

**MANCHESTER
CANCER
RESEARCH
CENTRE**

NIHR Global Health
Research Group
**External Advisory
Board Agenda**

Agenda - Tuesday 17th February 2026



External Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

All times are in GMT (UK), EAT (Kenya) and PST (USA)

Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

Tuesday 17th February 2026

Chairperson: Professor Fiona Walter

All sessions split between presentation by delegates and discussion with EAB panel.

15:00 - 15:05 GMT
18:00 - 18:05 EAT
07:00 - 07:05 PST

Welcome and
Project Overview

Dr Zeinab Gura

CEO, KUTRRH

**Professors George Njoroge
and Robert Bristow**

Co-Principal Investigators

15:05 - 15:20 GMT
18:05 - 18:20 EAT
07:05 - 07:20 PST

Training and
Capacity Building

Fred Kariuki

Training Manager, KUTRRH

Rachel Chown

Associate Director, Integrated Research and Education Strategy,
The Christie NHS Foundation Trust

15:20 - 15:35 GMT
18:20 - 18:35 EAT
07:20 - 07:35 PST

Update on Aim 1

Stanley Muthinji

Statistician, KUTRRH

Dr Marion Kiguoya-Njau

Deputy Director, Research & Clinical Trials, KUTRRH

Shem Mutui

Senior Research Officer, KUTRRH

Patrick Ndungu

Senior Communication Officer, KUTRRH

Charity Hungu

Research Officer, KUTRRH

Professor Keith Brennan

Vice Dean for Internationalisation, The University of Manchester

Dr Suzanne Johnson

Senior Lecturer in Division of Cancer Sciences, The University of
Manchester

15:35 - 15:50 GMT
18:35 - 18:50 EAT
07:35 - 07:50 PST

Update on Aim 2

Dr Earnest Siwo
Consultant Surgeon, KUTRRH

Dr Michael Mwachiro
Consultant General Surgeon and Endoscopist, KUTRRH

Professor Yeng Ang
Consultant Gastroenterologist, Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust

15:50 - 16:05 GMT
18:50 - 19:05 EAT
07:50 - 08:05 PST

Update on Aim 3

Dr Mutambuki Kimondo
Head of Pathology, KUTRRH

Accadius Lunayo
PhD Student, The University of Manchester

Professor David Wedge
Professor of Cancer Genomics, The University of Manchester

16:05 - 16:30 GMT
19:05 - 19:30 EAT
08:05 - 08:30 PST

Looking to
the Future/
EAB Discussion

Professor George Njoroge
Principal Investigator and Chief Scientific Advisor, KUTRRH

Dr Caroline Ngugi
Director, Training and Research, KUTRRH

Professor Robert Bristow
Principal Investigator and Director, Manchester Cancer Research
Centre

16:30

Close

NIHR Global Health
Research Group

Biographies

EAB BIOGRAPHIES



PROFESSOR PHILIP QUIRKE

Professor of Pathology, The University of Leeds

Phil Quirke is a gastrointestinal pathologist, the Yorkshire Cancer Research Centenary Professor of Pathology at the University of Leeds and has a long-standing interest in Bowel Cancer. Current major interests are in the microbiome (CRUK Grand Challenge), clinical trials, precision medicine and molecular pathology. He has had an impact on improving outcomes in this disease leading to the award of the Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences UK and NIHR Senior investigator status on two occasions 2015-2023 and is now an emeritus NIHR SI. He led the pathology in the NHS bowel cancer screening programme for 15 years and has held the Presidency of the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland. He has been awarded honorary Fellowships in pathology from the Royal College of Physicians, Ireland and surgery from the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh (Ad Hominem). He is an honorary fellow of 5 international Surgical Societies in the USA, UK, Chile, Argentina, Sweden and received an Honorary Doctorate from Iasi, Romania.



PROFESSOR FIONA WALTER

Director of the Wolfson Institute of Population Health &
Chair of the External Advisory Board

Fiona Walter qualified in medicine at Cambridge University and St Thomas's Hospital, London, then trained as a general practitioner. In 2008 she launched the Cancer Research group in the University of Cambridge's Primary Care Unit in the Department of Public Health and Primary Care. Over the next decade she grew the team, won grants totalling more than £10M, and had more than 150 peer reviewed publications. In 2021 she was appointed as Professor of Primary Care Cancer Research at Queen Mary University of London's Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. She has been Director of the Wolfson Institute of Population Health since April 2021. Professor Walter's research focuses on primary care cancer diagnostics and patient pathways and experiences. She is Co-PI of the NIHR-funded Global Health Research Group AWACAN-ED, focussing on advancing early diagnosis of cancer in Southern Africa, and holds honorary fellowships at 4 universities: 2 in the UK, one in Africa and one in Australia.



PROFESSOR DIANA MENYA

Associate Professor, Epidemiology, Moi University

Diana Menya is a medical doctor with a Master of Science degree in Clinical Epidemiology and a doctorate in Environmental Health. She is a founding member of Moi University Faculty of Health Sciences which has grown to the current College of Health Sciences. She is also the founding member of the Department of Epidemiology and the School of Public Health where she has served as Chair for 6 years and acting Dean for 2 years respectively. As a teacher and a researcher, she has vast experience in working in rural communities where she conducts her own research and supervises both undergraduate and postgraduate students in their community-based research. She brings the perspective of a Clinician, an Epidemiologist and Environmental Health expert into her teaching, research, and community work.

Prof. Menya's research interests are in non-communicable disease (NCD) and communicable diseases. She has been conducting malaria research for 15 years and is a founding member of Exact Dx, a malaria research group in collaboration with Duke university that conducts research with a focus on implementation research, mainly in Bungoma, Trans-Nzoia, Homa Bay and Turkana Counties in Kenya with a large research team which has published widely.

Her NCD research for the past ten years has focused on Oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma which has a high incidence in both men and women in western Kenya. She is the Principal Investigator in a large NIH/NCI funded study in Oesophageal cancer in collaboration with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). She is also the Eldoret site coordinator for the Oesophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma Africa Prevention Research (ESCAPE), working with Tanzania and Malawi. The focus of the work is etiological research in which the team has identified several risk factors and published in peer reviewed journals.



DR ROSE ORONJE

Director of Public Policy and Knowledge Translation, and Head of Kenya Office

Rose is a development policy and communications specialist with over 15 years' experience in designing and implementing public policy and governance research, knowledge translation, communication and evidence uptake interventions, and capacity development for enabling evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) in development efforts in Africa. With a

strong background in science communication and policy analysis, Rose has extensive experience in conducting analyses of policies and policy environments, and translating and communicating research to policymakers and other general audiences (including the mass media). She also has extensive experience in designing and delivering capacity building programmes in knowledge translation, including research-to-policy communications, but also research utilisation by policymakers, media practitioners, and civil society.

At AFIDEP, Rose provides strategic leadership in the design and conduct of research on policy analysis, political economy analysis, and knowledge translation; and design and delivery of capacity development interventions aimed at enabling EIDM as well as knowledge translation and policy engagement interventions aimed at supporting evidence uptake in decision-making. Rose has designed and led implementation of multi-year, multi-country programmes with African Ministries of Health, African Parliaments and Parliamentary Networks, Universities and Research Consortia and Networks, and Media. Her publications have focused mainly on the areas of health policymaking, research-to-policy in the health sector, and capacity development for nurturing an EIDM culture.

Prior to joining AFIDEP, Rose headed the Policy Engagement and Communications unit at the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) from 2004-2009.

Rose earned her Ph.D. from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom. She also has a Master's Degree in Communications from the University of Nairobi, and a Bachelor's degree in Information Science from Moi University.



PROFESSOR SADIK ESENER

Director of the Wendt Family Endowed Chair in Early Cancer Detection and a Full Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)

Sadik Esener, Ph.D., is the Wendt Family Endowed Chair in Early Cancer Detection and a Full Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU).

At OHSU, until recently, he has served as the founding director of the Cancer Early Detection Advanced Research Center (CEDAR) and as interim director of the Center for Biomedical Data Sciences. Prior to joining OHSU, Esener held several leadership roles at the University of California, San Diego, where he built cross-disciplinary teams that brought together scientists and engineers to tackle complex biomedical challenges. He served as the director and principal investigator of NanoTumor Cancer, a Nanotechnology Center of Excellence funded by the National Cancer Institute. He also led major technology initiatives including the Center for Heterogeneously Integrated Photonics Systems (CHIPS), the Opto-Electronic Stacked Processors (OESP) program, and the Fast Read-out Optical Data Storage Industrial Consortium, both funded by DARPA.

His recent research focuses on advancing early cancer detection through interdisciplinary innovation, translational science, and the integration of emerging technologies.

He is involved in large scale projects in multiple scientific fields including electrical and optical engineering, nano-engineering and material sciences for biomedical applications. In addition, he has made many pioneering contributions to the fields of optical interconnects, light modulation, optical data storage, BioPhotonics as applied to gene chips, cell sorting and manipulation, and heterogeneous integration of photonics, electronics and biological components. More recently his work has focused on the synthesis and application of nanoparticles delivery of biologics for cancer therapies, brain mapping and in vivo imaging.

Esener received his Ph.D. in applied physics and electrical engineering from the University of California, San Diego. He has published more than 375 journal and conferences articles and made more than 250 presentations in international scientific meetings, 60 of which were invited. He holds 23 issued patents, has authored several book chapters, and organized and chaired scientific international conferences. Esener co-founded and served on the board of directors and scientific advisory boards of several companies.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR BIOGRAPHIES



PROFESSOR GEORGE NJOROGE

Chief Scientific Officer, KUTRRH

George Njoroge is the Chief Scientific Officer at Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral & Research Hospital (KUTRRH) and a former member of Board of Directors at Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) chaired Research and Innovation committee. He is the current Chairman of Council at Daystar University and a former board member of KCA University (KCA). Previously, he was a Senior Research Fellow at Eli Lilly and Company and a former Director in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at Merck Research Laboratories where he oversaw chemistry program in infectious diseases platform. Through his research leadership at Merck, an anti-HCV viral drug Victrelis™ was discovered – this medicine was approved by FDA on May 13th, 2011, as the first-in-class therapy for Hepatitis C treatment. Prof. Njoroge led his chemistry team in the discovery HCV protease inhibitor Narlaprevir® that is marketed in Russia as Arlansa. He has also worked in the oncology area, in the discovery of therapeutic agents geared towards intervention of signal transduction process in proliferating cells, work that led to discovery of Sarasar®, a repurposed and approved for treatment of Progeria.

A graduate of University of Nairobi, first class honors, he holds Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Case Western Reserve University, USA

Prof. Njoroge is the author of 134 scientific publications and 104 USA granted patents. Prof. Njoroge was inducted into "Hall of Fame" as a Hero of Chemistry by the American Chemical Society on August 19th, 2012. He has received many awards, including Emerald Award for Professional Achievement in Industry, Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award for emerging therapies and Distinguished Alumni Award by Case Western Reserve University, among others. Prof. Njoroge was conferred with an Honorary Degree of Pharmaceutical Science by Mount Kenya University in 2014 and Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) by KCA University in 2021.

Prof. Njoroge is the Founder of Centre of Africa's Life Sciences (C.O.A.L.S), a premier institution that is being established in Naivasha, Kenya with the primary goal of searching and developing novel medicines in the continent of Africa.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR BIOGRAPHIES



PROFESSOR ROBERT BRISTOW

Director, Manchester Cancer Research Centre

Director, Cancer Research UK Manchester Centre

Senior Group Leader, Translational Oncogenomics, CRUK Manchester Institute

Chief Academic Officer & Honorary Consultant, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust

Cancer Domain Lead and University Professor of Cancer Studies, The University of Manchester

Professor Robert Bristow joined the University of Manchester as Director of the Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC) in August 2017 with a remit to developing a new cancer strategy for Manchester with a cancer team science approach. The MCRC is a unique partnership between The University of Manchester, Cancer Research UK and The Christie NHS Foundation Trust.

His primary research interests are in tumour hypoxia, DNA damage signalling and repair in tumours, and the genomics of prostate cancer progression and cancer treatment response. He is particularly interested in novel clinical trials that intensify cancer therapy to prostate cancer patients whose tumours harbour aggressive genetic changes and hypoxic sub-regions.

Professor Bristow is currently a senior group leader in Translational Oncogenomics at the CRUK Manchester Institute and was the lead PI for the Canadian component of the ICGC whole genome prostate cancer sequencing project (CPC-GENE).

He serves on several Scientific Advisory Boards including the Prostate Cancer Foundation (USA), the MOVEMBER Foundation, the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the German Cancer Centre, Institut Curie and Cancer Research UK (CRUK). He is twice a Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) awardee. In 2021, he was awarded the Weiss medal (Association for Radiation Research) for distinguished contributions to radiation science. He was made a Canadian Cancer Society Research Scientist in 2004, an ESTRO Honorary Fellow in 2011, a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences (UK) in 2019 and a Fellow of the European Academy of Cancer Science in 2025.



DR ZEINAB GURA CEO, KUTRRH

Dr. Zeinab Gura is a visionary healthcare leader with unwavering commitment to clinical excellence, innovative program management, and transformative strategic leadership. With a robust background in Medicine and Surgery, a Master of Science in Applied Epidemiology, Masters in International Studies and specialized training in National Security and Strategy from the National Defense

College, Kenya, she adeptly navigates complex healthcare challenges with a multidisciplinary approach.

Over the past 10 years, Dr. Gura has excelled in senior management roles, spearheading initiatives spanning across all the pillars of health systems including ongoing Universal Health Care reforms in Kenya thereby contributing to reshaping public health paradigms. Her prolific contributions to healthcare literature—boasting over 40 publications—underline her role as a thought leader influencing both local and international health policies.

Since assuming the role of Chief Executive Officer at Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral, and Research Hospital (KUTRRH) in December 2024, Dr. Gura has been at the helm of remarkable transformation and streamlining efforts. Under her visionary leadership, KUTRRH has experienced significant advancements in operational efficiency and service delivery, setting a new standard in innovative healthcare management.

Dr. Gura brings not only her extensive expertise and strategic insight but also a proven track record of driving change and fostering excellence in health systems. Her dynamic leadership and dedication to advancing Universal Health Coverage continue to inspire progress across the healthcare sector.

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