



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



African Union



**UNESCO-MERCK Africa Research Summit- MARS 2017**  
**Empowering Women and Youth in STEM**  
**South-South Collaboration**

**In Partnership with the Office of the President of the Republic of Mauritius**



**Cancer Research & Vaccines Development**  
**28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2017**  
**Port Louis, Mauritius**



**Merck Foundation**



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African Union



**UNESCO-MERCK Africa Research Summit- MARS 2017**  
**Accelerating Access & Sustaining Innovation**  
**From Africa For Africa**



**Inauguration session**



**Her Excellency Mrs Ameenah Gurib-Fakim,  
G.C.S.K., C.S.K., PhD, DSc  
6<sup>th</sup> President of the Republic of Mauritius**

**Ameenah Gurib-Fakim** has been, prior to joining the State House, the Managing Director of the Centre International de Développement Pharmaceutique (CIDP) Research and Innovation as well as Professor of Organic Chemistry with an endowed chair at the University of Mauritius. Since 2001, she has served successively as Dean of the Faculty of Science and Pro Vice Chancellor (2004- 2010). She has also worked at the Mauritius Research Council as Manager for Research (1995-1997).

Ms Gurib-Fakim earned a BSc in Chemistry from the University of Surrey (1983) and a PhD from the University of Exeter, UK (1987). During her academic journey, she has participated in several consultation meetings on environmental issues organized by international organizations. Between 2011-2013, she was elected and served as Chairperson of the International Council for Scientific Union – Regional Office for Africa, and served as an Independent Director on the Board of Barclays Bank of Mauritius Ltd between (2012-2015).

As a Founding Member of the Pan African Association of African Medicinal Plants, she co-authored the first ever African Herbal Pharmacopoeia. She has authored and co-edited 28 books, several book chapters and scientific articles in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

She has lectured extensively across the world; is a Member of the Editorial Boards of major journals, has served on Technical and national committees in various capacities.

Elected Fellow of several academies and societies, Ms Gurib-Fakim received several international prizes including the 2007 l'OrealUNESCO Prize for Women in Science, the African Union Commission Award for Women in Science, 2009. In 2017, she received both the lifelong achievement award of the United States Pharmacopoeia-CePat Award and the American Botanical Council Norman Farnsworth Excellence in Botanical Research Award.

Elevated to the Order of the Commander of the Star and Key by the Government of Mauritius in 2008, she has been admitted to the Order of the Chevalier dans L'Ordre des Palmes Academiques by the Government of France in 2010 and is the recipient of 4 DSc (s).

On 05 June 2015, she was sworn in as the 6th President and the First Female President of the Republic of Mauritius. She was elevated to the Order of GCSK by the Government of Mauritius, admitted to the Order of Francois 1er des Deux Siciles by Prince Charles of Bourbon and received the Legion d'Honneur from the Government of France in 2016.

In June 2016, she was in the Forbes List for the 100 'Most Powerful women in the world' and 1st among the Top 100 Women in Africa Forbes List 2017. She is honoured as one of Foreign Policy's 2015 Global Thinkers.



## **Prof. Dr. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp**

**Chairman of the Executive Board and Family Board  
of E. Merck KG  
Chairman of Board of Trustees of Merck Foundation**

Dr. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp, born in 1948 in Dorsten, Germany.

He is The Chairman of the Executive Board and Family Board of E. Merck KG and member of the Merck family.

Following his German University entrance qualification (Abitur) he served with the German Air Force, which he left as Lieutenant. At the University of Freiburg/Br. he studied economics and economic history.

After completing his studies he worked at Commerzbank and the Investment Bank Baring Brothers and Hambros in London.

In 1984 he was elected to the Board of Partners of E. Merck KG and has been the Chairman of the Board since 2004.

In January 2014 he was elected as the Chairman of the Executive Board and the Family Board of E. Merck KG.





## H.E. Inonge Mutukwa Wina

Vice-President of The Republic of Zambia

**Education:** Mrs. Wina's first school was Nanjucha Primary School, seven kilometres from her village. She attended a girls' boarding school in Senanga, and later, the Barotse National School (now Kambule Secondary School) in Mongu, Western Province. Mrs. Wina completed her education at Santa Monica High School in Los Angeles, California and later obtained a diploma in social work at Santa Monica City College. She came back to Zambia to pursue a BA Degree in social work at the University of Zambia.

**Social work:** Mrs. Inonge Wina's passion for community work dates back to the early 1970s when she gave free service to women's movements as a volunteer. She has also served on a number of boards of Non-Governmental Organisations and as president of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), where she was instrumental in promoting women's human rights agenda. It is Mrs. Inonge Wina's activism and influence in this position that paved the way for the Zambian Government to establish the Victim Support Unit under the Zambia Police Service.

In 1996, she was elected National Chairperson of the Non-Governmental Organisation Coordinating Council of Zambia (NGOCC). Four years later in 2000, Inonge Wina led the women's movement in the Red Ribbon Campaign in defense of the Zambian Constitution. Mrs. Wina also served as director on a number of boards in the public sector; this included Refuge Services Zambia, Zambia Council of Social Services, University Teaching Hospital, and the University of Zambia Council.

**Politics:** In 2001 Inonge Wina was elected as Member of Parliament of Nalolo Constituency and In 2011 she stood again and was elected MP for Nalolo on the Patriotic Front Party ticket, the current ruling party.

While in Parliament she was elected chairperson of a number of portfolio committees, including the Committee on Human Rights Gender and Governance, and Women Parliamentary Caucus.

In 2011, she was included in President Michael Sata's initial 18-member cabinet as Minister of Gender and in 2014 Minister of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs.

When President Sata died, as chairperson, Mrs. Wina played a major role mediating the leadership wrangles within the party. She held the party together.

**First Female Vice President:** On January 26, 2015, newly elected President Edgar Lungu appointed Mrs. Wina as Vice President of Zambia, the position she is holding to this day. Her leadership so far has given many Zambian women hope.

In 2016, Mrs. Wina was Running Mate to His Excellency the Republican President Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu in the General Elections and became Zambia's first elected Vice President.

Day 1

28th November 2017

09:15-09:25

Keynote Speech - Inauguration Session





**Dr the Hon. Mohammad Anwar Husnood**  
**Minister of Health and Quality of Life**  
**Republic of Mauritius**

Hon. Dr Mohammad Anwar Husnood is the Minister of Health and Quality of Life for the Republic of Mauritius.

Hon. Dr. Mohammad Anwar Husnood has an MBChB from the University of Aberdeen (UK), a Diploma in Child health (UK) and an MRCP (UK). He has been qualified as a Paediatrician since 1981 and has worked in the UK, Mauritius and in Saudi Arabia.

Hon. Dr. Mohammad Anwar became the Minister of Health and Quality of Life in January 2017. He has been a member of parliament since December 2014.

Day 1	28th November 2017	09:05- 09:15	Keynote Speech - Inauguration Session
Day 1	28th November 2017	1:30 -12:30	Ministerial Panel 2





## **Mr. Getachew Engida**

**Deputy Director – General  
UNESCO**

Mr. Getachew Engida holds a BA Econ (Honours) Upper Second Class in Economics / Agricultural Economics at the University of Manchester, England (July 1981), and his MBA with commendations in International Banking & Finance at the City University Business School, London (April 1993). He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales. Getachew was appointed as Deputy Director-General of UNESCO in April 2010. In this capacity, he supports the Director General in crafting strategic directions, policy development and program execution.

Before his appointment as DDG, Getachew served as the Comptroller of UNESCO for almost six years, responsible for the financial management of some \$1 billion dollars budget over a biennium including treasury management, financial information systems, members' contributions, etc.

Responsible for making sure that appropriate delegation of authority and accountability mechanisms exist throughout a decentralized organizational set up and implement strategic input to decision making as a Senior member of the Direction General. Interface with the External Auditor and a resource person for the Finance & Administration Commission of the Executive Board.



## **Dr. Rasha Kelej**

**CEO of Merck Foundation,  
Chairperson of UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit**

Chief Executive Officer of Merck Foundation and Chairperson of UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit, Rasha Kelej was born in February 1972 and has 22 years of experience in International Pharmaceutical Industry. She joined Merck in 1996 and served as a Chief Social Officer and Head of the Global Social Responsibility & Market Development, SVP of Merck Healthcare from 2013 until June 2017. Mrs. Kelej holds a degree in Pharmacy of Alexandria University and an MBA at Robert Gordon University, Scotland on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) integration with Business Strategy.

In this position, she defined a coherent and structured CSR agenda and led many impactful corporate responsibility initiatives that focused on building healthcare capacity and improving access to health in Africa and developing countries such as Merck Capacity Advancement program, Merck Cancer Access Program and Merck More Than A Mother.

Dr. Kelej has successfully established strong partnerships with Governments, ministries of health and genders, academia and global non-for profits organizations which contributed significantly to the success of Merck Foundation's programs.

Currently she is also a member of Human Resources Science and Technology Cluster of African Union (ECOSOCC).

Dr. Kelej has received many awards for women leadership excellence and for her contribution towards women empowerment from the International Federation of Business and Professional Women - BPW-Int.

These awards to recognize her contribution through Merck Foundation towards empowering African women in the field of Research and Healthcare and empowering underprivileged women who lived with infertility in Africa and developing countries.

Day 1	28th November 2017	08:30 – 08:40	Welcome and Introduction
Day 1	28th November 2017	10:20 -10:30	Inauguration Session
Day 1	28th November 2017	10:30 -13:30	Ministerial Panels





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**MARS**  
**Empowering Researchers**  
From Africa For Africa

**UNESCO**  
**MERCK**  
**AFRICA**  
**RESEARCH**  
**SUMMIT**

# Day 1

# UNESCO-MARS 2017

## AGENDA | DAY 1

Day 1 - 28th November 2017

8:30 10:20		INAUGURATION SESSION		Ebony Conference Room	
8:30 8:40		Welcome note and Launch of Merck Foundation		Dr.Rasha Kelej CEO of Merck Foundation Chairperson of UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit	
08:40 08:55		Keynote Speech - Merck vision to build research capacity in Africa		Prof. Dr. Frank Stangenberg- Haverkamp Chairman of the Executive Board and Family Board, E.Merck KG Chairman of Board of Trustees of Merck Foundation	
08:55 09:05		Implementation plan to support 2030 Agenda through STEM		Mr. Getachew Engida Deputy Director General, UNESCO	
09:05 09:15		Prospective of capacity building in life and health sciences: Experiences from Africa		Hon. Dr. Mohammad Anwar Husnoo Minister of Health and Quality of Life, Republic of Mauritius	
09:15 09:25		Youth and Gender Empowerment in STEM		H. E. Inonge M. Wina Vice-President of the Republic of Zambia	
09:25 09:40		Keynote Speech		H.E. Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, G.C.S.K., C.S.K., PhD, DSc President of the Republic of Mauritius	
09:40 10:00		Group Picture			
10:00 10:20		Coffee break			
10:20 10:30		The role of partnership between Merck Foundation & UNESCO to empower Women and Youth in STEM		Dr. Rasha Kelej CEO of Merck Foundation & Chairperson of UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit Dr. Ahmed Fahmi Program Specialist, Division of Science Policy and Capacity Building- UNESCO	
10:30 13:30		Ministerial High-level Panel		Ebony Conference Room	
10:30 11:30		Ministerial Panel 1  Empowering Women & Youth in STEM -with special focus on Scientific Research - Challenges & Solutions to be considered in the national strategy in developing countries			
		Dr. Rasha Kelej CEO of Merck Foundation & Chairperson of UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit Dr. Ahmed Fahmi Program Specialist, Division of Science Policy and Capacity Building - UNESCO Hon. Sarah Opendi Minister of State of Health, Republic of Uganda Hon. Leela Devi Dookun- Luchoomun Minister of Education and Human Resources ,Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, Republic of Mauritius Hon. Phoebe Luo Minister of Science and Higher Education, Republic of Zambia Hon. Prof. Jonathan Moyo Minister of Science and Higher Education, Republic of Zimbabwe Hon. André Mama Fouda Minister of Health, Republic of Cameroon Hon. Janvière Ndirahisa Minister of Science and Higher Education, Republic of Burundi Hon Dr George Kronnisanyon Werner Minister of Science and Higher Education, Republic of Liberia Hon. Soumaya Mohammed Ahmed Abou-Kashawa Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Republic of Sudan Hon Deng Deng Hoc Yai Minister of Education of the Republic of South Sudan Hon. REALY Onitiana Voahariniaina Minister of Population, Social Protection and the Promotion of Women, Republic of Madagascar Mr. Stefan Maron Managing Director - Merck South East Africa			

## UNESCO-MARS 2017

11:30  
12:30

### Ministerial Panel 2

Empowering Women & Youth in STEM -with special focus on Scientific Research - Challenges & Solutions to be considered in the national strategy in developing countries

**Hon. Dr Anwar Husnoo**  
Minister of Health, Republic of Mauritius  
**Hon. Zuliatu Cooper**  
Minister of Health & Sanitation, Sierra Leone  
**Hon. Susan Shabangu**  
Minister In the Presidency Responsible for Women, Republic of South Africa  
**Hon. Julia Duncan Cassell**  
Minister of Gender and Social Development, Republic of Liberia  
**Hon. Chitalu Chilufya**  
Minister of Health, Republic of Zambia  
**Hon. Madeline Tchuente**  
Minister of Science and Higher Education, Republic of Cameroon  
**Hon. Malam Adamu Adamu**  
Minister of Science and Higher Education, Federal Republic of Nigeria  
**Hon. Awut Deng Acuil**  
Minister of Gender Child and Social Welfare, Republic of South Sudan  
**Hon. Fidelis Macdonald Molao**  
Assistant Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology, Republic of Botswana  
**Hon. Heva Muakasa**  
Minister of Scientific Research and Technology, Democratic Republic of Congo

12:30 Signing of Communique of promoting interdisciplinary Scientific Research, improving North-South  
13:30 and South-South collaborations and empowering women and youth in scientific research

13:30  
14:30

### LUNCH BREAK

14:30  
16:30

**Session 1: Identifying scientific research priority for evolving health needs. The case of cancer burden in Africa**

**Ebony Conference Room**

14:30  
14:45

History and Overview of Cancer Research and Registry in Africa

**Prof. Cristina Stefan**

President of the African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer

14:45  
15:00

Oncology, Building capacity and South-South Cooperation: a continuous challenge

**Prof. Dr. Kailash S. Sharma**

Director of Tata Memorial Hospital India

15:00  
15:15

Cancer Education in Africa: What is Desirable? What is Deliverable?

**Prof. Nicholas Anthony Othieno-Abinya**

Professor of Medicine, HOD of Haematology/Oncology, University of Nairobi

15:15  
15:30

### Coffee break

15:30  
15:45

Improving access to cancer care in Africa: Challenges and Solutions

**Prof. Dileep Mhaisekar**

Vice-Chancellor - Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS), India

15:45  
16:00

Scientific cooperation in Oncological Sciences: Evidences from Latin America

**Dr. Eduardo Cazap**

President of the Latin American & Caribbean Society of Medical Oncology (SLACOM)

16:00  
16:15

How to tackle Cancer's burden through international cooperation

**Dr. Dinesh Pendharkar**

Chair of the International Affairs Committee (American Society of Clinical Oncology)

16:15  
16:30

Empowering Women and Youth in Research in Egypt and Africa

**Prof. Hany El Shemy**

Dean of Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University

19:00  
22:00

**Merck Africa Research Summit - MARS Awards Ceremony**  
announced by CEO of Merck Foundation and UNESCO - delivered by Prof. Dr. Frank Stangenberg- Haverkamp, Chairman of the Executive Board and Family Board, E. Merck KG and Chairman of Board of Trustees of Merck Foundation and H.E. Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim - President, Republic of Mauritius

**The State House,  
Le Reduit**



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## UNESCO-MERCK Africa Research Summit- MARS 2017

### Accelerating Access & Sustaining Innovation

From Africa For Africa



### Ministerial High-level Panels:

Empowering Women & Youth in STEM -with special focus on Scientific Research - Challenges & Solutions to be considered in the national strategy in developing countries



**Hon. Sarah Opendi**  
**Minister of State of Health, Uganda**

Hon. Sarah Opendi is the Minister of State for Health – Her professional career began at Uganda Consolidated Properties Limited, a subsidiary of the government-owned Uganda Development Corporation (UDC).

She went on to serve as the Deputy Speaker of Tororo District Council from 1998 until 2000. She also served in the office of the Inspector General of Government, and was promoted to Principal Inspectorate Officer in 2004.

She has held roles in many other organizations, such as the DANIDA Anti-Corruption Project, where she was Deputy Project Coordinator; the Acholi Bursary Program, a project of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, where she was the accountant; and the Windle Trust Uganda, where she was the finance manager.

In 2011, she successfully contested the parliamentary seat of Women's Representative for Tororo District, and was appointed to her current position in 2012.

She has a distinguished and long experience in politics, management and corporate affairs in the public and private sector.

Hon. Sarah Opendi holds Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Master's Degree in Business administration





**Hon. Leela Devi  
Dookun-Luchoomun**  
**Minister of Education and Human Resources,  
Tertiary Education and Scientific Research  
Republic of Mauritius**

The Hon. Mrs Leela Devi Dookun– Luchoomum has been the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research for the Republic of Mauritius since January 2017.

Hon. Mrs Leela Devi Dookun–Luchoomun has a BSc Hons Zoology (University of Delhi) and a PGDip within Science Education (University of Brighton). She is a Part time lecturer at the Mauritius Institute of Education.

Despite having a rich political career, Hon. Mrs Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomum is a renowned educator and a highly respected biology Teacher in Mauritius .

She is Vice President of the MSM party and President of the women’s wing MSM party.

She is married and is the mother of two children.

Day 1

28th November 2017

10:30 -11:30

Ministerial Panel 1





**Hon. Phoebe Luo**  
**Minister of Higher Education**  
**Republic of Zambia**

Hon. Phoebe Luo is the current Minister of Higher Education for the Republic of Zambia. She has previously served as Health Minister.

Hon. Phoebe Luo holds a MSc in microbiology from Moscow State University (Russia) and a MSc and PhD in immunology from Brunei University. She served as head of Pathology and Microbiology at the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka (Zambia) and has also worked at Saint Mary's Hospital in London (UK).

Hon. Phoebe Luo has carried out extensive research on HIV and has created a network of thirty national AIDS advocacy groups as well as founding the non profit organization Tasintha. She also established the Prevention of Mother to Child transmission of HIV/AIDS program.

Day 1

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10:30 -11:30

Ministerial Panel 1





**Hon. Dr. George Kronnisanyon Werner**  
**Minister of Science and Higher Education,**  
**Republic of Liberia**

Hon. Dr. George Kronnisanyon Werner currently serves as the Minister of Education and Chair of the Inter- Ministerial Scholarship Committee of the Government of Liberia. Prior to his ascendancy as Minister of Education, he held the position of Director General of the Liberian Civil Service Agency where he led a massive clean-up of the Government of Liberia's payroll system of "ghost names" and rationalizing pay structures and functions. Before joining the Government of Liberia in 2011, he worked as a Catholic missionary educator in West Africa and the Republic of South Africa.

In the USA, he worked in six states on juvenile delinquency, sexual abuse treatment and youth welfare policy issues.

At Pennsylvania Clinical Schools for Resources and Human Development, Inc, and Wordsworth as a Clinical therapist /Coordinator.

He earned a BA degree in General Education from the Catholic University of East Africa and Master of Social Work and Practice from the University of Pennsylvania.

He is charged with reforming the Liberian broken education sector after a fourteen year of civil war.

Day 1

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10:30 -11:30

Ministerial Panel 1





**Hon. Deng Deng Hoc Yai**  
**Minister of General Education**  
**and Instruction Republic of South Sudan**

Hon. Deng Deng Hoc Yai received an international education; he obtained his bachelor in English Language and Literature at Cairo University and a Master's degree at University of Bedfordshire. He undertook other classes and diploma at City and Guilds Institute, London, British Broadcasting Corporation and Kenya Institute of Government.

Prior to becoming Minister of General Education and Instruction, he worked as National Policy Development Advisor at British Refugee Council; Policy Advisor at Association of Teachers and Lecturers; Director General of Special Programmes in the Office of the President of the Government of Southern Sudan; South Sudan-Anticorruption Commission. Furthermore, he has also served as Under-Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and Minister of Environment.

Day 1

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Ministerial Panel 1





## **Hon.RĚALY Onitiana Voahariniaina**

**Minister of Population, Social Protection  
and Promotion of Women,  
Republic of Madagascar**

Madame RĚALY Onitiana Voahariniaina MINISTRE DE LA POPULATION, DE LA PROTECTION SOCIALE ET DE LA PROMOTION DE LA FEMME 41 ans Directrice Générale, Fondatrice et Associée de TV PLUS MADAGASCAR ACTIVITES PROFESSIONNELLES Octobre 2012 – Janvier 2015 : Directrice Générale de TV PLUS & RADIO PLUS Direction et management de la station (105 salariés) Définition et pilotage de la stratégie d'expansion de TV PLUS MADAGASCAR sur l'ensemble du territoire (Antananarivo, Mananjary, Toliary, Antsirabe,...) et sur Internet (9 500 abonnés, 4,2 million de vue depuis 2012) Création de RADIO PLUS Août 2002 – Janvier 2015 : Animatrice de « L'Invité du Zoma », émission de débat politique Conception, préparation et présentation de cette émission-phare de TV PLUS MADAGASCAR, référence en matière politique Interview de tous les acteurs du monde politique, économique, social et culturel Août 2002 – Janvier 2015 : Directrice de la Publication et Rédactrice en Chef de TV PLUS & RADIO PLUS Définition de la ligne rédactionnelle de la station Direction et supervision des Journaux télévisés Conception d'émissions et de concepts novateurs, dont les télé-réalité Sobika (2010, 2011) ; KopiKolé (2013) Création d'événementiels : Fiest'Ampefy (2005, 2006, 2007) ; Fiesta Boina à Mahajanga (2006) TV PLUS MADAGASCAR est la chaîne numro Un depuis 2008 jusqu'à aujourd'hui. 2003-2009 : Consultante en communication de la Fondation Friedrich Ebert DIPLOMES 2011 : Diplôme de fin de cycle en Etudes Diplomatique et Stratégique-Centre d'études diplomatique et stratégique. 1999 : Maîtrise Spécialisée en Journalisme-Faculté des lettres et Sciences Humaines-Université d'Antananarivo.

1997 : Maîtrise en Droit Privé-Faculté de Droit, d'Economie et de Sociologie-Université d'Antananarivo 1993 : Baccalauréat A2-Lycée Faravohitra FORMATIONS 2006 : Formation en Journalisme aux Nations-Unies dans le cadre du Programme « Reham al-Farra Memorial Journalist's Fellowship Program » à New-York-Etats-Unis 2006 : Formation en Relations Internationales-Columbia University à New-York-Etats-Unis. Janvier 2006 : Formation en journalisme à l'Union Européenne à Bruxelles-Belgique 2000-2004 : Formation sur les OMD-PNUD Madagascar ACTIVITES ASSOCIATIVES Leader du Collectif des Femmes, Responsables : actions humanitaires en faveur des quartiers défavorisés : destructions régulières de dons... Membre de l'Association des Etudiants en Journalisme de l'université d'Antananarivo AUTRES Pays visités dans le cadre professionnel ou privé : Etats-Unis, France, la Réunion, Belgique, Chine, Inde, Thaïlande, Mozambique, Afrique du Sud, Ethiopie, Cameroun Langues : Malagasy, Français, Anglais Loisirs : Tennis, Stylisme, Musique

Day 1

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10:30 -11:30

Ministerial Panel 1





## **Mr. Stefan Maron**

**Managing Director of Merck (Pty)  
Ltd and General Manager of  
Merck South East Africa**

Stefan Maron joined Merck in 2001 and fulfilled various responsibilities over the years. He is currently the Managing Director of Merck (Pty) Ltd and General Manager of Merck South East Africa.

He has held various positions such as Head of CEO Office Merck KGaA, Director of Environmental and Governmental Affairs, Director of Information Management.

Previous employments include consulting in the financial industry at Arthur Anderson. Stefan Maron has a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering and Business Administration: Technical from the University of Berlin and a Masters degree at École Supérieure de Commerce de Toulouse/France

Day 1

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10:30 - 11:30

Ministerial Panel 1





**Hon. Zuliatu .M. Cooper**  
**Minister of Health & Sanitation**  
**Sierra Leone**

Hon. Zuliatu M. Cooper is the Minister of Health and Sanitation of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in Sierra Leone. In addition she was the Regional Coordinator for the western area ebola response Center since 2014 to 2015. She was the one that set up the District ebola response centers (DERC) all across the country.

She was in the Medical field for over 30 years and was awarded a silver medal from the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone Dr Ernest Bai Koroma for the fight against Ebola. And as a Minister of Health and Sanitation she is in charge of sanitation and head of public health in the country. She was recognized by the World Health Organization in the country for the good work in the fight against Ebola and the Social secretary of Women's Congress under the ruling party.

Day 1

28th November 2017

11:30 - 12:30

Ministerial Panel 2





## **Hon. Susan Shabangu**

**Minister in the Presidency responsible  
for Women, Republic of South Africa**

In May 2014, Ms Susan Shabangu was appointed as Minister in the Presidency responsible for Women. Prior to which she was the Minister of Mineral Resources of the Republic of South Africa since from 11 May 2009 till 24 May 2014. She has been a member of the African National Congress (ANC) National Working Committee since December 2007 and a member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC.

She was one of the women who led the revival of the Federation of South African (FEDSAW) during the time of high repression in the late 1978, leading up to the formation of the Federation of Transvaal Women (FEDTRAW), Natal Women's Organization (NOW), Port Elizabeth Women's Organisation (PEWO) and UWCO. She became the assistant secretary of the Federation of Transvaal Women. In 1981 she was an active member of the Anti-Republic Campaign Committee and she was involved in the formation of the Release Mandela Campaign Committee (RMC) in 1982.

Ms Shabangu was an Organiser and Administrator for the Amalgamated Black Worker's Project from 1984 to 1985; a representative of the Transport and General Worker's Union at the Industrial Council; and a National Women's Co-ordinator for the Transport and General Workers Union (T&G). She was also a member of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) National Women's Sub-Committee working with women's issues and representing the T&G on National level. She was involved in the voter education programme with COSATU National Election Task Team aimed at workers during the election campaign. She served in the ANC National Election Steering committee and was elected at a COSATU Special Congress as a regional candidate to the National Assembly in 1994. Ms Shabangu was an Advisor to the September Commission assigned to look at the future of the unions during transitional stage and later she became a member of Parliament. She has actively participated in committees such as Labour, Transport and Trade and Industry during that period. Ms Shabangu also served in the ANC East Rand PCO Management Committee from 1995 to 1996. She has served as a Deputy Minister for Minerals and Energy from April 1996 to April 2004 and as a Deputy Minister for Safety and Security from April 2004 to May 2009 in the Republic of South Africa; before being appointed the Minister of Mineral Resource. She has also served as a Vice-Chairperson of the National Labour and Economic Development Institute (NALE-DI) and as a National Treasurer of the South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO).

Day 1

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11:30 - 12:30

Ministerial Panel 2





## **Hon. Julia Duncan-Cassell**

**Minister of Gender and Social Development,  
Republic of Liberia**

Hon. Julia Duncan-Cassell has been passionate about the promotion of gender equality and protection of women's rights since adolescence. She is a born motivator in bringing about change. Change, which brings people together, encourages good governance and advocates for a just and peaceful society that will inspire social and economic progress. Minister Cassell is a great source of strength and leadership to local communities across Liberia and in the diaspora. Her analytical, intuitive, results-driven approach, complimented with 20 plus years of progressive management makes her an asset to any project that she is a part of. Sworn in as Liberia's Minister of Gender and Development since early 2012, she played a critical role in helping shape, coordinate and implement the Government of Liberia's National Gender Policy, through the enabling of Gender Mainstreaming as a goal of achieving gender parity and equality.

In 2014 Minister Cassell assumed further responsibility when the Ministry changed to Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

Prior to her appointment as Minister of Gender and Development, Julia Duncan-Cassell served as Superintendent for six consecutive years to one of Liberia's most strategic regions, Grand Bassa County. During this time she was elected as Chair of the Superintendent Council by her peers, and voted Superintended of the year by several news organizations for three consecutive years. With a strong background in banking and finance, as Superintendent she oversaw and sought after vital investments for the County's infrastructure such as roads, healthcare, welfare, education and communications.

Superintendent Cassell helped to implement the County Development Agenda, a five-year strategy plan on decentralization of development and government, as well as established the Grand Bassa Community College and Education Endowment Fund. She organized and supported young girls and women's groups, while also playing a vital role on the national level in promoting women. Minister Cassell travels frequently, winning respect as a campaigner for women's right, gender and climate change, democracy and civil society.

She studied business with an emphasis in banking and finance from A&M University in Texas and University of Phoenix in California. In the United States she spent ten years excelling in the private banking and finance sector; at the same time remaining actively involved in Liberian organizations and communities throughout the country before returning home in 2006, with great determination to help rebuild her country.

Day 1

28th November 2017

11:30 - 12:30

Ministerial Panel 2





**Hon. Dr Chitalu Chilufya**  
**Minister of Health, Republic of Zambia**

He is referred to as a consummate Professional by his friends and associates.

Dr Chilufya was born on the 15th of July in 1972.

Upon completion of his grade 12, Dr Chilufya went on to pursue Medicine at the University of Zambia.

His qualifications include: BschB, MBA, MBchB, MPH

Raised from an ordinary background in Lusakas Kaunda Square, Dr Chilufya worked hard and proved that excellence has no limitation when one has a clear vision and determination for one's purpose in life.

A God fearing man and former altar boy with grounding in Catholicism, he was raised with the required moral compass which explains his committed service to humanity today. His loyalty and diligence is one that sets him apart from the rest.

He is a qualified Medical doctor . A product of public health education and a graduate of the University of Zambia.

Dr Chilufya is a family man. He is married to a fellow medical doctor, Mrs Mutinta Mudenda Chilufya and they have two children. He was once an accomplished chess player who competed with and beat some of the best chess players in the country such as Amon Simutowe. He is decorated at the game.

The fact that his Father was a Journalist and a broadcaster could have a lot to do with Dr Chilufya's great command of the English Language. He also happens to be very Fluent in French . He named his lodge in Mansa " Henry courtyard " in honour of his Father Mr Henry Chilufya .

After doing his Job very well in his position as deputy Minister of health. The Republican President of Zambia Mr Edgar Lungu then appointed him as full cabinet minister in the same ministry.

Dr Chilufya is indeed a Gem. A bright shining star for both the Patriotic Front and the nation at Large. Indeed he is a role model that many young People in the nation must look up to and emulate .

Day 28

1th November 12:30

11:30

2017

Ministerial Panel 2





**Hon. Madeleine Tchunte**  
**Minister of Scientific Research and  
Innovation Republic of Cameroon**

Hon. Tchunte holds a baccalaureate in science and a diploma in Pharmacy from the University of Strasbourg, France. She is from the department of Koung-ghi, in the commune of Bayangam.

She is President of the section RDPC of Mifi, a department of West Province in Cameroon. She serves as Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation in the Republic of Cameroon.

Day 28

1th November 12:30

11:30

2017

Ministerial Panel 2





**Hon. Mallam Adamu Adamu**  
**Minister of Education, Republic of Nigeria**

Hon. Adamu Adamu attended the Government Secondary School Azare and he obtained his B.Sc Degree in Accounting from Ahmadu Bello University. Hon. Adamu Adamu also holds a Masters Degree in Journalism from Columbia University. He started his working career as an accountant and then he joined the New Nigerian Newspapers as a Special Correspondent and Member of the Editorial Board. He rose to become the Deputy Editor of the Daily Newspaper.

Prior to his appointment as Minister of Education, he was Secretary of Arewa Consultative Forum, ACF; Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the defunct Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), and Member/Secretary, Strategy Committee of the APC Presidential Transition Committee. Hon. Adamu Adamu is fluent in Arabic, Persian and French.

Day 28

1th November 12:30

11:30

2017

Ministerial Panel 2





**Hon. Awut Deng Acuil**  
**Minister of Gender Child and Social Welfare,**  
**Republic of South Sudan**

Hon. Awut Deng Acuil is the Minister for Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare since August 2013, she is also a member of the South Sudan Transitional National Legislative Assembly representing Tonj East Constituency.

She served as Presidential Advisor on Gender and Human Rights from 2005 to 2008 and as Minister for Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Human Resource Development from 2008 to 2011.

She also serves as a member of the Political Bureau of the National Liberation Council of the SPLM and is the Chairperson and a prominent member of Sudan Women Association Network (SWAN).

Ms. Awut is someone who has beaten personal odds that are difficult to imagine. Like many South Sudanese women, she was married in her teens, lived in refuge in foreign countries with her children, and had-in-hand with her spouse, fought in the liberation war in 1980's and 1990's. She educated herself through sheer determination and wit, and above all, most tragically was widowed at a young age due to the Liberation struggle.

Working as an agent for peace, specially her focus has been on people-to people initiative in Bahr El Ghazal and Upper Nile, which led to the end of Nuer-Dinka conflicts, some of South Sudan's most gruesome episodes of ethnic violence in the 1990's. For her demonstrated leadership, she was awarded a Peace Award.

In her current portfolio, she aspires to see her children in a child-friendly environment, as such she introduced the Child Mobilization Initiative, to ensure that living children and working on the streets are removed from the streets, reunified with their families and put back in schools. She also strives to ensure the rights of people with special needs through the Disability and Inclusivity Policy.

Day 28

1th November 12:30

11:30

2017

Ministerial Panel 2





**Hon. Fidelis Macdonald Molao**  
**Assistant Minister of Tertiary Education,  
Research, Science and Technology,  
Republic of Botswana**

Honorable Assistant Minister Fidelis Mmili Macdonald Molao holds a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities - Majoring in English Grammar and Literature in English and History of International Relations. He also completed Post Graduate Diploma in Education – Majoring in Educational Psychology and Teaching methods which he completed in 2000 and 2001 respectively both from University of Botswana. He also completed various short courses in Security Sector Governance, Post Graduate Diploma in Public Relations, Civil and Military Relations and Parliamentary oversight at various institutions. Currently pursuing a Masters degree in Research and Public Policy with the University of Botswana.

Honorable Assistant Minister Fidelis Mmili Molao, started his work career as a Teacher of English at Moeti CJSS in 2001 and later went to Moeding College as history teacher. In the same year he left teaching to join METSEF as Manager Trainee and within a year he was promoted to become an Assistant Manager. In 2003 he was promoted on transfer to become Branch Manager at a new branch in Tonota. He then left Metsef at the end of 2003 to join Botswana Democratic Party as Deputy Executive Secretary where he was responsible for general administration and various structures of BDP.

Honorable Assistant Minister Fidelis Mmili Molao, served in various Party committees as well, some of which were Secretary to the Party Disciplinary Committee, Council of Elders and the Party Electoral Board. At this time he was staked with the coordination of all Party Congresses (National Congress, National Council, National Youth Wing Congress and the National Women's Wing Congress) and planning and implementation of the Party's educational programmes.

In 2008 he joined Botswana National Sports Council (BNSC) as Marketing and Communications Officer where he was responsible for all internal and external communication. In 2009 he joined Botswana National Youth Council as Executive Director a position he held until he left to go to Parliament.

In 2010 he stood for Member of Parliament position and won the election, to represent Tonota North now Shashe West Constituency. He was appointed Assistant Minister of Agriculture in April, 2015 and later transferred to Ministry of Education and Skills Development in October of the same year as Assistant Minister responsible for higher education. In October 2016 Honorable Assistant Minister Fidelis Molao was appointed as Assistant Minister to the newly formed Ministry of Tertiary Education Research Science and Technology a position he is still holding to date.

Day 28

1th November 12:30 -

11:30

2017

Ministerial Panel 2





## **Hon. Heva Muakasa**

**Minister of Scientific Research and  
Technology, Democratic Republic of Congo**

Hon. Heva Muakasa est un homme politique de la République Démocratique du Congo né le 30 avril 1955 à Lukula dans le KONGO CENTRAL en République Démocratique du Congo. Il entame ses études primaires à L'Ecole Primaire de Kangu. Ensuite, il fait ses études secondaires au Collège Notre Dame de Mbansa-Mboma où il obtient son diplôme d'Etat en 1974.

Il est ensuite détenteur d'une Licence en Sciences Economiques Appliquées de l'Université de Mons en Belgique et d'une Maîtrise en Administration et Gestion de l'Université de Louvain, toujours en Belgique en 1981. Carrière: Activités professionnelles HEVA MUKASA commence sa carrière au sein de la Banque du Peuple où il est Gérant des Agences de Nd'jili et Maluku de 1981 à 1983. Il est ensuite Inspecteur de Finances à la Société Nationale d'Assurances (SONAS) de 1983 à 1985. Il est aussi Administrateur Directeur Général de l'Hôtel Mabuilu, de la Société d'Importation et d'Exportation de Kinshasa (IMPEXKIN), des Cultures et Elevages du Mayumbe (CEMA), d'Orbis Assurances, de Pharmimpex, ainsi que de la Société d'Organisation, de Management, d'Investissement et de Participation (SOMIP). Activités politiques Il participe à la Conférence Nationale Souveraine en 1991 dans la délégation des Partis politiques et devient par la suite Conseiller de la République en décembre 1992 et membre du Haut Conseil de la République- Parlement de Transition jusqu'en mai 1997. Il est Président National des Forces Politiques Nouvelles (FPN).

En 2003, il est désigné Député National sur la liste de la Composante Opposition politique puis Ministre de Transports et Communication de janvier 2005 à mars 2007. Il rejoint ensuite les Forces Acquisées au Changement/ Opposition (FAC/Opposition) où il est Co-Modérateur, devient ensuite Membre de la Commission des Stratégies de la Dynamique de l'opposition, puis Membre du Conseil des Sages du Rassemblement des Forces Politiques et Sociales Acquisées au Changement. Il est Ministre de la Recherche Scientifique depuis le 08 mai 2017 à nos jours. Activités associatives Il est Président des Anciens Etudiants de Mons (Belgique) La Montoise en 2003, Président de l'Amicale des Congolais Anciens de Belgique (AMABEL) en 2016, Administrateur de l'Alliance Belgo Congolaise (ABC), Président du Zoo Tennis Club de Kinshasa en 2007 et enfin, Administrateur du Zoo Tennis Club en 2017

Day 1

28th November 2017

11:30 - 12:30

Ministerial Panel 2





## **Dr. Rasha Kelej**

**CEO of Merck Foundation,  
Chairperson of UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit**

Chief Executive Officer of Merck Foundation and Chairperson of UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit, Rasha Kelej was born in February 1972 and has 22 years of experience in International Pharmaceutical Industry. She joined Merck in 1996 and served as a Chief Social Officer and Head of the Global Social Responsibility & Market Development, SVP of Merck Healthcare from 2013 until June 2017. Mrs. Kelej holds a degree in Pharmacy of Alexandria University and an MBA at Robert Gordon University, Scotland on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) integration with Business Strategy.

In this position, she defined a coherent and structured CSR agenda and led many impactful corporate responsibility initiatives that focused on building healthcare capacity and improving access to health in Africa and developing countries such as Merck Capacity Advancement program, Merck Cancer Access Program and Merck More Than A Mother.

Dr. Kelej has successfully established strong partnerships with Governments, ministries of health and genders, academia and global non-for profits organizations which contributed significantly to the success of Merck Foundation's programs.

Currently she is also a member of Human Resources Science and Technology Cluster of African Union (ECOSOCC).

Dr. Kelej has received many awards for women leadership excellence and for her contribution towards women empowerment from the International Federation of Business and Professional Women - BPW-Int.

These awards to recognize her contribution through Merck Foundation towards empowering African women in the field of Research and Healthcare and empowering underprivileged women who lived with infertility in Africa and developing countries.

Day 1	28th November 2017	08:30 – 08:40	Welcome and Introduction
Day 1	28th November 2017	10:20 -10:30	Inauguration Session
Day 1	28th November 2017	10:30 -13:30	Ministerial Panels





## **Dr. Ahmed Fahmi**

**Program Specialist, Division of Science  
Policy and Capacity Building UNESCO, Paris**

After a peripatetic education in Africa, Asia, Italy and the UK, Ahmed Fahmi settled for a PhD on investigating the role of membrane proteins in controlling the electro-chemical behaviour of cardiac cells, which he obtained in 2000 from the University of Cambridge. Thereafter he worked as a post-doctoral fellow at the Imperial College and Kings College of the University of London and the Max Planck Institute in Germany before landing a university post for teaching biochemistry at the University of London. Dr Fahmi joined UNESCO in 2006 working in South Asia and the Asia-Pacific region on managing and coordinating the execution of the organization global programme in Basic and Engineering Sciences and Science Policy. He worked on a variety of projects, notably the development of a field guide manual on repair and retrofitting of historical building for earthquake engineers, e-learning programme in renewable energy, Teachers training program for Sri Lanka, policy formulation on the marine environment of the Maldives, the planning and execution of the reform of the Kingdom of Bhutan's science and higher education system and the establishment of the UNESCO Regional Centre for Biotechnology in India. He was a visiting professor at the United Nations University in Japan in 2012, working on socio-economic theories of development. He was transferred to UNESCO Head Quarters in Paris in 2013 and has been involved in the establishment of UNESCO centres of excellence and in the reform of the biotechnology sector of Ethiopia.

He also leads the Global Observatory of Science Policy Instruments (GOSPIN) working on the review and formulation of STI policies in Africa. He has many peer-reviewed articles in his name.

Day 1	28th November 2017	10:20 -10:30	Inauguration Session
Day 1	28th November 2017	10:30 – 13:30	Ministerial Panels





### Message from Merck Foundation CEO.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the third edition of UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit – MARS 2017, where we are marking the Launch of Merck Foundation, - the first non-profit organization owned by Merck KGaA Germany, which was established in 2017.

In partnership with UNESCO, African Union, the office of the President of Mauritius and the Ministry of Health and University of Cambridge, we have come together to organize and host the 3rd 2017 UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit here in Mauritius. This follows our two successful UNESCO- MARS Summits that were held in Switzerland in 2015 and in Ethiopia last year.

The objective of this year's Summit is to Empower Women and Youth in Research with the focus on **'Cancer Research and Vaccines Development.'** We will also announce the winners of the **Best African Women Researchers** and **Best Young African Researchers Awards** to recognize their successful and outstanding contributions to scientific research.

To give a background on why Merck Foundation supports this initiative, let me mention that Merck is motivated and guided by its values along with its responsibility towards African Societies and the Scientific Community. And therefore, a link was established with UNESCO to implement UNESCO-MARS initiative in 2015 with the aim of empowering researchers from and within Africa.

Current reviews show that a lack of Science, Technology and Innovation capacity has hindered the attainment of several Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While this underlines the critical role of STI (science, technology and innovation) for the accomplishment of the MDGs, it also posits valuable lessons for the post-2015 agenda.

The role of technology and innovation is positive and critical at each stage of development. It is clear on close analysis, that a much greater emphasis has been put on technology and scientific research in implementing the SDGs.

**Goal 3** of the proposed SDGs, for example, aims at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages; this can be achieved through supporting research and development of vaccines and medicines. Hence, there is a dimension of scientific research that is required to implement this goal.



**Goal 5 of Gender Equality**, which states:

"Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" is a crucial step to have a concrete progress for humanity. For this reason, it is crucial to join efforts to guarantee equal access to education, health care, decent work and representation in political and economic decision making. Thus, projects related to the empowerment of Gender in Science and Research (Education and Career) are a key aspect to support all the other SDGs.

Therefore, we believe that empowering women through education is an important factor in promoting the economic well-being of Africans. Many literatures have shown that there are strong links between educating women and girls and positive outcomes for economic empowerment, social mobility and maternal health.

It is also believed that women's unemployment in a nation's workforce is a waste of valuable human capital that has a negative impact on economic prosperity and national development. **"Equality for Women is Progress for All"**, this is a clear message around girls' education and women's empowerment.

**Goal 10 - Reduce Inequalities:**

Since the first edition of the Summit, the expected objectives of this initiative were to support science research translation and bridge the "Know Do" gap in Africa, even with the long-term ambition of using North-South and South-South cooperation to reduce any sort of inequalities that may affect the region.

**Goal 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production;** and **Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals;**

Raising awareness on vaccines and consumption of pharmaceuticals should also contribute in understanding all the problems affecting health systems. Moreover, especially after all the controversies related to anti-vaccines campaigns, it urges to intensify the debate on the subject and raise people's awareness

One of the main objectives of Merck Foundation is to build a strong platform of qualified medical, pediatric and surgical oncologists across the continent through the Merck Oncology Fellowship Program.

"Fifty candidates from Uganda, Zambia, Ethiopia, Namibia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Tanzania, Niger, Chad, Guinea, Gambia and Kenya, either enrolled or will be enrolled in the Merck Oncology Fellowship Program in partnership with African Ministries of Health; the University of Nairobi, Kenya; Tata Memorial Centre, India and Alexandria University, Egypt. We are very proud of our contribution to lead Africa to a better future through changing the landscape of Cancer care on the continent.

The lack of financial means, is not the only challenge in Africa and developing countries, but a scarcity of trained healthcare personnel capable to tackle the prevention, early diagnosis and management of cancer at all levels of the health care systems is even a bigger challenge.

Therefore, there are two key areas which must be addressed. Firstly, the lack of local capacity in the life sciences to perform high-quality research on neglected health needs.



Secondly, the ineffectiveness of current mechanisms for translating research into health solutions, which can be disseminated to those most in need.

As you all know our Summit theme this year is “**Cancer Research and Vaccines Development.**” And now let me share with you a few highlights of this year’s UNESCO-MARS.

Tonight, we are looking forward to recognising **eight** researchers from across Africa who will receive ‘**Best Young Researchers Award**’ and ‘**Best Women Researchers Award.**’

Every year, we announce the ‘**Best African Women Research Awards**’ with the aim of promoting women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics that will see **five** women researchers from across Africa, being recognised for the quality of their research. This award category is in line with the UNESCO-MARS 2017 theme, that supports empowering women in research and building research capacity in Francophone and Anglophone Africa, to ultimately improve women health on the continent.

To this, UNESCO-MARS 2017 brings together African Researchers to discuss the generation, sharing and dissemination of research data and to prepare for the road ahead in developing Africa as an international hub for research excellence and scientific innovation. This includes: researchers from Francophone countries such as Benin, Senegal, Tunisia, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Congo, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Anglophone countries such as Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa, Ghana, The Gambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, Egypt, South Sudan and Ethiopia.

More than 60% of the Young African Researchers attending this year, are women, emphasizing Merck Foundation’s long-term commitment towards empowering women in STEM with special focus on Scientific Research in Cancer and Vaccines Development. Together with the Scientific Committee, we have organised a diverse and rich scientific agenda for the next two days.

The Summit will also allow for networking and career development, where young scientists will be able to discuss the enabling environment for better research among others. As you have seen, we have many African Ministers of Health; Education; Science and Technology and Gender & Social Development who are attending this year’s Summit. They will participate in two Ministerial High-Level Panels on “**Empowering Women & Youth in STEM - with special focus on Scientific Research - Challenges & Solutions to be considered in the national strategy in developing countries**”

During this Summit, we will also remind our online research community blog ([www.merck-foundation.com](http://www.merck-foundation.com)), that will enable YOU, young researchers, to exchange experience and knowledge with your peers and with established researchers in Africa and beyond.

And the Merck Foundation app. which you will find it on your App Store or Google Play Store. We are looking forward to a very fruitful two-day interaction with you all, as we explore and hold discussions on how to Empower Women and Youth in Research, **to** improve healthcare in Africa.

**Dr. Rasha Kelej**

CEO of Merck Foundation,  
Chairperson of UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit





## 3rd UNESCO-MERCK Africa Research Summit

28th and 29th of November

...road to Port-Louis, Republic of Mauritius

### Introduction

The 3rd edition of the UNESCO-MERCK Africa Research Summit (UNESCO-MARS) consolidates the cooperation among the two Organizations for what concerns capacity building in STEM with special focus on the life sciences in the African continent. Indeed, after the previous successful editions, UNESCO and Merck Foundation join hands again to respond to Africa's STISA (Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa) 2024, reinforcing the axiom that only through building local capacities can Africa rise again to becoming an equal partner in advancing STEM research and education. Furthermore, this event will be organized under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Mauritius Ameenah Fakim-Gurib, who is an international recognized scientist in STEM. The main partners of this Summit are the African Union, The World Health Organization, the University of Cambridge UK and the Government of Mauritius.

Recalling UNESCO's priorities: Africa and Gender, and finding a common ground in the framework of the "Merck STEM Program for Women and Youth", this year's edition of the Summit will give a stronger focus in empowering Women and Youth in STEM, building on the successes of the previous edition in which almost 50% of the African researchers who participated were women and youth of under 35 years. Furthermore, responding to the difficulties that are putting strain on the resilience of contemporary societies in Africa, the focus of the event will be on the scientific research and underpinning of cancer research and vaccine development, two of the emerging challenges that are affecting the African continent as a whole and which have not been given their due share of attention. The 3rd edition of the UNESCO-MARS will benefit from the scientific and institutional support of a highly-dynamic



and prestigious community. The Institut Pasteur (France), the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) and the University of Rome Tor Vergata (Italy), the Makerere University (Uganda) and the Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kenya), who will contribute again in laying the foundations for a vibrant project of international cooperation and capacity building in STEM.

## Targets, objectives and expected outcomes

Thanks to the cooperation of UNESCO and Merck Foundation for what concerns Gender and Youth Empowerment in STEM, the long-term scope of this initiative is to give a strong contribution in building capacities in STEM-related fields - in the African continent. Continuing this virtuous cycle of valorizing of local talents, UNESCO and Merck Foundation aim to support Africa in becoming a hub for scientific excellence and technological innovation.

The second edition of the summit in 2016 in Addis Ababa, hosted 15 Ministers and many policy-makers representing African Governments of Education, Science, Health and Gender. Numerous Ambassadors/Permanent Delegates to UNESCO attended the Summit, and a total of 189 African researchers representing 35 countries in Africa with a diverse geographical and linguistic richness. As has already occurred in the previous editions, young investigators will have the opportunity to benefit from Merck Foundation sponsorship and fellowship to finance and support their researches. This occasion will positively impact the evolution of early career researchers, who will have the possibility to promote their works and use the UNESCO-MARS as a platform to establish new - and fruitful - collaborations. Indeed, thanks to the interaction of actors with different backgrounds, it will be possible to create a platform for mutual understanding, cooperation and dialogue. Science and Research development, being a complex system characterized also by social, economic and cultural aspects, requires the interaction of heterogeneous participants. For this reason, participants with different backgrounds - such as Ministers of various fields as Education, Health, Science and Gender - will give birth to interdisciplinary dialogues in order to contribute to scientific development.

## The choice for focusing this year's summit on cancer research and vaccine development?

Cancer is one of the major public health problems affecting Sub-Saharan Africa, especially for its correlations with demographical constraints (i.e. increase in average life expectancy, the upsurge of risk factors, such as social and economic dynamics). Moreover, the 2nd edition of UNESCO-MARS focused on infectious diseases and women's health. In order to give a sort of continuity to the scientific purposes of this event, the choice of focusing on cancer, ncological sciences and vaccine development was a natural consequence.

In fact, some infectious agents, such as HIV and AIDS, hepatitis B-virus and human papillomavirus, can de-escalate into cancers. There is scientific evidence that 1/3 of all cancers in Sub-Saharan Africa can be infection-related<sup>1</sup>. Moreover, in women, cervical and breast cancers are almost equal to the 50% of the cancer emergency of the region; for this reason, focusing this debate even on a Gender-related point of view, is a need more than a choice. This problem, of course, does not exclude men from the debate; in fact, Gender can be an element of vulnerability in the region for both women and men, especially because prostate, breast and cervical cancer are the principal cancers leading the risk of developing and dying from cancer. Furthermore, statistically around 1 woman out of 26 will develop cervical cancer in their lifetime and 1 out of 40 will die because of it. For what concerns the impact that UNESCO-MARS can play in capacity building in Africa, there is also the potential in outlining the current discussions related to the scientific and research tools required for diagnosis and proposing new arguments to implement them. Indeed, the necessity of discussing cancer burdens roots even in the problems caused by late diagnosis; "95% of cancer patients are diagnosed with late stage or end stage disease"<sup>2</sup>. The economic impact of infectious disease epidemics has a global cost of \$60 billion per year. Indeed, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), Zika and Ebola, in different historical moments, have highlighted the vulnerabilities of our societies for what concerns epidemic of infectious diseases. The upsurge of Ebola killed up to 11,000 people in Western Africa, causing an economic loss of 2.2 billion in 2015. These cases show the importance of working on prevention, for example through scientific research related to vaccines development; indeed, many of the epidemics that have affected our societies can be prevented through vaccinations. New vaccines can prevent deadly infectious diseases before they turn into regional or global epidemics. However it is crucial to highlight that the vaccines that humanity needs are not being developed quickly and efficiently in order to provide a prompt reply to an epidemics' burden. These lacks in efficiency is caused partly by the lack of capacities in undertaking scientific research, especially for what concerns the African continent, which is also the most affected region of the world. Another problem is that these weak human resources capacities, networks and institutions in STEM in Africa create a strong dependency on the outside, slowing an internal growth and a local development [CEPI]<sup>3</sup>.

1 Cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa, available at: <http://canceratlas.cancer.org/the-burden/cancer-in-sub-saharan-africa/>

2 Wamburu Kabura, Naftali Busakhala, Kevin Owuor, Josephat Nyagero, "Association between stage at diagnosis and knowledge on cervical cancer among patients in a Kenyan tertiary hospital: a cross-sectional study", The Pan African Medical Journal, 2016, 25(2).

3 CEPI - Mission, available at: <http://cepi.net/mission>

Moreover, as already outlined in the previous UNESCO-MARS' White Paper<sup>4</sup>, the Summit is framed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development tackling several of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>5</sup>. For example;



- Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have already contributed in raising awareness and in tackling infectious, communicative and poverty-related diseases, such as hepatitis, malaria, tuberculosis, polio and HIV/AIDS. One of the important targets of the new SDGs, Goal 3 is to fight also non-communicable diseases such as Cancer. Furthermore, point 3.8 of Goal 3 highlights the importance of improving the quality, efficacy, safety and affordability of essential medicines and vaccines for all.

#### **Goal 5: Gender Equality.**

“Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” is a crucial step in order to have a concrete progress for humanity. For this reason, it is crucial to join efforts in order to guarantee equal access to education, health care, decent work and representation in political and economic decision making. For this reason, projects related to the empowerment of Gender in Science and Research (Education and Career) are a key aspect in order to support all the other SDGs.

- **Goal 8:** Decent Work and Economic Growth; and **Goal 9:** Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure;

Empowering Gender and Youth into Education and Research will strongly contribute in achieving the target of reducing the proportion of Youth out of employment, education or training by 2020; it should create jobs and economic growth, integrating the world of industry with the one of public health (for example through the promotion of R&D for what concerns vaccines and drugs).

### - **Goal 10:** Reduce Inequalities

Since the first edition of the Summit, the expected objectives of this initiative were to support science research translation and bridge the “Know Do” gap in Africa, even with the long-term ambition of using North-South and South-South cooperation in order to reduce any sort of inequalities that may affect the region.

### - **Goal 12:** Responsible Consumption and Production; and **Goal 17:** Partnerships for the Goals;

Raising awareness on vaccines and consumption of pharmaceuticals should also contribute in understanding all the problems affecting health systems. Moreover, especially after all the controversies related to anti-vaccines campaigns, it urges to intensify the debate on the subject and raise people’s awareness. It is also important to discuss, in the framework of a responsible production, innovative ways of bio-designing and producing vaccines and drugs(-related technologies); indeed, there are highly interesting debates on companies producing and testing innovative and environmentally friendly solutions to deliver and test vaccines, for example in the framework of bio-economy strategies. Furthermore, establishing partnerships for goals among all the involved actors in the Summit (international and regional organizations as UNESCO and African Union, industry, civil society, academia, Media), it would be easier to work on technology transfer and to build up consensual strategies.

#### References:

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## **Livre Blanc – UNESCO-MERCK Africa Research Summit**

28th and 29th of November

...en route vers Port-Louis, République de Maurice

### **introduction**

La 3e édition de l'UNESCO-MERCK Africa Research Summit (UNESCO-MARS) envisage de consolider la coopération entre les deux organisations en matière de renforcement de capacités en science, technologie ingénierie et mathématiques (STEM), avec un accent particulier dans les sciences de la vie au niveau du continent africain. Suivant les deux précédentes éditions de l'évènement, l'UNESCO et la Merck Foundation unifient leurs efforts pour répondre aux défis de la science, la technologie et l'innovation pour l'Afrique 2024 (STISA-2024), démontrant que seulement à travers le renforcement des capacités locales en Afrique on peut parvenir à un progrès significatif dans la recherche dans les STEM et dans l'éducation. Cet évènement sera organisé sous le patronage de la Présidente de la République de Maurice, Madame Ameenah Fakim-Gurib, qui est une scientifique de renommée internationale. Les partenaires principaux de l'organisation de ce Sommet sont l'Union Africaine, l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé, l'Université de Cambridge et le Gouvernement de la République de Maurice.

Reconnaissant les priorités de l'UNESCO, Afrique et égalité des genres, et en lien avec le programme de Merck « STEM pour les femmes et les jeunes », cette édition du Sommet soulignera l'importance d'autonomiser les femmes et les jeunes dans STEM, bénéficiant du succès des précédentes éditions de l'évènement. Environ 50 % des chercheurs africains qui ont participé aux précédentes éditions du Sommet étaient des femmes et des chercheurs âgés de moins de 35 ans. .



En outre, répondant aux difficultés créées par la résilience des africains, l'objet scientifique de l'évènement sera l'avancement de la recherche sur le cancer et sur le développement des vaccins, deux problèmes émergents du continent africain. La troisième édition de l'UNESCO-MARS bénéficiera du support d'une communauté scientifique dynamique et prestigieuse ; l'Université de Cambridge (Royaume-Uni), l'Université Makerere (Uganda) et le Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kenya), feront leurs contributions afin de créer un projet vibrant de coopération internationale et de renforcement de capacités dans STEM

### **- Les objectifs et résultats à atteindre**

Grâce à la coopération entre l'UNESCO et la Merck Foundation dans le domaine de l'autonomisation des femmes et des jeunes dans STEM, le but à long terme de cette initiative est de contribuer au renforcement des capacités dans les domaines liés aux STEM sur le continent africain. Continuant ce cycle vertueux de valorisation des talents locaux, l'UNESCO et la Merck Foundation ont la mission de supporter l'Afrique pour devenir un pôle d'excellence scientifique et d'innovation technologique.

La deuxième édition du sommet en 2016 à Addis-Ababa, a bénéficié de la participation de 15 Ministres et décideurs-politiques représentant les gouvernements africains de l'Education, des Science, de la Santé et des Genres. Nombreux Ambassadeurs et délégués permanents de l'UNESCO ont pris part au sommet, ensemble avec 189 chercheurs africains représentant 30 différents pays africains qui ont été sélectionnés suivant des critères prenant en compte les différences linguistiques et géographiques.

Aussi, dans cette édition de l'évènement, les jeunes chercheurs auront la possibilité de se candidater aux bourses d'étude de la Merck Foundation pour financer et supporter leurs recherches. Cette opportunité leur offrira également la possibilité d'utiliser l'UNESCO-MARS comme une plateforme pour établir des nouvelles et fructueuses collaborations scientifiques afin de renforcer leurs recherches. Grâce à la mise en relation des participants avec les acteurs de profils différents, il sera possible de créer une plateforme de coopération et dialogue sur plusieurs sujets différents. Le développement des sciences et de la recherche, étant un système complexe caractérisé aussi par des contraintes sociales, économiques et culturelles, nécessite de l'interaction de participants aux profils polyvalents. Pour ce motif, les participants avec des parcours différents (par exemple, les Ministres de l'Education, de la Santé, des Sciences et des Genres), donneront naissance à des dialogues interdisciplinaires afin de contribuer au développement scientifique.

## **- Le choix de se concentrer sur le cancer et sur le développement des vaccins**

Le cancer est un des problèmes majeurs de la santé publique en Afrique sub-Saharienne, surtout à cause de ses liens aux contraintes démographiques (ex. l'augmentation constante de l'espérance de vie, la hausse des facteurs de risques, comme par exemple les dynamiques économiques et sociales). En outre, la deuxième édition de l'UNESCO-MARS mis l'accent sur les maladies infectieuses et la santé des femmes. Afin de créer un fil rouge entre les plusieurs éditions du sommet, le choix de se concentrer sur le cancer, les sciences oncologiques et le développement des vaccins est une conséquence naturelle. En effet, plusieurs agents, comme la VIH et la SIDA, le virus de l'hépatite B et le virus du papillome humain, peuvent dégénérer en cancer. Il y a une évidence scientifique que 1/3 de tous les cancers en Afrique sub-Saharienne peuvent être causés par des infections<sup>1</sup>. En outre, chez les femmes, le cancer du col de l'utérus et du sein constituent environ 50% de l'émergence de cancer dans la région ; pour ces motifs, le choix de parler des genres est une vraie nécessité et non un simple choix. Ce problème n'exclut pas les hommes du débat ; la vulnérabilité au cancer existe pour les hommes ainsi que pour les femmes, surtout dû au fait que la prostate, le sein et le col de l'utérus sont des organes qui ont plus de risque de développer des cancers et de conduire à la mort. Selon les statistiques, environ une femme sur 26 développera le cancer du col de l'utérus au cours de sa vie ; une femme sur 40 ne survivra pas. Pour ce qui concerne l'impact de l'UNESCO-MARS dans le renforcement des capacités en Afrique, il y a aussi la possibilité de débattre sur les problèmes liés aux diagnostics des différents types de cancer. Dans 95 % des cas des patients atteints de cancer, le diagnostic est posé tardivement, alors que la maladie a déjà progressé ou est au stade terminal<sup>2</sup>. L'impact économique des épidémies de maladies infectieuses a un coût global de 60 milliards de dollars américains chaque année.

Le SRAS, le virus Zika et l'Ebola, à différentes périodes du temps, ont souligné les vulnérabilités de nos sociétés face à elle. L'émergence de l'Ebola a conduit 11,000 personnes en Afrique occidentale à mourir, et a généré une perte économique d'environ 2,2 milliards de dollars américains en 2015. Ces cas montrent l'importance de renforcer la prévention, par exemple à travers le développement de nouveaux vaccins ; plusieurs des épidémies qui ont touché nos sociétés peuvent être

causés par des infections<sup>1</sup>. En outre, chez les femmes, le cancer du col de l'utérus et du sein constituent environ 50% de l'émergence de cancer dans la région ; pour ces motifs, le choix de parler des genres est une vraie nécessité et non un simple choix. Ce problème n'exclut pas les hommes du débat ; la vulnérabilité au cancer existe pour les hommes ainsi que pour les femmes, surtout dû au fait que la prostate, le sein et le col de l'utérus sont des organes qui ont plus de risque de développer des cancers et de conduire à la mort. Selon les statistiques, environ une femme sur 26 développera le cancer du col de l'utérus au cours de sa vie ; une femme sur 40 ne survivra pas. Pour ce qui concerne l'impact de l'UNESCO-MARS dans le renforcement des capacités en Afrique, il y a aussi la possibilité de débattre sur les problèmes liés aux diagnostics des différents types de cancer. Dans 95 % des cas des patients atteints de cancer, le diagnostic est posé tardivement, alors que la maladie a déjà progressé ou est au stade terminal<sup>2</sup>. L'impact économique des épidémies de maladies infectieuses a un coût global de 60 milliards de dollars américains chaque année.

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Une autre difficulté, qui est la fragilité des capacités humaines, d'infrastructure et de réseau dans les STEM en Afrique, crée une forte dépendance de l'étranger et ralentit la croissance interne et le développement local [CEPI]<sup>3</sup>. Rappelant le précédent UNESCO-MARS White Paper<sup>4</sup>, le Sommet est axé suivant les Objectifs de l'Agenda 2030 du développement durable, touchant plusieurs des 17 Objectifs de développement durable (ODD)<sup>5</sup>.

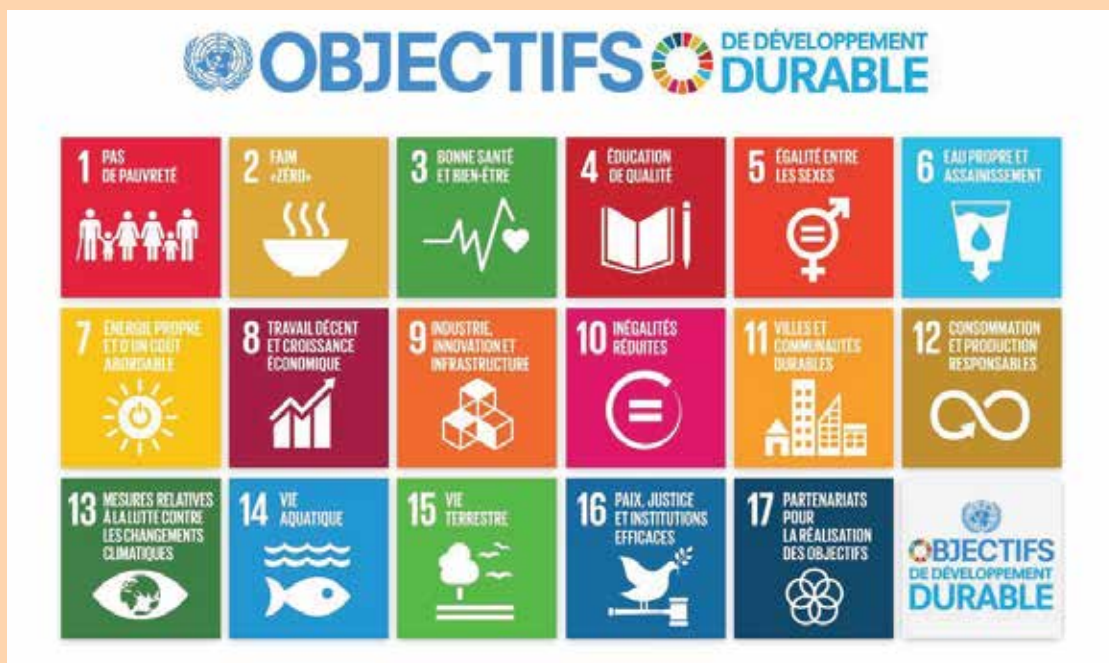
1 *Cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa*, available at: <http://canceratlas.cancer.org/the-burden/cancer-in-sub-saharan-africa/>

2 Wamburu Kabura, Naftali Busakhala, Kevin Owuor, Josephat Nyagero, "Association between stage at diagnosis and knowledge on cervical cancer among patients in a Kenyan tertiary hospital: a cross-sectional study", *The Pan African Medical Journal*, 2016, 25(2).

3 CEPI - Mission, available at: <http://cepi.net/mission>

4 2016 UNESCO-MARS White Paper, available at: [http://www.unesco-mars.com/White\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.unesco-mars.com/White_Paper.pdf)

5 The Sustainable Development Agenda, available at: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>



### - **Objectif 3** : Bonne santé et bien-être.

Les objectifs du millénaire pour le développement ont déjà contribué à sensibiliser et à combattre les maladies infectieuses, communicables et liées à la pauvreté, parmi l'hépatite, la malaria, la tuberculose, la poliomyélite et la VIH/SIDA. Un des buts de l'objectif 3 est de combattre des maladies non-communicables tel que le cancer. Le point 3.8 de l'objectif 3 souligne l'importance d'améliorer la qualité, l'efficacité, la sécurité et la disponibilité de médicaments de base et des vaccins pour tous.

### - **Objectif 4** : Égalité entre les sexes.

« Atteindre l'égalité entre les sexes et autonomiser toutes les femmes et les filles » est un objectif crucial pour le concret progrès de l'humanité. Pour ce motif, il faut unifier les efforts afin de garantir la parité d'accès à l'éducation, aux soins, à un travail digne et à une représentation politique et économique parmi les décideurs. Les projets qui concernent l'autonomisation des femmes dans les sciences et dans la recherche (éducation et carrière) jouent des rôles clés pour atteindre et supporter les autres ODD.

- **Objectif 8** : Accès à des emplois décents et **Objectif 9** : Bâtir une infrastructure résiliente, promouvoir une industrialisation durable qui profite à tous et encourager l'innovation. Autonomiser les femmes et les jeunes dans l'éducation et dans la recherche aura un fort impact pour supporter les jeunes NEET (ni étudiant, ni employé, ni stagiaire) avant le 2020 ; l'inclusion est la possibilité de créer des postes de travail et de

promouvoir la croissance économique, intégrant le monde de l'industrie avec celui de la santé publique (par exemple à travers la R&D dans les domaines des médicaments et des vaccins).

**- Objectif 10 : Réduction des inégalités**

Depuis la première édition du Sommet, les objectifs à attendre supportaient la concrétisation de la recherche scientifique et le fossé entre la théorie et la pratique en Afrique, aussi avec l'ambition sur le long terme de bénéficier de la coopération Nord-Sud et Sud-Sud pour réduire tous types d'inégalités qui peuvent toucher la région.

**- Objectif 12 : Consommation et production responsables et Objectif 17 : Partenariats pour la réalisation des objectifs**

La sensibilisation sur le rôle des vaccins et la consommation des produits médicaux a le rôle aussi de faire comprendre quels sont les problèmes touchant le système de santé. Surtout après les débats et les disputes autour des campagnes anti-vaccins, il faut reprendre la discussion de manière constructive et informer les gens et les familles. Il faut aussi discuter, dans le cadre d'un système de production responsable, des approches innovatrices et durables dans la production des médicaments et des vaccins (et des technologies qui les concernent) ; il y a des débats très intéressants autour des nouvelles pratiques dans l'industrie du pharmaceutique qui aient une approche respectueuse de l'environnement (par exemple suivant des schèmes de bio-économie). En outre, à travers la coopération avec les plusieurs acteurs qui prendront part au sommet (l'UNESCO, l'Union Africaine, l'OMS, l'industrie, la société civile, le monde académique, les médias), il sera possible de faciliter le transfert de technologie et de parvenir à des choix plus consensuelles et participatives.

**Références :**

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- UN High-level Panel on the Global Response to Health Crises, disponible en ligne: [http://www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/HLP/2016-02-05\\_Final\\_Report\\_Global\\_Response\\_to\\_Health\\_Crises.pdf](http://www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/HLP/2016-02-05_Final_Report_Global_Response_to_Health_Crises.pdf)
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## Life sciences and industry

Under the post global financial breakdown and its tight fiscal measure adopted around the world, a number of countries including high-income to middle income countries, face substantial challenge, this includes Life Science (or biotechnology) and Health Care Strategy. The Life Science Sector is incredibly important and economically dominant within large portion of the world economies.

Biotechnology is considered to be particularly important for middle to low-income countries that are stuck in a poverty circle characterized by low productivity, overburdened health systems and high-cost unsustainable energy supplies. Developing countries may have the most to gain from biotechnology and its applications, but also the most to lose. Marginalization of countries with low technological capabilities is a significant risk, thereby potentially deepening existing inequalities. Support is needed to develop their human resources, regulatory capacity, research funding and governance institutions to enable their participation in biotechnology. While significant strides have been made in biotechnology development beyond those anticipated in 1992, developing countries have increasingly remained behind. In areas such as human enhancement, converging technologies could also create divides between individuals who have the resources to modify themselves and their children to become more mentally and physically enhanced, leaving people from poorer backgrounds unable to compete.

Biotechnology is also critically important for the job landscape. The UNESCO Science Report 2015 and the OECD report, "the Bio-economy 2030" estimated that the biotechnology industry generates over 90 billion USD of annual revenue, globally. In addition, the EU bio-economy provides more than 18 million jobs. Globally, the bio-based economy is projected to grow by at least 50% by 2030. Middle-income and low-income countries could also take advantage of the bio-economy, provided that adequate regulatory and quality measures are in place, public innovation funds are made available, and incentives for domestic and foreign direct investment are introduced.

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THE BIOTECHNOLOGY PROMISE: CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE BIOECONOMY, UNCTAD, 2004

Ashley Coates; "A third thumb? Our changing attitudes to human enhancement;" 2 August 2017; Independent. [http://www.independent.co.uk/news/long\\_reads/sixth-senes-our-changing-attitudes-to-human-enhancement-a7869406.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/sixth-senes-our-changing-attitudes-to-human-enhancement-a7869406.html)

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Bio (2017) The biobased economy: measuring growth and impacts. Biotechnology Innovation Organization. [https://www.bio.org/sites/default/files/Biobased\\_Economy\\_Measuring\\_Impact.pdf](https://www.bio.org/sites/default/files/Biobased_Economy_Measuring_Impact.pdf).

Kenneth Timmis, Victor de Lorenzo, Willy Verstraete, Juan Luis Ramos, Antoine Danchin, Harald Brüssow, Brajesh K. Singh and James Kenneth Timmis; The contribution of microbial biotechnology to economic growth and employment creation; 4 September 2017. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1751-7915.12845/full>

The UNESCO reports that new life sciences industries need to be established through public private partnerships. G governments also need to sustain and increase funding for basic science, which will match international competition. In terms of finances, it is vital to ensure that the tax environment supports growth especially of Life Science Clusters. Attracting investment is also seen of high importance.

Entrepreneurship is also recognized as extremely important. Apprenticeship schemes, which focus on this area, are encouraged. Further, a migration system is addressed in which it would be possible for rapid recruitment and retention of highly skilled researchers. Further strengthening STEM education is also touched upon. It is noticed that in order to grow the biotechnology industry, there needs to be an increase in students studying inter-disciplinary sciences at higher education levels.

The 3rd edition of UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit in Mauritius will bring a collection of African Ministers of Science and Technology, Education and Health. The idea is that having three line ministries represented together can lend strong support to what UNESCO and the African Union is trying to achieve in strengthening interdisciplinary scientific research in Africa, which is becoming increasingly relevant in the way which middle and low income countries are using to address their national development agenda's and for UNESCO, in addressing the SDGs and STISA 2024.

We very much hope that the outcome of the summit in Mauritius will be an action point in responding to these frameworks, and more concretely in creating a network of African scientists who can work together in given fields of research.

In light of this, we would like to draft a one page document where we present ideas or action points on how to achieve this inter-disciplinary in research and to get this endorsed by all the ministers present at the Summit.

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**Scientific session 1**

**Identifying scientific research priority for evolving  
health needs.**

**The case of cancer burden in Africa**



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A valuable opportunity for all those engaged and interested in health and life science research in Africa to learn about the full spectrum of ground-breaking scientific research currently underway, and prepare for the road ahead in Africa's development as an international hub for research excellence and scientific innovation.



## **Prof. Cristina Stefan**

**President of African Organization for  
Research and Training in Cancer**

Professor Cristina Stefan is the President of the African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer and the Vice President of the South African Medical Research Council.

Professor Stefan holds a masters in cancer epidemiology and a PhD in education.

She was a fellow at St Jude Children's Cancer Research Hospital and received a fellowship in cancer prevention and control at NCI.

Professor Cristina Stefan has published a book and number of articles in the field of cancer research.

Day 1

28th November 2017

14:30 - 14:45

Session 1 - Cancer Research





## **Prof. Dr. Kailash Sharma**

**Director (Academics) Tata Memorial Centre  
Professor, Department of Anesthesiology,  
Critical Care & Pain, Tata Memorial Centre,  
India**

Prof. Dr. Kailash Sharma is the Director & Dean (Academics) of Tata Memorial Centre since Jan – 2010 and a Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, Critical Care & Pain at Tata Memorial Centre.

He is a Government of India Nominee on Post Graduate and Superspeciality Committee, Medical Council of India, New Delhi from December 2013.

In 1979, he graduated MBBS from Government Medical College, Aurangabad, Maharashtra and an MD (Anesthesiology) from Government Medical College, Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

He obtained his Postgraduate Diploma in Hospital & Healthcare Management (PGDHMM) from Symbiosis.

Presently, Dr. Sharma is involved on the selection of candidates for different PG and super specialty courses, appointments and promotions of staff members in different specialties, preparing curriculum for different specialties for Homi Bhabha National Institute (Deemed University), running of Oncology training programs in different specialties at Tata Memorial Hospital and Advanced Center for Training Research in Cancer (ACTREC) and Post-Doctoral Program in Life sciences and Health sciences in different branches at Advanced Center for Training Research in Cancer (ACTREC), running PhD programme in life sciences.





## **Prof. Nicholas Anthony Othieno-Abinya**

**Professor of Medicine and Head of  
Haematology/Oncology University of Nairobi  
and Kenyatta National Hospital, Kenya**

Prof. Nicholas Anthony Othieno-Abinya is Professor of Medicine at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, where he is the director of Medical Oncology Fellowship Program. He is also the head of Haematology/Oncology at the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi. In 2009 and 2010 he was head of oncology at AgaKhan University Hospital, Nairobi.

He holds a Masters degree in Internal Medicine of the University of Nairobi, and completed his fellowship in Medical Oncology at the Royal London Hospital (University of London) in 1992. He is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

His research interests are in malignant haematology and breast cancer, in which he has published widely in peer-reviewed journals. He also has keen interest in molecular oncology. He has also authored a text book titled Drug Treatment of Haematologic Neoplasms' (second edition in 2016 by Jomo Kenyatta Foundation). He has also co-authored cancer booklets, and has written chapters in several books.

Prof. Othieno-Abinya is a member of American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), and served in its International Affairs Committee from 2010-2012; Africa Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC), having been Vice Chair for Eastern Africa and is a member of Council; and European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO). He founded Kenya Society of Haematology and Oncology (KESHO), of which he was the first Chair, and is still a member of its Advisory Committee. His outstanding academic achievements were recently profiled in the University of Nairobi magazine, 'Varsity Focus' of September 2017.

He is married with four grown-up children, and has grandchildren.

Day 1

28th November 2017

15:00 - 15:15

Session 1 - Cancer Research





## **Prof. Dileep Mhaisekar**

**Vice Chancellor, Maharashtra University  
of Health Sciences (MUHS), India**

Prof. Dr. Deelip Mhaisekar is the Vice-Chancellor, Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik. He completed his M.B.B.S. from Government Medical College, Aurangabad and M.D. (Pulmonary Medicine) from Seth G. S. Medical College & K.E.M. Hospital, Mumbai. He was the Professor and Head, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Dr. S.C.G.M.C. Nanded.

And Dean, Dr. Shankarrao Chavan Government Medical College, Nanded. He has also worked as an Acting Vice-Chancellor, Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik. His broad work experience includes: · Ex Member, Academic Council & Senate at S.R.T.M.U., Nanded and M.U.H.S., Nashik · Member, Medical Council of India, New Delhi and PG Committee · Ex-Member, Maharashtra Medical Council ·

Governing Council Member, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi · Member, Haemovigilance Programme Govt. of India, New Delhi · Life Member · Indian Chest Society · Association of Physicians in India · I.M.A. · Faculty at various National Conferences · A Number of National / International Publications

Day 1

28th November 2017

15:15 - 15:30

Session 1 - Cancer Research





## **Prof. Eduardo Cazap**

**President of the Latin American & Caribbean Society of Medical Oncology (SLACOM), Past-President of the International Union against Cancer (UICC)**

Prof. Eduardo Cazap MD, PhD is an Argentinean medical oncologist with a longstanding clinical and scientific career in Argentina and Internationally.

Founder and first President of the Latin American & Caribbean Society of Medical Oncology (SLACOM) , Past- President of the International Union against Cancer (UICC) and Member of the Executive Committee of the National Cancer Institute of Argentina since 2010 .

Published over 190 papers with main areas in global health, cancer control and prevention, breast and cervical cancer and independent clinical research.

He is one of the beginners of the concept of "Global Cancer Control" and in the year 2000 was signatory of the Charter of Paris against Cancer.

Dr. Cazap also serves as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Breast Health Global Initiative (BHGI) and in 2011 was Co-chair of the Civil Society Taskforce to advise the President of the United Nations General Assembly on the 2011 United Nations High-Level Meeting on Non-communicable Diseases.

President of the UICC World Cancer Congress, Montreal, Canada, in 2012

Dr Cazap received in 2013 the Distinguished Achievement Award of the Conquer Cancer Foundation (USA) and bestowed as Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (FASCO).

Most recently he has been appointed as member of the Global Oncology Leadership Task Force, American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2014-2016 and President of the Senologic International Society (SIS) 2017-2019

Invited by the President of Uruguay, the Director General of the World Health Organization, and the Governments of Finland and the Russian Federation, Dr Cazap will be a speaker at the WHO Global Conference on NCD's in Montevideo , Uruguay in October 2017.

Eduardo Cazap has a vast in-country and international experience and is a regular plenary speaker, chair or moderator at global cancer and health meetings as well as part of organizing major international conferences.

Day 1

28th November 2017

15:30 - 15:45

Session 1 - Cancer Research





## **Prof. Dinesh Pendharkar**

**President Indian Society of Oncology  
Chair of the International Affairs Committee  
(American Society of Clinical Oncology)**

Dr. Dinesh Pendharkar MD PhD MBA

Head department of cancer chemotherapy at Asian Cancer Institute Mumbai.  
President Indian Society of Oncology  
Chair of International Affairs Committee of American Society of Clinical Oncology  
Present-Mentor Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, District cancer Care Services, Govt of Odisha and Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.

One of the First Practitioners in cancer chemotherapy in India. Has many publications including international recognized practice changing research.

Presently as a social service involved in empowering government run district hospitals of the country with creation of Nodal Cancer Units in each of them and creating Community Point of Contacts for Cancer-a physician- in each district. The unique cancer care delivery model completely covers four states of India ( 110 districts of India -17%). These units in the district are capable of assisting patients in counseling, diagnosis, treatment , follow-up care, palliative care and are additionally doing public educational activities with assistance from the state.

Day 1

28th November 2017

16:00 - 16:15

Session 1 - Cancer Research





## **Prof. Hany A. El-Shemy**

Dean of Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University  
Arab Republic of Egypt

Prof. Hany A. El-Shemy is working as a Dean of Faculty of Agriculture at Cairo University. He is also the Advisor for the Ministry of High Education and Scientific Research - Egypt. Prof. Hany El Shemy received his two Ph.D. degrees in Biochemistry and Genetic Engineering from the University of Cairo, Egypt and University of Hiroshima, Japan respectively.

He became an Assistant Professor with Biochemistry Department of Cairo University, Egypt from Sept, 1996, and advanced to Associate Professor in Sept, 2002, as well as full Professor in March 2007. His research interests are in the fields of plant biotechnology and medicinal plants (Molecular Biology). He received 2 patents, wrote 9 international books, published more than 80 SCI Journal papers, and 40 conference presentation, and served as the technique committee member as well as chair in many international conferences and the editors including PLoS ONE journal, BMC Genomics, Current Issue in Molecular Biology also reviewer for more than 25 SCI cited journals. He received several awards, including State prize awarded from Academy of Science, Egypt (2004), Young Arab Researcher prize Awarded from Shuman Foundation, Jordan (2005), State Excellence prize from Academy of Science, Egypt (2011), Cairo University Prizes 2007, 2010, 2014. He served an expert for African Regional Center of Technology, Dakar, Senegal plus visiting professor at Pan African University, African Union, Nairobi, Kenya.

He was appointed acting Vice President of the Academy of Science and Technology from 11/2013 to 11/2014, Egypt.

Day 1

28th November 2017

16:15 - 16:30

Session 1 - Cancer Research





United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



# UNESCO MARS

**Empowering Researchers**  
From Africa For Africa

## UNESCO MERCK AFRICA RESEARCH SUMMIT

# Day 2



## UNESCO-MARS 2017

### AGENDA | DAY 2

Day 2 - 29th November 2017

8:00 **Session 2: Identifying Scientific research priorities for**  
09:45 **evolving health needs. The case of vaccines in Africa and**  
**capacity building in research**

Ebony meeting room

08:00 Research in Cancer and in Vaccine  
08:25 Development: The Mauritian  
Experience

**Dr. Shyam Manraj**  
Director Central Health Laboratory, Ministry of Health  
and Quality of Life

08:25 What is CEPI? Presenting the concept,  
08:45 its background and future  
opportunities

**Dr. Richard Hatchett**  
CEO of Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation

08:45 Vaccine R&D capacity: a complex  
09:10 dimension between Government  
and Academia

**Prof. Dr. Verkonika von Messling**  
Director, Veterinary Medicine Division,  
The Paul-Ehrlich-Institute

09:10 MenAfriCar consortium's outcomes:  
09:30 capacity building in Africa

**Dr. Caroline Trotter**  
Senior Lecturer, University of Cambridge

09:30 Recent directions and the benefits of  
09:45 internationalization in cancer

**Prof. Tebello Nyokong**  
Rhodes University in South Africa, UNESCO-L'OREAL  
award winner

09:45 **Session 3: Policies, Environment and Mechanisms to**  
13:30 **improve research in Life and Health sciences: Opportunities**  
**and Challenges**

Ebony meeting room

09:45 Capacity Building in Life and Basic  
10:00 Sciences: the experience of the  
University of Mauritius

**Prof. Louis Jean Claude Autrey**  
Chancellor of University of Mauritius

10:00 STISA 2024 and vision for STEM  
10:15

**Dr. Elizabeth Marincola**  
African Academy of Science

10:15 Interdisciplinarity, Biomedical  
10:30 Sciences and Investments in Africa:  
challenges and perspectives

**Dr. Collen Masimirembwa**  
CEO African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology

10:30 What it takes to make your Research  
10:45 and Laboratory work successful

**Mr. Matthias Getrost**  
Head of Research & Applied Commercial Africa,  
Merck Life Science

10:45 The Global Access in Action (GAiA)  
11:00 Project

**Ms. Asveena Gajeelee**  
Berkman Klein Center Fellow, Harvard University

11:00  
11:15

COFFEE BREAK

**MERCK**



## UNESCO-MARS 2017

### AGENDA | DAY 2

**Day 2 - 29th November 2017**

11:15  
13:00

Poster Exhibition

#### Chairpersons

**Prof. Andrew Kambugu**  
Makerere University, Uganda

**Prof. Nicholas Anthony Othieno-Abinya**  
University of Nairobi

**Prof. Carla Montesano**  
University of Rome, Italy

**Prof Antonella Minutolo**  
University of Rome, Italy

13:00  
14:00

Lunch

14:00  
16:30

Workshop

Ebony meeting room I & II

**Group I**  
(Ebony meeting room I)

**Group II**  
(Ebony meeting room II)

**Problem Statement:**  
Inadequate to absence  
of supportive mechanisms  
to research translation.

**Problem Statement:**  
Poorly equipped facilities  
to boost research / drug  
discoveries and  
development in Africa.

**Organised by Dr. Ahmed Hamdy**  
Executive Director, African Union Scientific,  
Technical and Research Commission

#### Supported by

**Prof. Andrew Kambugu - Makerere**  
University, Uganda

**Dr. Pauline Essah**  
University of Cambridge, UK

**Dr. Caroline Trotter**  
University of Cambridge, UK

**Dr. Elizabeth Marincola**  
African Academy of Science, Kenya

**Prof. Carla Montesano**  
University of Rome, Italy

**Prof Antonella Minutolo**  
University of Rome, Italy



## **Dr. Shyam Manraj**

**Director of Laboratory Services, Central Health Laboratory, Mauritius**  
**National Cancer Registry Coordinator**

Dr Shyam Manraj graduated in medicine at University Aix-Marseille, France in 1982 and then pursued post-graduate studies in Pathology there. In 1986, he took employment at Ministry of Health & Quality of life as pathologist. He is presently Director for Laboratory Services.

In 1993, he was nominated National Cancer Registry (NCR) coordinator, a responsibility which he is still holding up to present day.

He is also an active member of various cancer-related International Organizations such as :

- International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR)
- African Organization for Research and Training In Cancer (AORTIC)
- African Cancer Registries Network (AFCRN)
- American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO)

Over the past decades, he has been involved in various research projects concerning cancer epidemiology and care, useful in guiding policies on cancer control in Mauritius.





**Dr. Richard Hatchett,**  
**CEO of Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness  
and Innovation**

Dr. Richard J. Hatchett, MD, is Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), a partnership of public, private, philanthropic and civil organizations that will finance and co-ordinate the development of vaccines against high priority public health threats and vaccine platform technologies to respond rapidly to emerging infectious diseases with pandemic or epidemic potential.

Prior to joining CEPI, Richard most recently served as acting Director of the U.S. Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), after serving for five years as BARDA's Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Director.

During his time at BARDA, he oversaw programs to develop medical countermeasures against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats, pandemic influenza, and emerging infectious diseases. He also helped lead the development of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics for a number of emerging viruses, including the H3N2v and H7N9 influenza viruses, MERS, Ebola, and Zika.

Richard served on the White House Homeland Security Council under President George W. Bush and was a member of the White House National Security Staff under President Barack Obama. He is a recipient of the HHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service and a five-time recipient of the NIH Director's Merit Award.

Richard is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and the Vanderbilt University Medical School, he completed a residency in internal medicine at the New York Hospital – Cornell Medical Centre and a fellowship in medical oncology at Duke University Medical Centre.

Day 2

29th November 2017

08:25 - 08:45

Session 2 - Vaccine development





## **Prof. Verkonika von Messling**

**Director Veterinary Medicine Division  
Paul Ehrlich Institut**

Professor Verkonika von Messling is director of the Veterinary Medicine Division at Paul-Ehrlich-Institut which is the German regulatory authority for vaccines and biomedicines.

Professor von Messling obtained a veterinary degree and a doctorate degree in veterinary virology from the Veterinary School Hannover, Germany.

Verkonika von Messling aims her research around the study of recombinant and genetically modified virus in vitro and in different animal models.

Day 2

29th November 2017

08:45 - 09:10

Session 2 - Vaccine development





## **Dr. Caroline Trotter**

**Senior Lecturer, University of Cambridge, UK**

Dr Caroline Trotter is a Senior Lecturer in Epidemiology at the University of Cambridge and an honorary epidemiologist at Public Health England. Her research examines the potential and actual impact of immunisation using a range of methods from classic epidemiology to mathematical modelling and health economics. Her work has been used to inform national and (as a consultant to the World Health Organisation) international vaccine policy. Much of her research is focussed on meningococcal disease and carriage in the UK and Africa, working with African partners. She has been involved in a range of projects in the African meningitis belt, both to quantify the impact of MenAfriVac (an affordable group A meningococcal conjugate vaccine), and to investigate both short (epidemic response) and long-term (preventive vaccination) options for the control of epidemic meningitis. Caroline also has current projects on the impact of vaccination against group B streptococcus, norovirus and rabies. She is a member of the Steering Committee of the Wellcome Trust-Cambridge Centre for Global Health Research, which is part of the Cambridge-Africa Programme at the University of Cambridge.

Day 2

29th November 2017

09:10 - 09:30

Session 2 - Vaccine development





**Prof. Tebello Nyokong**  
**UNESCO L'OREAL Award Winner**

Prof Tebello Nyokong holds a Department of Science and Technology/National Research Foundation (DST/NRF) professorship in Medicinal chemistry and Nanotechnology at Rhodes University in South Africa. She has successfully supervised 83 PhD/MSc students. She has published close to 640 manuscripts (including patents, a book and book chapters). Her H index is 58 (ISI) and 65 (Google Scholar).

In addition to the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award (2016), she has received many other awards for her research including:

2016: CSIR National Laser Centre in November 2016 for most publications in and most doctoral students trained in 2015.

2015: UNESCO Medal for Contribution to Development of Nanoscience and Nanotechnologies.

2014: Invited to be part of United Nation's Secretary General's High Level Panel (HLP) of Experts on Technology Bank and Science, Technology and Innovation supporting Mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries (LDC) and featured in 21 Icons.

2013: Awarded a medal by The World Academy of the Science for outstanding contributions to science and technology. Received South African Chemical Institute (SACI) Gold Medal, was awarded "A" rating and "Lifetime achievement" by the NRF.

2012: Included in the National Center for Research on Human Evolution (CENIEH), located in Burgos, Spain to be one of their "12 NAMES TO CHANGE THE WORLD".

2011: Recognized by Royal Society in Chemistry/Pan African Chemistry Network as a Distinguished Woman in Chemistry and awarded Distinguished Professorship by Rhodes University.

2010: Received honorary doctorates from Walter Sisulu University and the University of South Africa and was inducted into Lesotho Hall of fame.

In 2009, she received L'Oreal-UNESCO award for "Women in Science" as a Laureate representing Africa and the Arab States and she also received NRF President's award as Champion for the transformation in research

In 2009, a special motion was passed in the South African National Assembly acknowledging Professor Nyokong's role in the transforming of science in South Africa.

In 2004 she was bestowed with the Order of Mapungubwe: Bronze by the then State President of South Africa Mr Thabo Mbeki and was winner of SABC2/Shoprite-Checkers Woman of the year 2004 in Science and Technology.

Day 2

29th November 2017

09:30- 09:45

Session 2 - Vaccine development





## **Prof. Louis Jean Claude Autrey** **Chancellor of University of Mauritius**

Le Dr. Louis Jean Claude Autrey, CSK (photo), a été nommé Chancelier de l'Université de Maurice. Cette nomination est la consécration d'une longue association du Dr. Autrey avec l'Université de Maurice qui remonte à 1978. Le Dr. Autrey a été un chargé de cours à temps partiel à l'Ecole d'Agriculture, a été Membre du Senat pendant une dizaine d'années et Membre du Conseil à partir de 1998. Il était jusqu'à sa nomination comme Chancelier, Vice-Président du Conseil d'Administration et Président de la Commission du Budget et des Infrastructures de l'Université. Il a siégé sur différentes commissions de l'Université à travers les années. L'année dernière il fut Président du Comité Organisateur pour les Célébrations du Centenaire de l'Ecole de l'Agriculture, tâche qu'il accomplit avec distinction. Il a été Membre du Conseil d'Administration entre autres du Mauritius Institute of Education, du Mauritius Research Council et du Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology. Il a été Président du Conseil d'Administration du Mauritius Standards Bureau de 2002 à 2005. Il a toujours privilégié la formation et dispense des cours sur la canne à sucre au Regional Training Centre, au MSIRI, depuis sa création en 1980 à jour.

La carrière professionnelle du Dr. Autrey s'est déroulée au MSIRI où il a passé 40 ans de 1967 à 2007. Il détient une licence en Botanique de l'Université de Londres, une maîtrise en Phytopathologie et un Doctorat en Virologie de l'Université d'Exeter. Il a atteint une notoriété mondiale en recherche sucrière et agricole. En 1994 le prestigieux Doctor of Science DSc lui fut décerné par l'Université d'Exeter. Il est avec le Dr. Octave Wiehe un des rares Mauriciens à avoir reçu cette distinction.

Sa retraite du MSIRI comme Directeur en 2007 ne fut que nominale car il a poursuivi sa carrière de chercheur et occupe à ce jour une dizaine de fonctions à Maurice et à l'étranger. Il agit comme Secrétaire de l'International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists, le Science & Technology Coordinator du Groupe Omnicane, Président du Comité des Etats ACP sur la recherche sucrière, Président du Scientific Advisory Group des Etats ACP, Lead Consultant du West African Sugar Development Programme, un projet des Nations Unis, géré par l'International Sugar Organisation de Londres. Il a agi comme Consultant pour de nombreuses institutions dont l'Union Européenne, la FAO, l'UNESCO, l'UNIDO, etc... et pour des sociétés sucrières et agricoles au niveau international.

Au cours de sa carrière le Dr. Autrey a servi sur différents conseils d'administrations des institutions liées à la recherche à Maurice comme à l'étranger. Il est l'auteur de quelque 150 communications scientifiques et plus d'une centaine de rapports d'expertise. Le Dr. Autrey est Membre de la Société de Biologie de Londres et est un Chartered Biologist. Il est un des rares Mauriciens à avoir été élu Membre de TWAS - The World Academy of Sciences TWAS - for the advancement of science in developing countries. A ce jour, les Chanceliers de l'Université ont été Son Altesse Royale la Princesse Alexandra, de 1974 à 1983, Sir Maurice Rault, de 1985 à 1994 et Sir Ramesh Jeewoolall de 2005 à 2014.





## **Dr. Elizabeth Marincola**

**Senior Advisor for Communications and Advocacy,  
African Academy of Science**

Dr. Elizabeth Marincola is a longtime leader of science publishing, advocacy, education, communication and policy. She is Senior Advisor for Communications and Advocacy at the African Academy of Sciences, a pan-African organization dedicated to the advancement of quality science across the Continent. At AAS, she is leading the development and launch of AAS Open Research, an innovative, transparent publishing platform.

Marincola prior served as CEO of PLOS, publisher of the world's largest open access journal. She was President of the Society for Science & the Public, Publisher of Science News, and Executive Director of the American Society for Cell Biology. She has served on multiple national and international advisory committees and boards, including the Board of Directors of eLife and the Strategic Planning Committee for the NIH National Library of Medicine. Marincola received the (U.S.) Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, and currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health.

She received her A.B. from Stanford University and MBA from Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

Day 2

29th November 2017

10:00 - 10:15

Session 3: Life and Health Sciences





**Dr. Collen Masimirembwa**  
**CEO African Institute of Biomedical  
Science and Technology**

Dr. Collen Masimirembwa is a biochemical pharmacologist with a DPhil in Biochemistry from the University of Zimbabwe and a PhD in Pharmacogenetics from Karolinska Institute in Sweden. After working for AstraZeneca Pharmaceutical company in Sweden for 10 years as a Principal Scientist, he returned to Zimbabwe to establish the African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology (AiBST) with the aim of promoting the sciences and technologies of drug discovery and development in Africa. He is the current President and Chief Scientific Officer of AiBST. Collen is an Honorary Professor of Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Cape Town and of Health Sciences at the University of KwaZulu Natal.

His research focus is in drug metabolism & pharmacokinetics (DMPK) and in pharmacogenomics, fields in which he has made many original contributions with over 90 research publications to his credit. Collen has won many awards in recognition of his work including a certificate of distinction in Biochemistry from the Government of Zimbabwe. Under his leadership AiBST has gained international reputation including nomination as a Centre of Excellence in DMPK & Toxicology by the African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation (ANDi). Collen is a fellow of the Zimbabwe Academy of Sciences (ZAS) and of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS).

Day 2

29th November 2017

10:15 - 10:30

Session 3: Life and Health Sciences





## **Mr. Matthias Getrost**

**Head of Research & Applied Commercial Africa  
Merck Life Science**

### Education:

Degree of University of Applied Science, Frankfurt

### Professional Experience:

Started at Merck more than 30 years ago. Previous roles;

GM for PCS products

Sales and CS Head in The Netherlands, Belgium and UK

Key Account Manager (PCS) for Baxter/Baxalta and GSK Bio

Head of Field Marketing in Europe (North)

Head of Field Marketing Asia

Director of Field Marketing PS Emerging Countries (150 countries)

### Personal Life:

Married with 2 kids and one grandchild

### Hobbies & Interests:

Cooking & Eating

Travelling

Music – Classic and Modern – but especially Hard Rock

Reading – Action and Biographies

Sports

Day 2

29 November 2017

10:30- 10:45

Session 2 - Life and Health Sciences





## **Ms. Ashveena Gajeelee**

**Berkman Klein Center Fellow, Harvard University**

Ashveena Gajeelee is a public policy specialist with experience in government, regulatory affairs and negotiation. She is a Global Access in Action (GAiA) Fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University. Ash supports GAiA's action-oriented research which focuses on global public health challenges facing the world's most vulnerable populations.

Ash is a current teaching fellow at Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She has worked in several governmental ministries in her home country of Mauritius including Agriculture, Prime Minister's Office and Environment. After several years in government, she joined the Financial Services Commission, where she was the Head of Policy and International Affairs. Following the financial crisis, Ashveena was intensely active in working with Southern African Development Community countries to implement international norms in the financial services sector and ensuring compliance to fight money laundering and financing of terrorism. As a Fulbright Humphrey Fellow she worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston to research best practice of community development outreach and financial literacy. She was most recently the advisor to the Minister of Finance and Economic Development. She has a strong research interest in how regulatory policy impact access to medicine and health equity. Ashveena holds a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Biochemistry at Rhodes University, a MPA from Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA), France and a dual master from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government (MPA) and the Graduate Institute of Geneva (International Affairs).

Day 2

29th November 2017

10:45 - 11:00

Session 2 - Life and Health Sciences





UNESCO- Merck Africa Research Summit  
**UNESCO-MARS**  
**Empowering Researchers**  
From Africa For Africa



## Poster Exhibition

Chairpersons:

- |                                              |                               |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Prof. Andrew Kambugu</b>                  | - Makerere University, Uganda |
| <b>Prof. Nicholas Anthony Othieno-Abinya</b> | - University of Nairobi       |
| <b>Prof. Carla Montesano</b>                 | - University of Rome          |
| <b>Prof. Antonella Minutolo</b>              | - University of Rome, Italy   |



**UNESCO- Merck Africa Research Summit**  
**UNESCO-MARS**  
**Empowering Researchers**  
From Africa For Africa



## Workshop

**Organised by African Union:**

**Dr. Ahmed Hamdy**

Executive Director, African Union Scientific, Technical and Research Commission

**Supported by:**

**Prof. Andrew Kambugu** - Makerere University, Uganda

**Dr. Pauline Essah** - University of Cambridge, UK

**Dr. Caroline Trotter** - University of Cambridge, UK

**Dr. Elizabeth Marincola** - African Academy of Science, Kenya

**Prof. Carla Montesano** - University of Rome, Italy

**Prof. Antonella Minutolo** - University of Rome, Italy



UNESCO- Merck Africa Research Summit  
**UNESCO-MARS**  
**Empowering Researchers**  
From Africa For Africa



**Workshop**

**Group 1:**

**Problem Statement: Inadequate to absence of supportive mechanisms to research translation.**

**Group 2:**

**Problem Statement: Poorly equipped facilities to boost research / drug discoveries and development in Africa.**



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African Union



# UNESCO-MERCK Africa Research Summit- MARS 2017

## Accelerating Access & Sustaining Innovation

### From Africa For Africa



## MARS winners

## Merck Africa Research Summit MARS 2017 Award winners



From left to right: Mr. Getachew Engida, Deputy Director General of UNESCO; Prof. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp, Chairman of the Executive Board of E. Merck KG; President of the Republic of Mauritius, Her Excellency Mrs Ameenah Grurib-Fakim (center) and Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation follow proceedings at the inauguration of the UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit on November 28, 2017.



From left to right: Mr. Getachew Engida, Deputy Director General of UNESCO; Prof. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp, Chairman of the Executive Board of E. Merck KG; President of the Republic of Mauritius, Her Excellency Mrs Ameenah Grurib-Fakim (center) and Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation, Hon. Leela Devi Dookun- Luchoomun, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, Republic of Mauritius, Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Vice President of Republic of Mauritius along with the MARS Award winners 2017.



President of the Republic of Mauritius, Her Excellency Mrs Ameenah Grurib-Fakim (center), and Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation pose for a group photo with ministers and dignitaries at the inauguration of the UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit on November 28, 2017.



From left to right: Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation, President of the Republic of Mauritius, Her Excellency Mrs Ameenah Grurib-Fakim, Mr. Getachew Engida, Deputy Director General of UNESCO; along with the MARS Award winners 2017 at State House Mauritius.

# MARS 2017 Award winners

## MARS Best Young African Researchers Award



### 1. Suthananda Sunassee

**University of Cape Town  
South Africa**

Topic: Anti-tumour activity of marine sponges from the sub-Antarctic Islands and the Southern Ocean



### 2. Massamba GUEYE

**Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar  
Senegal**

Topic: Ethnic predisposition of breast cancer in Senegalese women through analysis of the polymorphism of the D-loop region of mitochondrial DNA.



### 3. TAOLO NTLOEDIBE

**University of Botswana  
Botswana**

Topic: SOLAR EXPOSURE, HIV AND RISK OF MELANOMA IN BOTSWANA: A CASE-CONTROL STUDY



# MARS 2017 Award winners

## MARS Best African Women Researchers Award



**1. Archana Bhaw-Luximon**  
**Centre for Biomedical and Biomaterials  
Research, University of Mauritius,  
Republic of Mauritius**

Topic: New Opportunities for Africa: Development of Nanotherapeutics to enhance efficacy of cancer chemotherapy



**2. Yolande Ndemanou Feudjio**  
**UNIVERSITY OF DSCHANG  
CAMEROON**

Topic: Evaluation of the in-vitro and in-vivo activities of the aqueous fruit extract of Spondias cytherea against mouse melanoma



**3. Folusho Balogun**  
**College of Medicine, University of Ibadan  
Nigeria**

Topic: "She must have been sleeping around"... : Contextual interpretations of Cervical Cancer and views regarding HPV Vaccination for adolescents in selected communities in Ibadan, Nigeria



# MARS 2017 Award winners

## MARS Best African Women Researchers Award



### **4. UMUHOZA ALICE,** **University of Rwanda** **Rwanda**

Topic: Cross section study on clinical care perspectives and knowledge on women cancers burden at the grassroots generation of health practionals: The hindered killers in women



### **5. Vidushi Neergheen Bhujun** **University of Mauritius** **Republic of Mauritius**

Topic: Realising the potential of indigenous food in cancer control and management



# MARS 2017 Award winners

## MARS Best Mauritian Women Researcher Award



### 1. Shameem Fawdar

**University of Mauritius**

**Republic of Mauritius**

Topic: Precision medicine for Mauritian female breast cancer patients



### 2. Rima Beesoo

**University of Mauritius**

**Republic of Mauritius**

Topic: Tropical marine sponge *Neopetrosia exigua* : Novel source of antioxidant and anticancer therapeutics



### 3. Nilufer Jasmine Selimah

**Victoria Hospital**

**Republic of Mauritius**

Topic: SURVEY ON THE MOLECULAR SUBTYPES IN FEMALE BREAST CANCER IN THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS





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# UNESCO MARS

UNESCO  
MERCK  
AFRICA  
RESEARCH  
SUMMIT

**Empowering Researchers**

From Africa For Africa



## SCIENTIFIC & STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### The Scientific Committee

Rasha Kelej

Vittorio Collizzi

Ahmed Hamdy

Andrew Kambugu

Ahmed Fahmi

Elijah Songok

Doonunjoy (Joy) Dassaye

Tiziano Peccia

**Chairperson of the Steering Committee**

**Rasha Kelej**

**MERCK**



## **Dr. Rasha Kelej**

**CEO of Merck Foundation,  
Chairperson of UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit**

Chief Executive Officer of Merck Foundation and Chairperson of UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit, Rasha Kelej was born in February 1972 and has 22 years of experience in International Pharmaceutical Industry. She joined Merck in 1996 and served as a Chief Social Officer and Head of the Global Social Responsibility & Market Development, SVP of Merck Healthcare from 2013 until June 2017. Mrs. Kelej holds a degree in Pharmacy of Alexandria University and an MBA at Robert Gordon University, Scotland on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) integration with Business Strategy.

In this position, she defined a coherent and structured CSR agenda and led many impactful corporate responsibility initiatives that focused on building healthcare capacity and improving access to health in Africa and developing countries such as Merck Capacity Advancement program, Merck Cancer Access Program and Merck More Than A Mother.

Dr. Kelej has successfully established strong partnerships with Governments, ministries of health and genders, academia and global non-for profits organizations which contributed significantly to the success of Merck Foundation's programs.

Currently she is also a member of Human Resources Science and Technology Cluster of African Union (ECOSOCC).

Dr. Kelej has received many awards for women leadership excellence and for her contribution towards women empowerment from the International Federation of Business and Professional Women - BPW-Int.

These awards to recognize her contribution through Merck Foundation towards empowering African women in the field of Research and Healthcare and empowering underprivileged women who lived with infertility in Africa and developing countries.

Day 1	28th November 2017	08:30 – 08:40	Welcome and Introduction
Day 1	28th November 2017	10:20 -10:30	Inauguration Session
Day 1	28th November 2017	10:30 -13:30	Ministerial Panels





## **Dr. Ahmed Fahmi**

**Program Specialist, Division of Science  
Policy and Capacity Building UNESCO, Paris**

After a peripatetic education in Africa, Asia, Italy and the UK, Ahmed Fahmi settled for a PhD on investigating the role of membrane proteins in controlling the electro-chemical behaviour of cardiac cells, which he obtained in 2000 from the University of Cambridge. Thereafter he worked as a post-doctoral fellow at the Imperial College and Kings College of the University of London and the Max Planck Institute in Germany before landing a university post for teaching biochemistry at the University of London. Dr Fahmi joined UNESCO in 2006 working in South Asia and the Asia-Pacific region on managing and coordinating the execution of the organization global programme in Basic and Engineering Sciences and Science Policy. He worked on a variety of projects, notably the development of a field guide manual on repair and retrofitting of historical building for earthquake engineers, e-learning programme in renewable energy, Teachers training program for Sri Lanka, policy formulation on the marine environment of the Maldives, the planning and execution of the reform of the Kingdom of Bhutan's science and higher education system and the establishment of the UNESCO Regional Centre for Biotechnology in India. He was a visiting professor at the United Nations University in Japan in 2012, working on socio-economic theories of development. He was transferred to UNESCO Head Quarters in Paris in 2013 and has been involved in the establishment of UNESCO centres of excellence and in the reform of the biotechnology sector of Ethiopia.

He also leads the Global Observatory of Science Policy Instruments (GOSPIN) working on the review and formulation of STI policies in Africa. He has many peer-reviewed articles in his name.

Day 1	28th November 2017	10:20 -10:30	Inauguration Session
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Day 1	28th November 2017	10:30 – 13:30	Ministerial Panels
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## **Dr. Andrew Kambugu**

**Director of the Research Program at the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) Makerere University, College of Health Sciences (MakCHS), Uganda**

Dr. Kambugu is the Director of the Research Program at the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) at the Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS), and is an honorary Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medicine at MakCHS. He is also an adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota (UMN), USA. He received his basic medical training as well as his residency in Internal Medicine at Makerere University in Uganda and undertook specialist training in Infectious Diseases in the USA and Canada. He has over 12 years of clinical experience in HIV medicine and is a member of 2 National HIV Subcommittees (Adult Antiretroviral Therapy and HIV Drug Resistance) of the Ugandan Ministry of Health. He directed the HIV Clinic at the IDI for seven years. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP), London, UK.

Dr. Kambugu's research interests include HIV treatment outcomes in resource limited settings, as well as the diagnosis and management of opportunistic infections in these settings with a focus on cryptococcal meningitis and tuberculosis. He has accrued considerable experience in assembling clinical cohorts as well as conducting fairly large clinical trials in Uganda.

He is a principal investigator on a number of clinical trials spanning the fields of HIV therapeutics, HIV treatment strategies and implementation science in Uganda.

Day 2

29th November 2017

11:15-13:00

Poster Exhibition

Day 2

29th November 2017

14:00 - 16:30

Workshop





## **Prof. Elijah Songok**

**Assistant Professor Department of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases College of Medicine, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg Canada & Principal Research Scientist Kenya Medical Research Institute, Nairobi, Kenya**

Prof. Elijah M. Songok, is a Principal Research Scientist at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) in Nairobi. He also holds the position of Assistant Professor at the Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Manitoba Canada and is similarly cross appointed as a professor at the Department of Virology and International Health, Kanazawa University, Japan.

Prof. Songok holds a BSc and MSc in Biochemistry from the University of Nairobi, a PhD in Virology from Kanazawa University Japan, and a post doctorate in genomics from University of Manitoba. He has published more than forty articles in peer reviewed journals, most as a first or corresponding author, and has supervised more than 8 students for the PhD degrees and 14 for their MScs. He has two patents and one innovation currently undergoing clinical trials. On grants, Prof Songok has won more than twenty research grants and awards as principal investigator from diverse grant making organizations as Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Glaxo Smith Kline (GSK), Canada Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), USAID, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Third World Academy of Sciences, Canada International Development Research Centre (IDRC) among others





## **Prof. Vittorio Colizzi**

**Director: Immunochemical and Molecular Pathology Laboratory of the University of Rome Tor Vergata**

Born in Rome on December 7, 1949, Dr Colizzi received the medical degree at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" with full honour. Dr Colizzi is a specialist in Clinical of Infectious Diseases (University of Rome) and in Hygiene and Public Health (University of Pisa), and PhD in Immunology (Brunel University, England).

His doctorate and post-doc experience have been carried out at the Clinical Research Centre in Harrow (England). He has been Assistant in Microbiology, and Associate professor in Immunology at the University of Pisa. Since 2000 to now, Dr Colizzi is Full Professor of Immunology and Director of the UNESCO Chair in Biotechnology at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. Dr Colizzi has been also President (2007-2010) of the Board of the National Institute for Infectious Diseases "Lazzaro Spallanzani" in Rome, Italy.

He is a consultant for several agencies of the United Nations (UNESCO, UNDP, OMS) and is the scientific coordinator of several European and International Projects. Dr Colizzi has been Scientific Director and member of the Board of the International Reference Centre for AIDS "Chantal Biya" in Yaoundé, Cameroon and President of the University Spinoff Eurobiopark (European Group of Biotechnology at the Tor Vergata Science Park).

Actually, Dr Colizzi is the coordinator of the European Project STARBIOS2 v(Structural Transformation to Attain Responsible BIoSciences). VC published over 300 scientific publications on peer-review journals (Nature, Journal of Immunology, Infection and Immunity, Journal of Infectious Diseases, Immunology, Clinical Experimental Immunology, A, IDS, AIDS and Human Retrovirus Journal, etc.) in the sector of Microbial Immunology and Infectious Diseases, with special focus on AIDS and Tuberculosis.





## **Dr. Ahmed Hamdy**

**Executive Director Scientific, Technical,  
and Research Commission African Union  
Commission**

Dr. Ahmed HAMDY is an Egyptian born in Cairo in 1968. He is the Executive Director of the African Union, Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (AU/STRC); and former Head of Science & Technology and ICT Division of Department of Human Resources Science and Technology of the African Union Commission (AUC).

Dr. Hamdy has 24 years of national and international work experiences out of which 10 years are devoted fully to Science and Technology policy development. His main achievements in the field of Science policy were the development of the book of lighthouse projects; and Africa's Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy and its book of flagship projects. This resulted in successful projects and programs such as the African Union Research Grant; Connect Africa Research and Education; African Leadership Programme on ICT, African Internet Exchange Points; African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Award; the African Network of Infectious Diseases Surveillance; African Scientific Research and Innovation Council; and the African Network of Sciences.

He had a significant contribution to other continental project and programs such as the establishment of the Pan African Intellectual Property Organization and the African Science Technology and Innovation Observatory. Most recently he was among the core contributors to the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA 2024) which is a continental strategy for next 10 year to shape and direct the continent on the STI landscape among others.

Day 2

29th November 2017

14:00 - 16:30

Workshop





### **Mr. Doonunjoy (Joy) Dassaye**

**Deputy Permanent Secretary responsible for Non-Communicable Disease and HIV AIDS, Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, Republic of Mauritius.**

**"If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue' or walk with Kings – nor lose the common touch." Rudyard Kipling**

Mr. Doonunjoy (Joy) Dassaye is the Deputy Permanent Secretary responsible for Non-Communicable Disease and HIV AIDS among others of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, Republic of Mauritius.

He joined the Administrative Cadre of the Public Service in December 2001 and worked as an Assistant Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities up to August 2011, where he was desk officer for the waste water sector from 2001 to 2004 and as desk officer for the energy sector for 2004 to 2011. He served as the Secretary of the Maurice Ile Durable fund from 2008 to 2011.

In 2011, he was posted at the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life as Desk Officer for the Foreign Medical teams. He served as Secretary of the Medical Disciplinary Tribunal from 2012 to 2015. In August 2015, he was promoted to Deputy Permanent Secretary and remained posted at the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, Republic of Mauritius.

Doonunjoy Dassaye is a Civil Engineer, graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, India in 1996 and worked on various civil engineering projects in the private sector. He is holder of a Master in Business Administration in Marketing from the University of Mauritius in 2002.

He is also member on the Wastewater Management Authority Board, National Women Council and the National Children Council in Mauritius





## **Mr. Tiziano Peccia**

**Consultant**  
**Division of Science Policy and Capacity**  
**Building, UNESCO, Paris**

Mr. Tiziano Peccia was born in Salerno, Italy. He began his tertiary education at La Sapienza University of Rome, spending one Erasmus year at University College Dublin in Ireland. He continued his postgraduate studies, obtaining a Master in "International Affairs and Development", from the Paris Dauphine University in partnership with Ecole Normale Supérieure. He graduated with a first specialization in Peace Studies in the Francophone world as "major de promotion" (best student). During his academic career, he has been awarded several excellency grants.

Mr Peccia joined UNESCO in April 2015 in the Division of Science Policy and Capacity Building. He has worked on several projects with actors of different natures, such as those from NGOs (i.e. Human Variome Project), the private sector (i.e. Merck), independent research facilities (i.e. Synchrotrons) and from universities. Furthermore, he undertook fieldwork in Africa and Asia, supporting the establishment of excellency centers and in the implementation of scientific networks to support North-South and South-South collaborations.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Mr Peccia had acquired international work experience including at La Sapienza University of Rome and Applied Medical in the Netherlands. He has published numerous double-reviewed articles in Scientific Journals on the subject of international relations and development-related fields.



# **MERCK Cancer access program**

## **Together we fight cancer**



### **1- Merck Fellowship Oncology Program**

The first **Oncology Fellowship Program** for Sub-Saharan Africa at University of Nairobi, Kenya, Alexandria University, Egypt, and at Tata Memorial Center in India with the aim to increase the limited number of oncologists in the continent.

### **2- Merck More than a Patient**

In Partnership with cancer patient organizations across Africa, will support Women Cancer survivors to establish small businesses in order to re-build their independent lives and become productive members in society.

### **3- Merck Community Awareness**

Shares accurate cancer information to help in tackling myths, misconception and stigma through medical camps and social media

**MERCK**



## OUR VISION

A world where everyone can lead a healthy and fulfilling life

The Merck Foundation is a philanthropic organization that aims to Improve the Health and Wellbeing of people and Advance their lives through Science and Technology.

## MERCK FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

**MERCK MORE THAN A MOTHER**

**MERCK CAPACITY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM**

**MERCK CANCER ACCESS PROGRAM**

**MERCK COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROGRAM**

**MERCK DIABETES & HYPERTENSION AWARDS**

**MERCK STEM PROGRAM**

**Together we create a cultural shift**

**Together we advance people's lives**

**Together we fight Cancer**

**Together we fight widespread diseases**

**Together we develop tomorrow's experts**

**Together we empower women and youth in science and technology**

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