Africa

Application Requirments

Applicants are required to submit:

- Completed online application form
- Updated Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Brief motivation statement (max. 500 words) covering current research interests, motivation for participating, and alignment with future academic or professional goals
- Letter of institutional support or recommendation

Target Audience

The training is designed for:

- Researchers and academic staff at African universities and research institutions.
- PhD students and postdoctoral fellows
- Early-career scientists and biotechnology researchers
- Researchers involved in Molecular biology, Vaccine development, biotechnology, translational medicine, veterinary health research, therapeutic development, genomics, and bioinformatics.

Applicants should have a background in life sciences, particularly molecular biology or related disciplines. Prior experience with RNA technologies is not mandatory.

Important Dates

Call for applications opens:
July 22, 2026

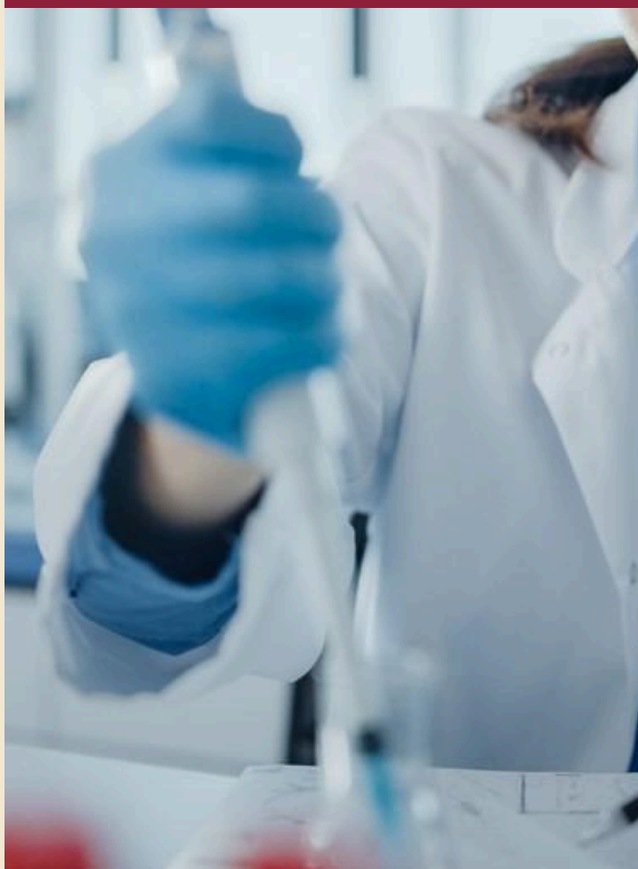
Applications deadline:
August 14, 2026

Notification of selected participants:
September 15, 2026

Training dates:
3–5 November 2026

Registration Link:
https://redcap.link/oud78i1j

Venue: Africa CDC Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



About Africa CDC

Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) is an autonomous technical institution of the African Union that supports the Member States (MS) in the planning, preparing, and responding effectively and efficiently to the continent's public health threats and outbreaks. Leadership principles of credibility, ownership, delegated authority, timely dissemination of information, transparency, accountability, and value addition guide Africa CDC.