



African College of Neuropsychopharmacology



School on Neuropsychopharmacology of Stress and Substance Use Disorders

**Aga Khan University,
Nairobi, Kenya
June 2-8, 2024**

AFRICAN COLLEGE OF NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
 SCHOOL ON NEUROPSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY OF STRESS
 AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
 VENUE-AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY NAIROBI, KENYA (UC-410)

Time	2 nd /June/24	3 rd /June/24	4 th /June/24	5 th /June/24	6 th /June/24
08:15 - 09:30	Arrival and	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture
09:30 - 10:45	Hotel Check In	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture
10:45 - 11:15		Break	Break	Break	Break
11:15 - 12:30		Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:30 - 14:45	School	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture
14:45 - 16:00	Introduction	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture
16:00 - 16:30	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
16:30 - 17:30	Panel discussion	Journal Club	Journal Club	Panel discussion	Lecture
17:30 - 18:00	Mentorship	Mentorship	Mentorship	Mentorship	Mentorship
19:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner

Time	7 th /June/24	8 th /June/24	9 th /June/24	10 th /June/24	11 th /June/24
08:15 - 09:30	Lecture	Lecture	EXCURSION	Kenya Neuroscience Symposium -UON	Hotel Check out
09:30 - 10:45	Lecture	Lecture			
10:45 - 11:15	Break	Break			
11:15 - 12:30	Lecture	Lecture			
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch	Lunch			
13:30 - 14:45	Lecture	Lecture			
14:45 - 16:00	Research/ Academic Lab Tour	Lecture			
16:00 - 16:30		Break			
16:30 - 17:30		Feedback survey and closure			
17:30 - 18:00					
19:00	Dinner	Closing Dinner Ole- Sereni			

About the African College of Neuropsychopharmacology (AFCNP)

The AfCNP is a non-for-profit association dedicated to the provision of evidence-based psychopharmacology information to health care practitioners, trainees, service users, and other key stakeholders in Africa. The membership of the College is drawn from scientists in diverse subfields of neuroscience, including behavioral pharmacology, clinical psychopharmacology, epidemiology, genetics, molecular biology, neurochemistry, neuroendocrinology, neuroimaging, neuroimmunology, neurophysiology, neurology, psychiatry, and psychology.

The primary roles of the college are focused on research and education. In research the college aims to facilitate cross-disciplinary communication among investigators and to advance the application of diverse neuroscientific fields in studying and treating various mental illnesses. In education, the goals are to inspire young scientists to pursue research careers in neuropsychopharmacology and develop and disseminate accurate information regarding psychiatric disorders and their treatments.

Brief overview of the project: Neuropsychopharmacology School

The need for advancing neuropsychopharmacology research on the African continent is manifested by the loss of human resource and development of natural therapeutic products unique to Africa. This project constitutes a key step in facilitating the advancement of African faculty in biomedical research by providing a one-week school in collaboration with the African College of Neuropsychopharmacology (AfCNP) to provide advanced didactic training at a cutting-edge level for junior to mid-level African faculty who are beginning or about to establish independent research programs. The school will also offer a unique platform to develop and apply metrics of success or failure to determine the future continuation of the school. For this, the school will adapt the established IBRO/ISN assessments utilised for evaluation of their African neuroscience schools. The inaugural AfCNP school will take place at Aga Khan University in Nairobi, Kenya under the direction of the AfCNP President, Prof Lukoye Atwoli, and the COCA director, Prof. Peter Kalivas. Lecturers will be drawn from both the African leadership in Neuropsychopharmacology and the leadership in North America. Up to 20 students across Africa and faculty have been invited. The project is generously funded by the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP), National Institute of Health supplement for the project Center for Opioid and Cocaine Addiction (COCA) and supported by Aga Khan Brain and mind institute (BMI) and the international college of Neuropsychopharmacology (CINP).

AGENDA

SUNDAY 2ND June 2024

13:30 - 14:45

Pick up from hotel to Aga Khan University

14:45 - 16:00

Introduction to the school

School description, schedule, mentoring teams (introduction of faculty), poster setup-Prof. Lukoye / Leonard

16:00 - 16:30

BREAK

16:30 - 17:30

Advocacy

Avenues for mental health advocacy

Prof Lukoye, Dr. Frank Njenga, Dr. Boniface Chitayi (Kenya)

17:30 - 18:00

Mentorship-Meet with faculties

MONDAY 3RD JUNE 2024

08:15 - 09:30

LECTURE 1 Professional Development

Evidence informed Policy making in mental health and neuroscience.

Dr. Simon Kahonge (Kenya)

09:30 - 10:45

LECTURE 2 Panel Discussion

Mentorship Discussion

Prof. Lukoye /Prof Zul Mirali, Dr Mercy Karanja, and Dr. Juzar Hooker (panel discussion) (Kenya)

10:45 - 11:15

COFFEE BREAK

11:15 - 12:30

LECTURE 3 Epidemiology

General concepts in epidemiology; Burden of mental disorders in Africa

Dr. Dickens Akena (Uganda)

12:30 - 13:30

LUNCH BREAK

13:30 - 14:45

LECTURE 4 Research Fundamentals

Benefits and Challenges of Multinational Multisite Mental Health Research

Prof. Christine Lochner (South Africa)

14:45 - 16:00

LECTURE 5 Neurobiology

Target cell, circuits, behavior, symptoms, or diseases

Prof. William P. Hetrick (USA)

16:00 - 16:30

COFFEE BREAK**16:30 - 17:30****Journal Club**

30 min presentations from 2 groups preliminary Neuro GAP results

17:30 - 18:00**Mentorship-Meet with faculties****TUESDAY 4TH 2024****08:15 - 09:30****LECTURE 1: Neurobiology**

Intersection between Stress and Substance Use Disorders

Prof Peter Kalivas (USA)

09:30 - 10:45**LECTURE 2: Genomics**

Gene environment interactions in addiction.

Dr. Syokau Ilovi (Kenya)

10:45 - 11:15**COFFEE BREAK****11:15 - 12:30****LECTURE 3: Neurobiology**

Neurobiology of addiction-brain structures, genetics, neurochemistry.

Prof. Kathryn Cunningham (USA)

12:30 - 13:30**LUNCH BREAK****13:30 - 14:45****LECTURE 4: Translation**

Mapping imaging and neuropsychological assessment outcomes to behavior.

Prof Noeline Nakasujja (Uganda)

14:45-16:00**LECTURE 5: Genomics**

Gene environment interactions in stress and trauma

Prof. Kerry Ressler (USA)

16:00-16:30**COFFEE BREAK****16:30-17:30****Journal Club**

10 mins presentations preliminary Neuro GAP results

17:30-18:00**Mentorship-Meet with faculties.****WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE 2024****08:15 - 09:30**

LECTURE 1: Introduction

Overview of psychopharmacology
Prof Charles Newton (Kenya)

09:30 - 10:45**LECTURE 2: Translation**

Psychopharmacology of cognitive and affective enhancement.
Prof. Dan Stein (South Africa)

10:45 - 11:15**COFFEE BREAK****11:15 - 12:30****LECTURE 3: Neurobiology**

Neurotransmitters, receptors, and drug mechanisms of action.
Prof. Joseph Zohar (USA)

12:30 - 13:30**LUNCH BREAK****13:30 - 14:45****LECTURE 4: Research Fundamentals**

Manuscript Writing- Process and ethics.
Prof Lukoye Atwoli (Kenya)

14:45 - 16:00**LECTURE 5: Neurobiology**

Neurobiology of stress and post traumatic syndromes.
Prof. Kerry Ressler (USA)

16:00 - 16:30**COFFEE BREAK****16:30 - 17:30****Professional Development**

Interactive session-Discuss existing opportunities in Africa.
Prof Noeline Nakasujja (Uganda) and Prof Solomon Teferra (Ethiopia)

17:30 - 18:00**Mentorship-Meet with faculties****THURSDAY 6TH JUNE 2024****08:15 - 09:30****LECTURE 1: Translation**

Drug discovery and targets in managing addiction.
Prof. Kathryn Cunningham (USA)

09:30 - 10:45**LECTURE 2: Translation**

From engrams to treatments/from bench to bed side. Prof. Peter Kalivas (USA)

10:45 - 11:15**COFFEE BREAK****11:15 - 12:30****LECTURE 3: Research Fundamentals**

Statistics Primer

Dr Jasmit Shah (Kenya)

12:30 - 13:30

LUNCH BREAK

13:30 - 14:45

LECTURE 4: Research Fundamentals

Demographics and clinical trials.

Prof Mansoor Saleh (Kenya)

14:45 - 16:00

LECTURE 5: Genomics

Progress and challenges in Neuropsychiatric Genomics for the African continent.

Dr Conrad Iyegbe (England)

16:00 - 16:30

COFFEE BREAK

16:30 - 17:30

Lecture 6: Professional Development

Importance of self-care/ wellbeing practice, Personal branding.

Dr. Florence Jaguga (Kenya)

17:30 - 18:00

Mentorship-Meet with faculties

FRIDAY 7TH JUNE 2024

08:15 - 09:30

LECTURE 1: Professional Development

Leading effective meetings. Etiquette: social, business-including communication, dressing, punctuality, emails, and online etiquette.

Prof. Charles Newton (Kenya)

09:30 - 10:45

LECTURE 2: Lab Science

HPLC-Videotaped case studies

Prof Simiat Elias (Kenya)

10:45 - 11:15

COFFEE BREAK

11:15 - 12:30

LECTURE 3: Lab science

Laboratory based clinical trials in neuroscience.

Prof Shaheen Sayed (Kenya)

12:30 - 13:30

LUNCH BREAK

13:30 - 14:45

LECTURE 4: Lab science

Electrophysiological interventions for addiction.

Prof. Bashar Badran (USA)

14:45 - 16:00

LECTURE 5: Tour-Academic and research lab/Neuroradiology

16:00 - 16:30

COFFEE BREAK

SATURDAY 8TH JUNE 2024

08:15 - 09:30

LECTURE 1: Journal Club

Discuss and review for Journal Club - Preclinical

09:30 - 10:45

LECTURE 2: Research Fundamentals

Collaboration in research- forming and maintaining collaborative teams.

Prof Amadi Ihunwo (South Africa)

10:45 - 11:15

COFFEE BREAK

11:15 - 12:30

LECTURE 3: Neurobiology

Khat- a widely used psychostimulant in Eastern Africa.

Prof Nilesh Patel (Kenya)

12:30 - 13:30

LUNCH BREAK

13:30 - 14:45

LECTURE 4: Translation

Precision approaches to wellbeing and medical training

Dr. Thomas Thesen (USA)

14:45 - 16:00

LECTURE 5: Translation

AI machine learning in mental health

Prof Lukoye Atwoli (Kenya)

16:00 - 17:00

Feedback Survey and closure

Faculty Profiles



Professor Joseph Zohar

Director of the National Post-Trauma Center, Research Foundation by the Sheba Medical Center, Israel

Email: jozohar@gmail.com

Professor Zohar is an Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at the Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University. He is also the President of the International College of Neuropsychopharmacology (CINP) and Past-President of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP). Professor Zohar founded and chaired the task force of Neuroscience based Nomenclature (NbN). He also founded the Israeli Consortium on PTSD, and the International College of Obsessive-Compulsive Spectrum Disorders (ICOCS). Prof. Zohar is also a board member of the International Master in Affective Neuroscience and a member of the European Group for the Study of Resistant Depression (GSRD). He has authored over 450 papers and authored or co-authored 19 books focusing on Resistant Depression, OCD, PTSD, and Neuroscience based Nomenclature (NbN), and was the founding associate editor of *CNS Spectrums* and of the *World Journal of Biological Psychiatry*.

Professor Zohar has been honored with several awards, including the Fogarty International Research Fellowship Award (1984), the A.E. Bennet Award for Clinical Research (1986 and 2002), the ECNP Neuroscience Award for Clinical Research (1998), the WFSBP Award for Excellence in Education (2001), the Life Achievement Award by the Israeli Psychiatric Association (2018), Award for Clinicians-Researchers Collaboration Study in Psychiatry, by The Israel Society for Biological Psychiatry and The National Institute of Psychobiology in Israel (2019), Mentor Award by Israel Society of Biological Psychiatry (2021), ECNP Honorary Member Award (2023), and Aristotle Gold Medal Award (2024).

Professor Zohar has received funding (RO1) from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to explore secondary prevention of PTSD (2012), and from NATO (2018) to develop a guideline on the treatment in the 'Golden Hours' after a terror attack. He is also the Co-Chair of the EU COST grant on Problematic Use of Internet PUI (2017), and the USA Department of Defense (DoD) Grant (in collaboration with Mount Sinai Hospital, NY) on Hydrocortisone, 'Golden Hours' and secondary prevention of PTSD (2019), and the EU Grant on Horizon Europe Framework Program (HORIZON) for Boosting Societal Adaptation and Mental Health in Rapidly Digitalizing, Post Pandemic Europe (Bootstrap), (2022). He also received funding from NATO (2018) for Digital Tools for Prevention, Mitigation, and Treatment of Traumatic Stress Responses in Terror and War (2023).



Dr. Syokau Ilovi

Email: csilovi@uonbi.ac.ke

She is a physician and clinical geneticist based at the University of Nairobi. Her clinical interest spans genetic disease prevention, diagnosis and management in adults, children, pregnant couples, and couples desiring pregnancy. Her genetics research is focused on describing the genetic profiles of Kenyan populations. She is committed to promoting genetic education among patients and healthcare workers and developing nationalized genetic disease strategies.



Dr. Florence Jaguga

Email: flokemboi@gmail.com

She holds a master's degree in Psychiatry and a Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery degree from Moi University School of Medicine. She is Head of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Rehabilitation Services Department at the Moi Teaching & Referral Hospital. Her expertise includes treatment and prevention of substance use disorders, implementation of science research, and policy formulation. Her research work focuses on exploring the feasibility and effectiveness of lay provider delivered mental health and substance use disorder interventions. Dr. Jaguga's long term career goal is to contribute to improving mental health policy and programs, in Kenya, Africa and globally.



Kathryn A. Cunningham, Ph.D.

Chauncey Leake Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology

Director, Center for Addiction Sciences and Therapeutics

Vice Chair, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

John Sealy School of Medicine, University of Texas Medical Branch

Email: careyrandy@comcast.net

Her laboratory has catalyzed translational research advances in neuropsychopharmacology with a particular emphasis on substance use disorders (SUDs), the underlying neurobiology of behavior, and new target and drug discovery. While investigators typically pursue research from a single perspective (e.g., basic or clinical endeavors), her strategy is to discover key mechanism-based advances in cellular and animal models and move this knowledge into human psychopharmacology research to develop effective and safe therapeutics to maximize human function. She has strong collaborations with chemists, cellular biologists, bioengineers, preclinical and clinical scientists with the goal to develop innovative diagnostics and therapeutics based upon biosignatures of SUDs with the molecular precision to effectively prevent and manage these disorders across diverse populations. Her research program has been continuously funded for 30 years and we have made numerous seminal observations and developed new technologies which are described in 180+ peer-reviewed publications.

She has a life-long commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity as a driver of excellence in science and education. Gender and racially diverse researchers generate higher rates of scientific novelty, but their contributions are devalued and less likely to result in successful scientific careers than for majority scientists (Hofstra et al., PNAS 117:9284-9291, 2020). She works diligently to catalyze strategies to assure the success my mentees; of those for whom she has served as primary mentor, 65% are female and 35% diversity mentees. Her 50+ mentees have published extensively, captured a multitude of grants, and crafted successful careers in academia, government, and industry. She is also an active educator, mentor and board member for community programs and works regionally and nationally to foster clinical research, awareness and knowledge of SUDs and their evidence-based treatments. She was honored to have participated in the previous IBRO School on Translational Neuroscience of Drug Addiction course in July 2018 (Nairobi, Kenya) and October 2020 (University of Rabat, Morocco).



Professor Charles Newton

Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kilifi, Kenya

Cheryl and Reece Scott Professor of Psychiatry, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.

Email: charles.newton@psych.ox.ac.uk

Charles Newton was born in Kenya, qualified in Cape Town, South Africa, with postgraduate training in Paediatrics in Manchester and London, United Kingdom. As a lecturer at University of Oxford, he returned to Kilifi Kenya in 1989, to help set up a unit to study severe malaria in African children. Thereafter he spent 2 years as a post-doctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins, USA; studying mechanisms of brain damage in central nervous system infections. He completed his training in Paediatric Neurology at Great Ormond Street Hospital, and Queens Square in London, UK. In 1998 he was awarded a Wellcome Trust Senior Clinical Fellowship at University College London, to return to Kilifi, to study CNS infections in children. He conducts research on CNS infections in children; epidemiological studies of epilepsy and neurological impairment; tetanus, jaundice, and sepsis in neonates. In 2011 he took up a professorship in Psychiatry at the University of Oxford to concentrate of Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Epilepsy, and mental illness disorders (particularly Psychosis and Depression) in Africa.



Prof. Amadi Ogonda Ihunwo

Email: Amadi.Ihunwo@wits.ac.za

Professor Amadi Ogonda Ihunwo (PhD) is a Professor of Anatomy, a Neuroscientist and the Head of School at the School of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), Johannesburg, South Africa. His research area is Comparative Adult Neurogenesis and Gliogenesis in the brain in mammalian and avian species and the factors that affect the process at different life stages. A Fellow of both the Anatomical Society of Nigeria (ASN), the Neuroscience Society of Nigeria (NSN) and a member of the Royal Society of South Africa (mRSSAf). He is a South African National Research Foundation (NRF) rated Scientist. He is the immediate past Secretary-General of the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA). He is a Councilor, representing Africa on the Council of the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN). He is the Founder of the Brain Wellness Initiative (BWI) foundation.



Prof. Noeline Nakasujja

Email: drnoeline@yahoo.com

Prof. Noeline Nakasujja is an Associate Professor and Chair for the Department of Psychiatry at the College of Health Sciences, Makerere University. Her research interests include geriatric psychiatry and cognitive impairment in HIV/AIDS. She received her bachelor's in medicine/surgery and her Masters' degrees in Psychiatry from Makerere University Medical School. She completed her PhD studies and received a joint degree from Makerere University and Karolinska Institute, Sweden. Her work has focused on neurocognitive assessments across the life span as well as other areas in the field of psychiatry.

As an ardent educator for capacity building, she has greatly contributed to the training of a Ugandan researchers and beyond in the field of mental health. She has served on a number of associations including the International Brain Research Organization, International Psycho-geriatrics Association, the World Psychiatric Association, Association of Uganda Women Doctors, The Network: Towards Unity for Health (TUFH), The Uganda Society for Health Scientists among others.

She has been honored with a number of awards that include British Royal College of Psychiatrists student travel award, Uganda Medical Association best researcher, The International Psychogeriatrics Association Young Investigators award for Outstanding research endeavors undertaken in a previously unresearched field. She has been awarded scientific Best Presenter 2004 by the Uganda Medical Association, Best Scientific Poster presenter at the Course on Leadership & Professional skills for young psychiatrists, Addis Ababa Ethiopia, 2006 & 2007, Best presenter & Best Young Researcher, Faculty of Medicine and Institute of Public Health 2006, Center for AIDS research award for best poster 2016 and Outstanding mentor for the American Academy of Child and Adolescent psychiatry. She has also received recognition for her scientific achievements from the Uganda Society for Health Scientists 2010, and was the recipient of the James Kimani award 2017, Society of Neuroscientists of Africa.



PROF. KALIVAS, PETER W.

Email: kalivasp@musc.edu

Kalivas is a neuroscientist best known for his work elucidating the brain molecules and circuits that underlie substance use disorder. This work is highlighted in >400 publications and as editor of 8 books and special issues that focus on the cellular mechanisms and brain circuitry mediating psychiatric disorders. Among his key discoveries are the role of glutamate transmission in drug addiction and the role played by astroglia and the extracellular matrix in regulating synaptic transmission.

He has received many awards including a Merit Award from the National Institute of Drug Abuse, the Governor's Award for Research Excellence (South Carolina), the ISPEN Foundation Prize in Neuroplasticity, and is past president of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. He received his Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Washington, and following postdoctoral training at the University of North Carolina, he became a Professor at Washington State University before founding and chairing the Department of Neuroscience at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, where he remains as a Distinguished University Professor of Neuroscience.



Dr. Simon Njuguna

Consultant Psychiatrist:

Mathari National Teaching and Referral Hospital

Email: kahongesimo@yahoo.com

Lead in mental health policies implementation through service transformation by developing and implementing integrated services and programmes with focus on promotive and preventive interventions.

He is an expert in health systems strengthening and provides strategic leadership in developing specialized services on brain health at the tertiary level.

Training and mentorship of healthcare workers and medical trainees to build their competencies to deliver human rights oriented and high-quality mental healthcare.

Building partnership on mental health research to generate evidence to inform policy and best practices.



Prof. Nilesh Bhailalbhai Patel

Email: npatel@uonbi.ac.ke

Nilesh Bhailalbhai Patel, PhD, KNAS, is an adjunct professor at the Department of Human Anatomy and Medical Physiology, University of Nairobi. His earlier research was on the effects of electric fields on neurite growth and orientation. After returning to Kenya, he carried out research on the impact of African trypanosomiasis on GnRH secretion, and then on the evaluation of risk factors for Alzheimer's Disease in elderly East Africans. He is currently studying the effect on the cognitive and executive function of khat, a plant that synthesizes the psychoactive substance cathinone. He served as Secretary-General of the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA) and as a committee member of the African Regional Committee of IBRO. With Andreas Kopf, he edited the "Manual on Pain Management in Low Resource Setting", and "Neglected Tropical Diseases and Conditions of the Nervous System" with Marina Bentivoglio, Esper A. Cavalheiro, and Krister Kristensson.

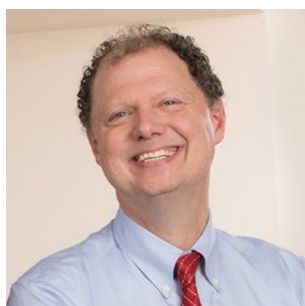


Dr. Jasmit Shah

Email: jasmit.shah@aku.edu

Dr Shah holds a Doctorate and Master of Science degree in Biostatistics and Bioinformatics from the University of Louisville, USA, 2017 and 2011, respectively. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics, Statistics and Chemistry from University of South Alabama, USA, 2009.

Dr Shah's cumulative experience, spanning 11 years, includes research, teaching and consultancy. His experience is in biostatistics having worked in various departments within AKU such as Department of Internal Medicine, Department of Population Health, and the Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health. Dr Shah has supported UNICEF Zambia and the World Bank Group in data consolidation and updating of tools such as EQUIST and PATHS to conduct evidence-based analysis and was part of the strategic plan for RMNCAHN for Zambia 2022-2027. He has also been a lead trainer in EQUIST(UNICEF) for projects in Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Pakistan. As a lead in biostatistics and data science, Dr Shah has held the position of Assistant Professor in AKU Department of Population Health and delivered short courses in biostatistics in the Department of Biomedical Informatics, Moi University, Kenya. Further, he was a Research Associate and REDCap Database Coordinator at the Diabetes and Obesity Centre, University of Louisville, USA.



Prof. Kerry J. Ressler

Email: KRESSLER@MCLEAN.HARVARD.EDU

Kerry J. Ressler, MD, PhD, is the Chief Scientific Officer at McLean Hospital and Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He is an international leader in understanding the biology of posttraumatic stress disorder, and he is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, a prior HHMI Investigator, Past president of the Society for Biological Psychiatry and the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. He is author of >500 manuscripts focused on the molecular neuroscience of fear as well as the human psychobiology of stress and trauma through leadership of multiple national consortia for deep phenotyping and understanding biomarkers and the genetic architecture of PTSD.



Prof. Zul Merali

Email: zul.merali@aku.edu

Dr Zul Merali is the Founding Director of the Brain and Mind Institute at the Aga Khan University. He is a neuroscientist and pharmacologist by training (McGill University, University of Ottawa, and Wharton), with over 40 years of academic engagement. Has published over 250 peer-reviewed scientific publications. He has used his proven academic and entrepreneurial ability to add value to forward thinking organizations to help address mental health problems, locally, nationally, and globally. His objectives have been to build and/or re-engineer organizations to deliver outstanding results and motivating and encouraging others towards positive change.



Prof. Lukoye Atwoli

President African College of Neuropsychopharmacology

Email: lukoye.atwoli@aku.edu

Lukoye Atwoli is a Professor of Psychiatry and the Dean of the Aga Khan University Medical College, East Africa. He is also the Deputy Director of the Brain and Mind Institute at AKU. He also practices psychiatry at the Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi. Prof Atwoli is an Honorary Professor in the department of Psychiatry and Mental Health at the University of Cape Town and collaborates with colleagues all over the world in research and teaching in psychiatry and mental health.

Prof Atwoli trained in medicine (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, MBChB) at Moi University before undertaking specialist training in psychiatry (Master of Medicine in Psychiatry, MMed Psych) at the University of Nairobi, where his MMed dissertation explored posttraumatic stress disorder among Mau Mau Concentration Camp survivors in Nairobi. He later earned a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree from the University of Cape Town in South Africa, focusing on the epidemiology of trauma and posttraumatic stress disorder in South Africa.

Prof Atwoli's current research interests are centered on trauma and posttraumatic stress disorder and the genetics of mental disorders, and he is a member of the World Mental Health Surveys Consortium that carries out cross-national psychiatric epidemiological research that informs practice and policy globally.

Prof Atwoli is the President of the African College of Neuropsychopharmacology (AfCNP), and the Secretary-General of the African Association of Psychiatrists (AAP). Since 2020, he serves as the Chairperson of the Board of the Mathari National Teaching and Referral Hospital, the only specialized mental health care facility in Kenya, and also co-chairs the Board on Global Health of the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Prof Atwoli is also the Chair of the Steering Committee of the Association of Academic Health Centers International (AAHCI).

As a result of his work in mental health and psychiatry, Prof Atwoli was awarded one of the highest national honours in Kenya, the Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear (M.B.S.). He is also an International Member of the US National Academy of Medicine (NAM) and an International Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association (IFAPA).



Prof. William "Bill" Hetrick

Email: whetrick@indiana.edu

Bill Hetrick is a professor of psychology, neuroscience, and psychiatry at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA. His research program is aimed at understanding causal mechanisms and risk factors for severe mental disorders such as schizophrenia, substance abuse, and autism. He and his colleagues utilize behavioral, cognitive, and brain imaging (EEG, MRI) techniques to identify psychological and neural mechanisms associated with these disorders and response to novel treatments. He has over 150 publications in peer-reviewed journals. With Drs. Megan McHenry and Chandy John of the Indiana University Department of Pediatrics, he operates psychophysiology (EEG) laboratories in Eldoret, Kenya and Jinja, Uganda. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. His award-winning teaching focuses on abnormal psychology, translational and dimensional approaches to psychopathology, evidence-based practice, and foundations of clinical psychology. He currently serves as Deputy Director of the Bloomington Campus in the Indiana Clinical and Translational Science Institute.



Prof. Bashar Badran

Email: badran@musc.edu

Dr. Bashar Badran is a neuroscientist, associate professor of psychiatry, and directs the Neuro-X Lab and the Computational Brain Imaging Core at the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Badran's Neuro-X lab is a multidisciplinary neuromodulation, engineering, and innovation laboratory that fosters an environment of neurotechnology and innovation to begin addressing complex medical and neuropsychiatric disorders. He is the inventor and co-founder of Zendo, a neuromodulation device for meditation enhancement, and has been involved in pioneering several new technologies and startups including: BabyStrong, a new feeding system for newborns; MAAVNS, an intelligent closed-loop neuromodulation platform for post-stroke motor rehabilitation, and brain stimulation platforms for zero gravity environments. His research focuses on brain stimulation and neuroimaging, with much of his work involving testing new technology in human clinical trials.



Simiat Olanike Elias, FCRIDE (BSc (Hons), MSc., MBChB, MPH, PhD)

Professor of Physiology and Fellow, Centre for Research Innovation Development and Entrepreneurship (UK)

Email: simiat.elias@aku.edu

Professor Simiat Olanike Elias received BSc and MSc Physiology at the University of Lagos in 1987 and 1990 respectively. She later qualified as a medical doctor from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria in 1997 after which she received her Masters in Public Health (MPH) degree from the Lagos State University in 2007. She returned to her alma mater where she received her PhD in Physiology in 2012. She received a Certificate in Leadership and Health from the University of Washington in December 2022. She had lectured at the Lagos State University since the year 2000 when she joined the University as a Lecturer II and rose through the ranks to full professor in October 2022. Her area of research interest is Cardiovascular Physiology with particular emphasis on the determinants and course of hypertension. She has supervised many BSc and MSc students and co-supervised a PhD student in Physiology.

Prof. Elias served as Head of the Department of Physiology on several occasions. She has served in many committees in the College of Medicine and the Lagos State University at large including the University Ranking Committee and the Financial Sustainability Committee. She was the Editor-in-Chief of the LASU Journal of Medical Sciences (LASU-JMS), a peer-reviewed journal co-owned by the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences and Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences. She was the Director of the Centre for General Nigerian Studies (CGNS) in Lagos State University before she joined AKU in March 2023 as the founding Chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Medical College, East Africa.

Prof. Elias is a very active member of many professional associations including Physiological Society of Nigeria (PSN), the African Association of Physiological Societies (AAPS), The Physiological Society (TPS, UK/ROI), American Physiological Society (APS) and the International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE, USA). She was elected Co-chair of the Board of General Assembly of the International Union of Physiological Societies (IUPS) in November 2022 and Co-chair of the IUPS Mentor-Mentoring Task Force in May 2023. She became a member of the East African Physiological Society (EASPS) in May 2023.

Prof. Simiat Elias is a Fellow and the Head of Team, Medicine and Health, Centre for Research, Innovation, Development and Entrepreneurship (CRIDE) Ltd, U.K.



Prof. Christine Lochner

Email: cl2@sun.ac.za

Christine Lochner is a professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Stellenbosch University, and Co-Director of the SA MRC Unit on Risk and Resilience in Mental Disorders. She has obtained a PhD in Psychiatry and has more than 20 years of clinical, epidemiological and neuroscience research experience as a clinical psychologist working in the field of obsessive-compulsive and related disorders. She is principal investigator of a number of research programs in the above-mentioned unit and mentors masters, doctoral and postdoctoral students. She is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), a director of the International College of Obsessive Compulsive Spectrum Disorders (ICOCS), and a member of the Obsessive-Compulsive Research Network (OCRN), and she is a member of the scientific advisory board of the EU Horizon Bootstrap project (a consortium aiming to initiate health and social policy and practice change designed to reduce the harmful effects of digitalization on mental health, particularly for young people). Currently, Prof Lochner serves as an associate editor on the board of Comprehensive Psychiatry and as a board member of the Journal of Obsessive-Compulsive and related disorders.



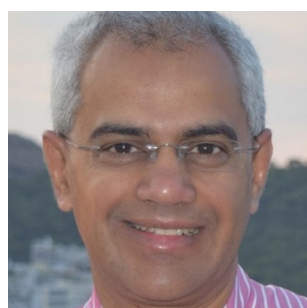
Dr. Boniface Chitayi

Email: chitayib@gmail.com

Dr. Boniface Chitayi is a consultant Psychiatrist and a Psychiatry lecturer at the department of Psychiatry at the School of health sciences of Kenyatta University. He is the current president of the Kenya Psychiatric Association (KPA). Dr. Chitayi holds a Bachelor of medicine and surgery and master of Psychiatry from the University of Nairobi. He was awarded the prize for best student in master of medicine in Psychiatry at the University of Nairobi for the academic year 2017/18.

He is certified in the Quality Rights training by the World Health Organization (WHO); the mental health leadership and advocacy program (MHLAP) from the WHO collaborating Centre at Ibadan University; he is an alumnus of the young leadership training of the African College of Neuropsychopharmacology. He took part in the Kenya National Adolescent Mental Health Survey (KNAHMS) led by the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC)

Dr. Chitayi is a diversity advisory board member at the Boehringer Ingelheim company; a member of the advisory board of the basic needs basic rights mental health NGO and mental360 mental health NGO. He is member of the following committees; National steering committee for the Implementation Network for Sharing Population Information for Research Entities (INSPIRE) study by APHRC, National committee on criminal justice reforms (NCCJR) by the national commission on Administration of Justice (NCAJ) and the national steering committee on alternatives to incarceration for persons who use drugs in contact with the criminal justice system under the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). He champions mental health literacy and advocacy through the media. He is an advocate for decriminalization of attempted suicide and is a party to a high court petition seeking to declare section 226 of the Kenyan penal code on attempted suicide unconstitutional. He was awarded the champion of change mental health award by the Kenya Psychiatric Association in 2022.



Dr Juzar Hooker

Email: juzar.hooker@aku.edu

Dr Juzar Hooker, MB, ChB, MMed, DCN, FCP, is a Consulting Neurologist in a tertiary care referral private practice at the Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi, where he is also involved in teaching clinical neurology. His main interests include movement disorders and neurodegenerative diseases as well neurological infections, especially neurotuberculosis, and neuroinflammatory disorders, including multiple sclerosis.

He went to medical school and did his internal medicine and early neurology training at the University of Nairobi and the Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya, and then went on to complete his neurology training and do a clinical fellowship in movement disorders at The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London, UK. On his return in 2003, he continued to work at the Kenyatta National Hospital till 2007, and then went into private practice based at the Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi.

He has been involved in collaborative research on characterising the multiple sclerosis population at the hospital and in setting up a local registry of MS patients, as well as in clinical trials of therapies for multiple sclerosis. He was part of the group that recently published a proposed classification and diagnostic criteria for optic neuritis in 2022.



Dr. Mercy Karanja

Email: macywacera@gmail.com

Dr. Mercy Karanja is a Consultant Psychiatrist and the Head of the Division of Mental Health at the Ministry of Health, Kenya. She also serves on the Board of Directors at the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) and is the Treasurer of the Kenya Psychiatric Association.

With over 14 years of progressive experience in mental health, Dr. Karanja has applied her expertise in various roles, including clinical practitioner, policy maker, technical advisor, and trainer in the field of psychiatry. Her extensive experience encompasses Substance Use and Addiction Management, as well as HIV programming, with a decade dedicated to implementing Harm Reduction Interventions for People Who Inject Drugs.

Dr. Karanja is committed to ensuring accessible and equitable mental health services for all through comprehensive mental health reforms and evidence-based policies. Her career vision includes fostering multisectoral collaborations, enhancing mental health literacy, and integrating mental health services into primary healthcare systems to create a holistic and sustainable approach to mental health care in Kenya and beyond.



Dr Thomas Thesen

Email: Thomas.Thesen@dartmouth.edu

Dr Thomas Thesen, PhD, is a neuroscientist and medical educator. He obtained his PhD in cognitive neuroscience from Oxford University and further trained in brain imaging at the University of California at San Diego during his postdoctoral fellowship. His research, focusing on cognitive neuroscience, medical education, digital health, epilepsy, and global health, has received support from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and various philanthropic

organizations.

Dr Thesen is an Associate Professor of Medical Education at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth in the US, where he directs the Neuroscience & Neurology and Medical Learning Science course in the MD program. Dr Thesen has published over 80 peer-reviewed scientific articles that have been cited over 6000 times. He is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology and during his career he has received several scientific and education awards.

With his extensive background in neuroscience, Dr Thesen's expertise proves invaluable to BMI. His commitment to advancing medical education and scientific research, positions him as an asset in exploring the frontiers of brain health in the geographies that AKU serves including East Africa and South & Central Asia.



Prof Solomon Teferra, MD, PhD

Email: solomonteferra@aau.edu.et

Solomon Teferra is Professor of Psychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry, Addis Ababa University (AAU) in Ethiopia. He is currently Chair of Department of Psychiatry at AAU. He held visiting scientist position at Harvard T.H.Chan School of Public Health Department of Epidemiology from 2016-2020. His qualifications include Degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD), Specialty Certificate in Psychiatry, Subspecialty Certificate in Addiction Psychiatry from University of Toronto in

Canada, and PhD in Psychiatric Epidemiology from Umeå University in Sweden.

He is engaged in clinical work, teaching and research. He has conducted epidemiologic research on psychosis, alcohol and drugs, development and adaptation of measurement tools, clinical trials, and service development for SRDs in Ethiopia. He is currently the Principal Investigator (PI) of the Neuropsychiatric Genetics of African Populations-Psychosis (NeuroGAP-P), Ethiopia project, the largest

human genetics research done in Ethiopia thus far, recruiting 13,000 participants in collaboration with the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard aiming to uncover the risk genes for psychosis, funded by the Stanley Center and NIH (PI in R01 and U01 grants). He is also PI of a new research project 'Depression Genetics in Africa, DepGen Africa' a large multicenter genetics research led by the University of Edinburgh in the UK, aiming at exploring the risk genes for depression, funded by the Wellcome Trust. He has more than 70 publications in peer reviewed scientific journals. He is editorial board member of the journal 'Psychiatry Research' and serves as a reviewer for a number of local and international journals.

He is current Executive Committee (EC) member of African Association of Psychiatrists (AAP), Member of Section on Addiction Psychiatry and Honorary Member of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) and had served as President of Ethiopian Psychiatric Association (EPA) from 2014-2017. He is a Fellow of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences.



Prof Shahin Sayed

Email: shaheen.sayed@aku.edu

Prof Shahin Sayed is a Consultant Anatomical Pathologist and Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology at the Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi, Kenya. She is the Secretary General of the College of Pathologists of East Central and Southern Africa (COPECSA), the Chair of the Board of Directors of African Strategies for Advancing Pathology (<https://pathologyinafrica.org/>) and a member of the Steering Committee of the Lancet Commission on Diagnostics and a member of the Lancet Oncology Commission for Sub-Saharan Africa. She co-chairs the Kenya National Sample Handling guidelines committee and is a member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Cancer Control Program with the Ministry of Health in Kenya. She is a Standing member of the Editorial Board of the WHO Classification of Tumours, a member of the WHO Classification of tumour subcommittees and the 6th Edition Tumour Harmonisation and LMIC Liaison Committees. She is also an editor and co-author in the 5th edition of WHO Classification of Hematolymphoid tumours.

Dr. Sayed earned her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) degree from University of Nairobi, Kenya; her Master of Medicine in Pathology degree (MMed Path) from University of Nairobi; a Fellowship in Pathology (FCPath-ECSA) from COPECSA and an International Society of Nephrology Fellowship certificate in Nephropathology from the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam. Dr. Sayed is also a Fellow of the College of Pathologists of the UK (FRCPath-UK) and the RCPATH Country Advisor for Kenya. She earned her doctoral degree in Anatomical Pathology from the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Dr. Sayed has also been involved in several funded projects aimed at improving and standardizing the practice of Pathology in East Central and Southern Africa. She is also involved in the Pathology Residency program at AKU and currently exploring implementation of a Pathology Informatics subspecialty program for AKU trainees in collaboration with the Informatics Division in the Department of Pathology, University of Michigan (U-M).

Among her professional affiliations, Dr. Sayed is a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), and an adjunct member of Adjunct Member of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP).

Her research work has been centered in four integrated areas 1) Oncologic pathology research 2) Pathology capacity strengthening through strategic partnerships and 3) Engagement with key stakeholders in the oncology community, in community settings and at the Ministry of Health 4) Studying potential point of care biomarkers for disease screening and diagnosis in LMIC settings and more recently establishing a biorepository of clinically annotated samples, the first of its kind in Kenya as well as to leverage artificial intelligence (AI)/machine learning-based computational tools to overcome the shortage of skilled pathology workforce in Africa. She is currently an MPI in validating an SIVQ/ VIPR tool in a Hub and Spoke model where preserved tissues or digital images are sent to a centralized laboratory to be processed and/or analyzed, bringing accurate and reliable Colorectal Cancer diagnostics to distanced parts of low resource communities. She is a co-investigator in the Population based Longitudinal Study of Health and Aging in Kenya (LOSHAK) where her role involves validating common biomarkers of inflammation and disease on dried blood spots which will contribute to key knowledge gaps about the prevalence and risk factors for ADRD, mental health, and other conditions in Kenya; the impact of climate change on the health of older adults; and the factors that mediate economic well-being for older Kenyans. She is also a co-investigator in Africa-FINGERS which is a multinational collaboration of dementia experts, aimed at assessing the feasibility and sustainability of multimodal brain health strategies and interventions in the Africa Region. She will be leading the Biomarkers _Fluid and Neuropathology Core for the study.

African College of Neuropsychopharmacology



School on Neuropsychopharmacology of Stress and Substance Use Disorders

