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Welcome to the Cambridge-Africa Summer Newsletter

We welcomed the summer with glorious weather, at last, shining on the Cambridge-Africa Day. This was closely followed by the opening of the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund for applications and activities supporting the Uganda Cancer Institute - Cambridge collaboration. We are also very pleased to be supporting a variety of lung health initiatives in Africa. We are excited to share information on these areas of our programme in this newsletter.

Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund

We have now opened the call for the next round of <u>Cambridge-Africa</u> <u>ALBORADA Research Fund</u> awards. These competitive awards support new research collaborations between Africa-based and Cambridge-based researchers at the post-doctoral level or above in any academic field. The awards' geographical scope has been widened to include researchers and their universities or research institutions anywhere in Africa, and are not restricted to sub-Saharan Africa. Researchers within any University of Cambridge department or affiliated organisations, such as the Wellcome Sanger Institute and NIAB, can apply along with an African Principal Investigator. Investigators can apply for awards of up to £20,000 and as long as the budgets are well justified in the application, up to £20,000 can be applied for a research project in any subject. More information can be found in the award's Terms and <u>Conditions</u>. If you or others in your department would like to hear more about the funding, please contact <u>alboradafund@cambridge-africa.cam.ac uk</u> to arrange a visit. The closing date for application is 12th September 2024.

We feature blogs on our <u>website</u> on some of the recently funded ALBORADA research projects. Recent blogs include one on the Housing in Ethiopia's Secondary Cities, Classics beyond Borders, Overheating Consequences in Low Income Housing and a collaboration between the University of Goma and the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk on settlement around Nyiragongo volcano in Goma, DRC. Read more about these on our <u>blogs page</u>.



Read about housing in Ethiopia's Secondary Cities.

If you would be interested in collaborating with African researchers please sign up to the <u>Cambridge-Africa researchers database</u>. The database enables African researchers to view the range of research expertise and identify areas of mutual interest among Cambridge researchers interested in working with African researchers. When accessing the database, we ask African researchers to direct their enquiries about potential collaborations to the Cambridge-Africa Team in the first instance.



On June 18th Cambridge-Africa celebrated The Cambridge-Africa Day with a wide ranging programme showcasing the fantastic collaborations taking place between researchers in Africa and Cambridge. The event was held at Downing College, Cambridge and featured wonderful presentations and discussions on lung health in Africa, social science collaborations on marketplaces impacted by COVID-19 in Zimbabwe, a very lively discussion on African collections in museums in Cambridge and beyond and why these treasures need to be accessible to Africa, conservation and sustainability in Africa especially as we are impacted by climate change and the key role of education in attaining the SDGs. The keynote speakers were Professor Refiloe Masekela, the President of the Pan African Thoracic Society and co-Director of the PATS MECOR Programme (see below) and Professor Eric Danquah, the Director of the West Africa Centre for Crop improvement (WACCI) and the 2023 recipient of the Africa Food Prize. We were very

fortunate to have such distinguished contributors who are doing so much to train the next generation of African Scientists to meet the challenges the present and future holds. Photos of the day and films of the sessions will be available on the Cambridge-Africa website soon.

Dr Amit Bhasin Prize

As part of the Cambridge-Africa Day, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, Professor Deborah Prentice, awarded the Dr Amit Bhasin Prize to an outstanding African Scholar who is undertaking post-graduate study or has recently completed it, in Cambridge. We had many excellent nominations and the award was made to Dr Stephen Ajadi.

Stephen completed his PhD in 2023 and his research centred on the reduction of vulnerability to conflict and violence in Africa through social and physical interventions. His research has improved security in marketplaces in Northern Nigeria such as Nyanya market where a bomb blast killed over 88 people and wounded over 200 people. He also developed and implemented a system that prevents child abduction in Northern Nigeria by designing schools into mosques in areas where terrorists avoid raiding holy ground. Stephen now works between Cambridge and Nigeria and we wish him much success in his endeavours.



Uganda-Cambridge Cancer Collaboration.

Cambridge-Africa has been working with Ugandan colleagues at the Uganda Cancer Institute and Makerere University, Uganda as well as colleagues at CRUK CI, in Cambridge University departments, Addenbrookes and with the Cambridge Global Health Partnerships to help address some of the challenges posed by the rising burden of cancer in Africa. This week, two Ugandan medical students arrived for a 6 week medical elective at Addenbrookes Hospital in haematology and oncology supported with funding from Cambridge-Africa. Welcome to Daisy Adiru and Philine Taaka. Thank you to Dr Martin Besser and Dr Yang Huiqi for supporting this initiative.

Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research fund provided funding to a week-long cancer workshop at Makerere University last September and a further week

long workshop funded by CRUK is planned for the Autumn. This summer two Ugandan Masters students in immunology and bioinformatics will join CRUK Cambridge Institute and be embedded in research groups for a research Summer School from early July to the end of August.

We look forward to updating you on these initiatives in the next newsletter.

PATS MECOR

The highly successful PATS MECOR (Pan African Thoracic Society, Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical and Operations Research) course will be held this September in Kenya involving aspiring lung health researchers from across Africa. This course provides research training to strengthen skills and build capacity for clinical and epidemiological research in lung health in Africa. A number of research projects were funded by the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund as a result of collaborations developed from the training course held last year. We look forward to supporting further collaborations and have part funded the workshop this year.



PATS MECOR Participants in 2023

Other Events

Cambridge Global Health Partnerships is holding a Raising the Bar event in Central Cambridge on 11 July on antimicrobial stewardship with a strong focus on both the Kakamega Cambridge partnership and also the antimicrobial stewardship work in Kampala, Uganda that is focused on maternal and neonatal health. Please contact <u>Sarah Bennett</u> at Cambridge Global Health Partnerships for more information on the event.

We wish you a happy, healthy and sunshine filled summer and look forward to sharing more of our news in the Autumn.