

# How to communicate and negotiate within a research team during a pandemic

## Speakers

**Name: Palmer Masumbe Netongo (PhD)**

**Affiliation:**

Assistant Professor of Biology at the Navajo Technical University (NTU), USA  
Senior Lecturer, Department of Biochemistry, University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon.  
Training Lead of ALERRT (African CoaLition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training), Cameroon.  
Executive Secretary, The Initiative to Strengthen Health Research Capacity in Africa (ISHReCA), Cameroon.



**Brief Biosketch:**

I completed my PhD in the University of Yaoundé I (UYI), Cameroon in 2009, and joined the same institution as permanent Lecturer in 2011 after working for close to three years in WHO/TDR, Geneva, Switzerland. I founded the Molecular Diagnostics Research Group (MDRG) within the Biotechnology Centre, UYI. This group specializes in interactions between co-infecting pathogens, particularly *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Salmonella typhi* as well as *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Schistosoma spp.* I completed a Post-Doctoral fellowship in the University of Utah, USA to learn animal models of malaria immunology and studied the effect of gammaherpesviruses on suppression of anti-malarial humoral immunity and how malaria predisposes mice to severe pneumococcal bacterial disease. I am Assistant Professor of Biology at the Navajo Technical University (NTU) in the USA since August 2020.

I am a recipient of a Grand Challenge Canada Grant, which sought to develop a saliva-based method of malaria detection. I have graduated 14 Masters Students and currently mentor three graduate students pursuing doctoral research at the University of Yaoundé I and the University of Buea in Cameroon. My group also benefited from a Wellcome Trust Grant to conduct the clinical characterization of COVID-19 through ALERRT (African CoaLition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training).

I volunteer as Executive Secretary of the Initiative to Strengthen Health Research Capacity in Africa (ISHReCA), to enhance capacity for health researchers across Africa for ~10 years. I am Co-Director of the Yaoundé Advanced Course in Immunology started in 2018.



**Prof Souleymane Mboup (Pharm D, PhD)  
Founder & President of IRESSEF**

Professor Souleymane Mboup studied at Cheikh Anta Diop university in Dakar and the University of Tour in France. As former student at the Senegalese Military Health Training Academy, he also holds the title of Colonel in the Senegalese armed forces.

His career spans more than 40 years dedicated to HIV- related research and lecturing at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar and partner universities across the world. He held various high-profile positions and was also member of several scientific societies in Senegal and in the world. He is author of more than 300 publications and 18 books and worked as International Projects Review Expert and Principal Investigator in several research projects.

His experience, knowledge and passion for scientific research have credited him with many awards and Honors such including 1<sup>st</sup> Award of the African AIDS Society (SAA), Dakar 1991, Arthur Houghton Jr.



ALERRT is part of the EDCTP2 Programme supported by the European Union under grant agreement RIA2016E-1612

ALERRT is also supported by the United Kingdom National Institute for Health Research



Star Crystal Award (African American Institute) November 2, 1994, United Nations (New York), 1<sup>st</sup> Award of the French National Academy of Pharmacy for “Francophone Pharmacy “(Paris, December 6th,2000) , Award El fasi (Francophone Universities), Louvain La Neuve, Belgium, 2004, EDCTP Pascoal Mocumbi Prize in September 2018 to list a few.

To perpetuate his expertise, Professor Mboup founded the “Institute of Health Research, Epidemiological Surveillance and Training” (IRESSEF) of which he is the President. IRESSEF is a modern platform aiming to promote high quality research, response to pandemics and training in Africa.



**Dr. Bernard Kikaire (MBChB, MSc Epi, PhD)** is a medical epidemiologist, with a special interest in infectious diseases research. He is currently a lecturer on infectious diseases and research methods at the College of Health Sciences at Makerere University. He has more than 15 years of coordinating research projects and close to five years of coordinating EDCTP projects. He is the Scientific Liaison Officer and leader of HIV work Package of the Eastern Africa Consortium for Clinical Research (EACCR), a network of excellence funded by EDCTP. Bernard also coordinates activities of other EDCTP-funded projects including ALERRT and Pandora. He is also the leader of WP4 of the AccessAfrica project. He has almost 20 years of clinical research experience, especially in HIV research. He was one of the

lead investigators in the recently concluded performance evaluation of the m-PIMA point of care viral load (PoC-VL) monitoring platform, which led to the adoption of the technology for use as PoCVL monitoring platform among pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers with HIV. He is currently the coordinating Principal investigator of the East African Point of Care Viral Load Monitoring study, which seeks to evaluate the effectiveness, feasibility, and acceptability of Point of Care Viral Load monitoring in children and Adolescents in East Africa.

Bernard has good experience in research ethics having been a member of the UVRI research and ethics Committee



#### **Biosketch for Sylvie Kwedi Nolna, PhD**

Dr. Kwedi Nolna is the holder of a PhD in Public Health and obtained Masters of Science degrees in Public Health and Biotechnology from the Bloomberg School of Public Health of Johns Hopkins University.

After working in the biotechnology field in the USA for over 10 years, Dr. Kwedi Nolna returned to Cameroon in 2011. She is currently an Epidemiologist Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Yaoundé I. Her research career is marked with spearheading internationally funded Epidemiology and Public Health projects in South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique, India, Cambodia, Republic of Congo and Cameroon.

She is the Founder of CLEAR, Inc. (Capacity for Leadership Excellence and Research), a consultancy firm that aims to build operational capacity of health programs and research activities in resource limited settings, particularly in Africa. CLEAR, Inc. specializes in building major research systems in the areas of program set-up and management, ethics review, regulatory compliance and quality assurance, data management and information systems, as well as staff development and training.



**Yauba Saidu** is a physician by training and holds a post graduate degree in Vaccinology and Drug Development. He is currently the Country Representative for Clinton Health Access Initiative in Cameroon and a Medical Advisor at the Institute for Global Health at the University of Siena in Italy. He is also the Africa Editor for Global Health Press, an online Journal on Vaccinology. He also serves as member for several decision-making bodies in Cameroon, including the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee, The Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism, the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group, the National Oxygen Task Force, and The Lancet Poverty Non-communicable disease and Injury task force amongst others. He is a member of the Cameroon Town Hall for Health professionals, a platform that regroups over 1,600 health professionals from Cameroon living in over 36 countries across the globe. Yauba also supervises students from the faculty of medicines of the University of Yaoundé 1 and the Faculty of Health sciences of the university of Buea.

Prior to his current roles, Yauba worked as a Clinical Trial Manager at the Medical Research Council in The Gambia, where he successfully managed the designed and Conduct of 4 large scale industry sponsored clinical trials. Yauba has co-authored 35 publications and 1 book chapter, which have received > 470 citations to date, with H-index of 10 (Source: Google Scholar).



**Dr. Anthony Afum-Adjei Awuah** is a lecturer at the School of Medicine and Dentistry and a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the Global Health and Infectious Disease Research Group at KCCR in KNUST. He is an early-career researcher with experience in clinical research and community-based studies. He is a co-Investigator for the CCP study run in several African countries, lab coordinator for the VAT COVID-19 vaccine trial, Principal Investigator for ANTICOV clinical trial, RECOVERY Clinical trial, Principal Investigator for the ANTICOV-IMMUNO study, and Co-PI on the SERCOV study, all investigating important research questions on COVID-19 in Africa. In addition to this, Anthony is a Co-PI on a study investigating dengue seroprevalence in Africa and a co-PI on a study investigating the prevalence of Aedes-borne arboviruses in Ghana in non-human primate sanctuaries. He is a former WHO/TDR clinical research and development fellow and is currently an affiliate member of the Africa Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a steering committee member of the WHO/TDR Africa Regional Training Centre.

Anthony started his career with a degree in Biochemistry from KNUST and joined KCCR for his Ph.D. in Immunology, investigating the role of immune modulatory molecules in the immunopathogenesis of tuberculosis. After his Ph.D., he started his first Postdoc with KCCR developing an improved immunodiagnostic assay for detection of tuberculosis in children. He has since had other postdoc training with Centre Muraz in Burkina and GSK vaccine s.r.l in Siena, Italy. He was part of the 2017 cohort of the Next-Generation-Scientist program to train young emerging scientists in clinical research at the headquarter of Novartis Pharma in Basel. Anthony has extensive experience in the design, planning, and implementation of GCP-compliant clinical research in resource-limited settings. He is a co-convenor for the skills for Excellence in Science Series (SEXISS) which designs and implements bespoke training using advanced pedagogy, problem-based and group-based learning for biomedical and health researchers, health professionals, and academia. He is currently the postgraduate coordinator for the Department of Molecular Medicine at the KNUST School of Medicine and Dentistry.

**Dr. Anani Badjé** is medical doctor specializing in tropical infectious diseases and hold a Ph.D. in epidemiology from The University of Bordeaux in France.

He has 13 years of experience in conducting clinical trials both in Africa and Asia. He has worked in clinical trials such as TEMPRANO (benefits and risks of early antiretroviral treatment and efficacy of 6-month isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT) in HIV-infected adults in Côte d'Ivoire), STATIS (benefits and risks of a tuberculosis-screening strategy involving a combination of investigations and targeted treatment vs. systematic empirical treatment for tuberculosis in HIV-infected patients with severe immunosuppression).



He is currently the WP1 coordinator in charge of clinical research in the ALERRT network (African Coalition for Epidemic Response, Research, and Training). As part of this Network, he has led the implementation of the FISSA Study (Fever In Sub Saharan Africa) in 11 countries in Sub Saharan Africa.

He is particularly interested in climate change and emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.



**Trudie Lang** is Professor of Global Health Research; Head of The Global Health Network and Senior Research Scientist in Tropical Medicine, Nuffield Department of Medicine. She has over 20 years' experience in running clinical trials, including trials in the developing world, for the pharmaceutical industry, the World Health Organisation and in academia. Trudie focuses on combating diseases of poverty through the generation of high-quality evidence. She has worked in industry, academia and UN organisations. With her team and partners, she works to drive better health outcomes in vulnerable communities by enabling local leadership and ground-up implementation of high-quality health research studies.



#### **May Chu - University of Colorado**

May C. Chu is a Clinical Professor at the Colorado School of Public Health in the Center for Global Health. Dr. Chu's career includes 30 years at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as Director of Laboratory Science Policy and Practice Office. During her time at CDC, she was detailed to the World Health Organization for global outbreak response and to the White House as the Assistant Director for Public Health during the West Africa Ebola epidemic. Dr. Chu has interest in using global health diplomacy as a platform to build coalitions to solve some of the most intractable public health issues. Her research focuses on the PPE of the future and improving current masks and respirator fit and use, on the transmissibility of SARS-CoV2 in congregant situations and on standardization of diagnostic tests for diseases with outbreak potential including COVID-19, arboviral diseases and viral hemorrhagic fevers. Dr. Chu is an advisor to the WHO Infection Prevention Committee and the COVID-19 Virology Diagnostic Working Group. Her research is funded by Open Philanthropy, Gates Foundation, UNICEF and the WHO.



### **Tony Moody - Duke University**

Dr. Moody is an expert in flow cytometry and B cell biology. He developed novel approaches to memory B cell sorting and has worked with a team at the Duke Human Vaccine Institute (DHVI) that isolated >15,000 monoclonal antibodies (mAbs). He is also an expert in the analysis of B cell clonal lineages, including the evolution of such lineages over time. Dr. Moody directs the DHVI's Accessioning Unit and Biorepository, and multiple NIH and foundation-funded programs to develop improved vaccines for influenza and other infectious diseases. He co-leads the Coordinating Center for CREID - NIH's global emerging infectious disease outbreak research Network