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## Welcome to the Cambridge-Africa Summer Newsletter

The Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund Call is Open for Applications

The [Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research](#) Fund call is **now open** and will close on the 4th September. These competitive awards support new research collaborations between Africa-based and Cambridge-based researchers at the post-doctoral level or above. Researchers within any University of Cambridge department or affiliated organisations, such as WT Sanger Institute and NIAB, can apply. This year the eligibility criteria have been extended to allow

collaboration between Cambridge researchers and researchers based in North African institutions, in addition to the pre-existing sub Saharan geographical scope.

Categories for funding include:

- up to £20,000 for a science research project and up to £6,000 for a social science research project. The higher limit for science projects reflects the inherent larger costs of many science projects but where well justified, the limit for a social science project may be exceeded.
- an equipment grant of up to £20,000. All equipment purchased using the funding must be for use in Africa and remain with the collaborating African partner institution on completion of the project.
- a workshop or research training course to take place in Africa for up to £5000 and exceptionally up to £10,000.
- a travel award of up to £3,000 which can fund travel of the African partners to Cambridge or the Cambridge partners to Africa.

Applications should only be made for one category of the awards.

More information can be found in the award's [Terms and conditions](#). If you or others in your department require any guidance on submitting an application, please contact [Parinaz Hariri, the ALBORADA Research Fund coordinator](#).

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African PhD Scholars showcase



On 21 June 2023 we held the first Cambridge-Africa Postgraduate Research Symposium at Hughes Hall. This was a resounding success with fascinating talks from a broad range of scholars from across the African continent and covering a wide range of disciplines. Dr Gabriel Okello presented the keynote address highlighting the ways that research can inform policy and his experience of the most effective ways of engaging with policymakers. Gabriel is a fellow with the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership and much of his research has focused on air quality and non-communicable diseases.

The symposium continued with themed sessions on STEM, politics and social justice and education and enterprise. Presentations ranged from carbon utilisation in Africa's energy industry where waste carbon dioxide can be used, contributing to diversification of Africa's energy sector while contributing to tackling the climate emergency; to an investigation of the effectiveness of immune responses to COVID-19 vaccines in immuno-deficient patients and examining how the voices of children with disabilities can inform educational practice. In addition to these and many other excellent presentations, there were videos from Cambridge-Africa PhD alumni on their life after Cambridge and on social enterprises initiated by current scholars.

The symposium was ably organised by Kess Rowe, Research Co-ordinator with Cambridge-Africa and a good time was had by all attendees at the Research Showcase and the Barbecue that followed. Our thanks go to Kess

and all the postgraduate students who presented their interesting research.

As part of the Symposium, the Amit Basin prize was awarded. The Prize commemorates Amit who was the programme manager for Cambridge-Africa from 2019-2020 until his untimely death. Each year a Prize of £500 is awarded to celebrate Amit's support for African researchers and to recognise an outstanding Cambridge-based research student. This year's winner was MPhil student, Inioluwa Afolabi. Our congratulations go to Inioluwa who is pictured here with Amit's mother, Subhash Bhasin.



**Read the blog [Cambridge-Africa Postgraduate Research Symposium 2023](#)**

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## Lung Health and PATS MECOR

We are delighted that Professor Kevin Mortimer will be taking up an affiliate professorship in the Department of Pathology. Kevin has been supporting lung health initiatives in Africa for many years and in 2018 became the Director of the PATS MECOR course. [PATS MECOR](#) is short for Pan African Thoracic Society Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical and Operations Research. The course is held annually and supports pulmonologists, other clinicians, nurses and lung health researchers to hone their research skills and to develop research projects that they will embark on following the course. The course runs concurrently at three levels with participants at level 1 initiating their research journeys, those at level 2 further developing their research skills and research projects and level 3 attendees focusing on publishing and writing grant proposals. Caroline Trotter, Director of Cambridge-Africa and Corinna Alberg, co-Programme Manager attended this year's course held in Mombasa in June and were able to witness the way this initiative is fostering a broad range of African focused lung health research. The course is now largely facilitated by African researchers, in particular respiratory physicians [Refiloe Masekela](#) based in Durban and Uju Ozoh based at the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, who were both early participants on the PATS MECOR course.

At the end of the course attendees are awarded certificates in recognition of their hard work and the research skills that they have acquired.



Attendees also have the opportunity to attend workshops on air quality monitoring and spirometry (pictured below) and many use these techniques as part of their research.



Cambridge-Africa has been asked to be a part of the Team supporting the PATS MECOR initiative and developing lung health research projects between Cambridge and African researchers.

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## Other Initiatives

In July Cambridge-Africa along with Cambridge Global Health Partnerships (CGHP) and the Reproduction SRI hosted a meeting to bring together a range of initiatives between Cambridge and Uganda that have taken place over the last fifteen years on maternal and newborn health. These initiatives started with the visit of Dr Annetee Nakimuli for mentorship with Professor Ashley Moffett in the Department of Pathology as part of the MUII programme. Annetee was undertaking research on pre-eclampsia which is much more common in Uganda than in the UK and is one of the leading causes of maternal mortality in the hospital where she worked as an obstetrician, with amongst the highest number of births of any hospital in the world. Annetee's links with Cambridge set in motion further mentorship through the MUII and THRiVE programmes

and a range of clinical partnerships supported by CGHP as well as educational activities. One of these was the writing of the first textbook on obstetrics in Africa. The textbook has been part funded through Cambridge-Africa and has had a long gestation but is due to be published by CUP at the end of the year.

The purpose of the meeting was also to start to describe the vision for a new research and training facility in Uganda led by colleagues in Uganda including members of the team that accompanied Annette. The visiting team included Dr Josaphat Byamugisha, Director of Makerere University Health Services, Dr Emmanuel Kayogoza Byaruhanga, Senior Consultant, Director Kawempe National Referral Hospital, Kampala and Dr Musa Sekikubo, Head Dept of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Makerere University. Professor Annette Nakimuli (pictured below speaking at the event in Cambridge) is now the Dean of the Medical School at Makerere University as well as the President of the East, Central and Southern Africa College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

We look forward to providing you with updates on these developments in future newsletters.

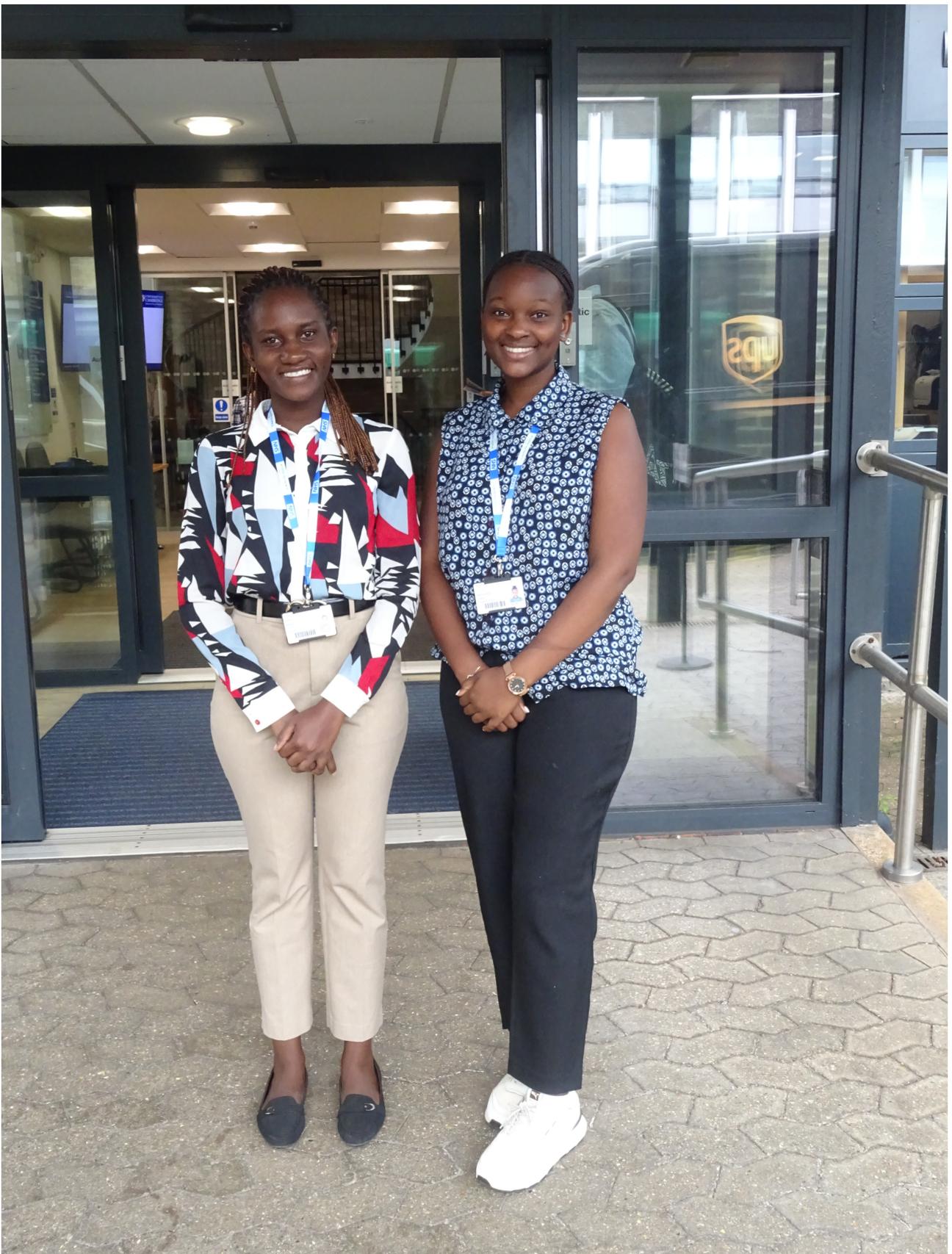


This summer has been a busy time for Cambridge-Africa's long standing collaboration with the Uganda Cancer Institute. We are delighted that a further

two medical students have been able to come to Addenbrookes for an elective on haematology and oncology. Stella Nakaye and Yvonne Nakibirango (pictured below) arrived at the end of June and are in Cambridge until early August. As well as attending clinics, they have been able to meet with researchers in Cambridge working at the Cambridge Cancer Centre and CRUK CI. Look out for a blog from them on their experiences in Cambridge to be posted soon on the Cambridge-Africa website.

The CRUK CI is running a summer school and two places have been reserved for Ugandan students. Initially the costs enabling Ugandan students to come to the summer School were funded by Cambridge-Africa but from this year, Dr Maike de la Roche, a group leader at CRUK CI and an instigator of the collaboration has been successful in securing funding from CRUK to allow two places to be continue to be allocated to Ugandan students. We are delighted that Gideon Nsubuga and Peter Sabakaki are currently at the summer school and have found this to be an enriching experience. Thank you to Dr Ann Kaminski for organising the Summer School.

The summer school experience is being extended to a wider number of Ugandan students this year with the ALBORADA Research Fund supporting a workshop at Makerere University. Faculty from CRUK CI will go to Uganda in September to run the hands-on workshops and to deliver lectures, further enhanced by remotely delivered lectures from leading cancer researchers from Cambridge.



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### **Chilombo Musa's time as a Cambridge-Africa PhD Scholar**

We have recently posted a number of blogs on the Cambridge-Africa website. These include Chilombo Musa's experience as a Cambridge-Africa PhD

student. Chilombo is the latest Cambridge-Africa PhD student to complete her PhD - many congratulations to Chilombo.



Other blogs include one by Dr. Ebenezer Antwi Gyamera, a Cambridge-Africa PhD alumnus, who describes the research he has been involved in since his return to Ghana, on cocoa viruses. We also feature a number of blogs on research funded by ALBORADA Research Fund grants. Have a look at the [Cambridge-Africa website](#) for further blogs.

**My Research post Cambridge Africa PhD on Cocoa and other Plant Viruses**



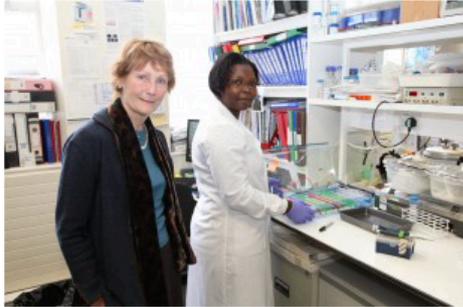
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If you would be interested in collaborating with African researchers please sign up to the [Cambridge-Africa researchers database](#). The database enables African researchers to view the range of research expertise and identify areas of mutual interest 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.

# Researchers' Database

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Researchers from across the University of Cambridge and its affiliated institutes are engaging with the initiatives of the Cambridge-Africa Programme by carrying out collaborative research with African colleagues, and/or supporting African fellows.



*Photograph:*

*Dr Annette Nakimuli, Makerere University and **MUII** PhD Fellow, and her Cambridge co-supervisor Professor Ashley Moffett, Department of Pathology.*



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