



**UNIVERSITY
OF GHANA**



NOGUCHI
Memorial Institute for Medical Research
University of Ghana

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY TO JULY
2025 Edition



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EDITORIAL

NMIMR – IRB: CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

In 1999, the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) received a grant from the National Institutes of Health, USA to conduct a preparatory study towards a malaria vaccine trial. The study was a collaboration between the US Naval Medical Research Centre US (NMRC), NMIMR and the Navrongo Health Research Centre (NHRC). At about the same time, the National Bioethics Advisory Committee (NBAC) of the US NIH were revising health research ethics and expanded ethical review and approval to observational studies. Thus, the Institute was advised of the need to set up an ethics review body to review study proposals for the pending studies to be conducted under the grant. The Institute found itself in the position of not being able to access funds on the grant because there was no operational Institutional Review Board (IRB) to approve the proposed studies. In order to operationalize the grant, the PI and other investigators, with the support of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) /National Institute of Health (NIH), set out to establish an IRB with a Federal Wide Assurance (FWA) to be compliant to the Code of Federal Regulations 45CFR46 that guided award of research grants by the NIH.

The IRB was registered at the Office of Human Subject Protections (OHSP) in 2001. In consultation with the Ministry of Health, the Administrative Board of NMIMR at its meeting in May 2000 endorsed the establishment of an independent body referred to as the Institutional Review Board, to review, evaluate and decide on the ethical merits of research protocols ensuring and guaranteeing the rights, dignity, safety and protection of all individuals and communities who participate in research activities. The then Director, Prof. David Ofori-Adjei, recommended that the Academic Board of the College of Health Sciences should formally approve this body, and it was subsequently approved on 4th October 2001.

The mission statement of the IRB was “To act as an independent, representative and competent body to review, evaluate and decide on the ethical and scientific merits including procedures for obtaining informed consent of research protocols submitted to the NMIMR. The IRB of NMIMR will act to ensure and guarantee the appropriate dignity, rights and safety and protection of individuals and communities who participate in NMIMR research projects”.

The initial membership of the IRB was nine individuals with diverse expertise and with voting rights, except the Director of the Institute, who was a non-voting member. The IRB comprised:

Rev. Dr. Samuel Ayete-Nyampong (Community representative / Chairman)

Prof. David Ofori-Adjei (Physician Researcher/Director, NMIMR)

Prof. Margaret Armar-Klemesu (Nutritionist/Deputy Director)

Prof. Akua Kuenyehia (Lawyer)

Prof. Clara Fayorsey (Sociologist)

Prof. John Gyapong (Ghana Health Service Representative/Epidemiologist)

Prof. Richard B. Biritwum (Epidemiologist)

Prof. John K. Anarfi (Reproductive Health/ Sociologist)

Dr. Martin Agyemang Odei of blessed memory† (Parasitologist) and

Mr. Okyere Boateng (IRB Administrator).

The NMIMR Institutional Review Board (NIRB) for the past 25 years has played an important role in promoting responsible conduct of research in the University. The IRB has experienced substantial growth from its inception both in numerical strength and diversity of its membership, reflecting the increasingly complex and interdisciplinary nature of research conducted under its oversight and offering training for faculty and students on current issues in research ethics.

The current IRB members continue to uphold and evolve the board's mission in an increasingly complex research environment. They bring diverse expertise from medicine, law, ethics, social sciences, and community representation, ensuring comprehensive and inclusive reviews.

Equally, critical to the IRB's success has been the dedication and professionalism of our Administrators and Support staff. These individuals have been the backbone of our operations, managing submissions, maintaining regulatory compliance, facilitating communication between investigators and reviewers, and ensuring our processes remain transparent and efficient. Their contributions have allowed the IRB to scale effectively while maintaining a high standard of review and accountability.

The NMIMR-IRB, being the first formally constituted ethics body in Ghana, played key roles in the establishment of these IRB committees across the country - The CSIR-IRB, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital IRB, 37 Military Hospital IRB, University of Cape Coast IRB, Ghana Atomic Energy IRB, Ethics Committee for the Humanities, College of Basic and Applied Sciences Ethics Committee, Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG) IRB among others.

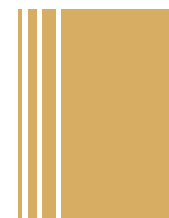
As we commemorate 25 years of ethical research oversight in the Institute and the nation, we recognize that our progress has been shaped by the collaborative efforts of every Member, Administrator, Researcher, Staff and Stakeholders who have served the IRB. We are grateful for the financial and administrative support received from our local and international sponsors, partners and the University of Ghana. We look forward to celebrating another milestone of success in the coming years.

Several IRB members have played pivotal roles and carried forward the vision of the founders while responding to the evolving landscape of research and contributing to a legacy of ethical integrity, scholarly excellence, and public trust in research. We recognize and appreciate their effort for protecting human subjects and promoting responsible scientific research.

Mrs. Chris Dadzie	(Chair and Member, 2006 - 2020)
Prof. David Ofori-Adjei	(Former Director, NMIMR and Member, 1998 - 2006)
Prof. Alexander Nyarko	(Former Director, NMIMR and Member, 2006 -2012)
Prof. Abraham K. Anang	(Former Director, NMIMR and Member, 2017 -2021)
Prof. Michael David Wilson of blessed memory†	(Former Deputy Director, NMIMR and Member, 2005 - 2009)
Dr. Kwasi Odoi-Agyarko	(Member, 2007 - 2018)
Mr. Kinsley Ampofo	(Member, 2008 - 2013)
Ms. Sarah Akrofi-Quarcoo	(Member, 2004 - 2019)
Mrs. Merley Afua Wood	(Member, 2004 - 2005)
Dr. Abraham Hodgson	(Chair and Member, 2011 to date)
Prof. Dorothy Yeboah-Manu	(Director, NMIMR/Member 2017 to date)
Prof. Kwadwo Koram	(Former Director, 2012 – 2017 and Member, 2017 to date)
Prof. Mawuli Gyakobo	(Member, 2018 to date)
Prof. Christabel Enweronu-Laryea	(Member, 2014 to date)
Prof. Peace Tetteh	(Member, 2011 to date)
Rev. Dr. Joseph Kofi Antwi	(Member, 2020 to date)
Dr. Nana Ayegua Hagan Seneadza	(Member, 2016 to date)
Dr. Naa Korkor Allotey	(Member, 2020 to date)
Dr. Aba Obrumah Crentsil	(Member, 2020 to date)
Mr. Kwame Gyamfi	(Member, 2020 to date)
Mr. Okyere Boateng	(IRB Administrator, 2000 - 2010 and Member, 2020 to date)

Dr. Helena Baidoo	(IRB Administrator, 2007 - 2018)
Mrs. Dorcas Opai-Tetteh	(IRB Administrator, 2018 – 2019)
Mrs. Dora Owusu Asomani	(IRB Administrator 2019 – 2024)
Miss Celestine Sappor	(Principal Administrative Assistant 2010 - 2020)
Miss Hannah Abban	(Current IRB Administrator, 2024 to date)
Miss Dorcas Osei-Boakye	(Current Senior Administrative Assistant 2014 to date)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Rauwolfia vomitoria- a promising medical plant for benign prostatic hyperplasia management; yet with challenges

George Awuku Asare¹, Perpetua Dagadu², Samuel Adjei³, Bernice Asiedu⁴, Samkeliso Takaidza⁵, Vivash Naidoo⁶, Brodrick Amoah⁷, Ifeoma Celestina Orabueze⁸, Kwasi Bugyei⁹

¹University of Ghana School of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences, Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Ghana

²University of Ghana Medical School, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Ghana

³University of Ghana Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), Department of Animal Experimentation, Ghana

⁴Vaal University of Technology, Department of Natural Sciences, Gauteng, South Africa

⁵University of the Witwatersrand, Department of Family Medicine, Johannesburg, South Africa
⁶University of Lagos, Department of Pharmacognosy, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

Background: Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) is a common condition among aging men. This condition often leads to a reduced quality of life due to its debilitating symptoms. Although conventional allopathic treatments are widely used for managing BPH, they are frequently associated with adverse side effects, prompting a global shift toward natural and alternative therapies. This study investigated the therapeutic effects of the Aqueous Root Extract of *Rauwolfia vomitoria*, [locally known

as Kakapenpen (Twi); Apototso (Ga-Dangme); Dodemakpowoe (Ewe); Wada (Hausa)] (RVARE) as a potential natural oral treatment for BPH.

Methodology: Six groups of male Sprague-Dawley rats were established [N = 7]. Group 1 comprised of normal rats whilst groups 2 to 6 comprised of BPH induced rats. Group 1: Control group- received normal chow diet. Group 2: Model group- [no treatment]. Group 3: received 10 mg/kg. b. wt. RVARE. Group 4: received 25 mg/kg. b.wt. RVARE. Group 5: received 50 mg/kg. b.wt, RVARE. Group 6: served as a positive control [Finasteride]. The study was carried out for 28 days. Upon termination, blood was sampled for general biochemical, haematological and PSA determination. Systemic organs and the prostate were harvested for histological analyses.

Result: Histopathological analysis of the liver of RVARE treated groups demonstrated alterations. Additionally, a reduction in relative prostate weight compared to the model group was observed, though not statistically significant ($p > 0.05$). However, a significant reduction in prostate specific antigen (PSA) levels was seen in the RVARE-treated groups (Model vs Gp 3, $p = 0.001$; Model vs Gp 4, $p = 0.000$; Model vs Gp 5, $p = 0.001$).

Conclusion: The aqueous root extract of *Rauwolfia vomitoria* appears to be effective in reducing prostate size and PSA levels. However, its seemingly harmful effect on the liver needs further investigation.

Whole genome sequence of the wildtype AU-1 rotavirus A strain: the prototype of the AU-1 genotype constellation

Chantal Ama Agbemabiese^{1,2}, Francis Ekow Dennis¹, Belinda Larteley Lartey¹, Susan Afua Damanka¹, Toyoko Nakagomi², Osamu Nakagomi², George Enyimah Armah

¹Department of Electron Microscopy and Histopathology, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, University of Ghana, Ghana

²Department of Hygiene and Molecular Epidemiology, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Nagasaki University, Japan

Most human *Rotavirus A* (RVA) strains belong to the Wa-like, DS-1-like, or AU-1-like genotype constellation (Fig. 1). The AU-1-like constellation, albeit minor, captured attention because its prototype strain AU-1 originated from feline rotavirus, leading to the concept of interspecies

transmission of rotaviruses. The AU-1 genome sequence determined by various laboratories over the years has documented two conflicting VP7 sequences in the GenBank database. As culture-adaptation may introduce changes in the viral genome, the original faecal (wild-type) and the seed stock of culture-adapted AU-1 genomes were sequenced using the Illumina MiSeq platform to determine the authentic AU-1 sequence and to identify what mutational changes were selected during cell-culture adaptation. The wild-type and culture-adapted AU-1 genomes were identical except for one VP4-P475L substitution. Their VP7 gene was 99.9% identical to the previously reported AU-1 VP7 under accession number AB792641 but only 92.5% to that under accession number D86271. Thus, the wild-type sequences determined in this study (accession numbers OR727616-OR727626) should be used as the reference. The VP4-P475L mutation was more likely incidental than inevitable during cell-culture adaptation. This was the first study in which the whole genomes of both wild-type and cultured RVA strains were simultaneously determined by deep sequencing.

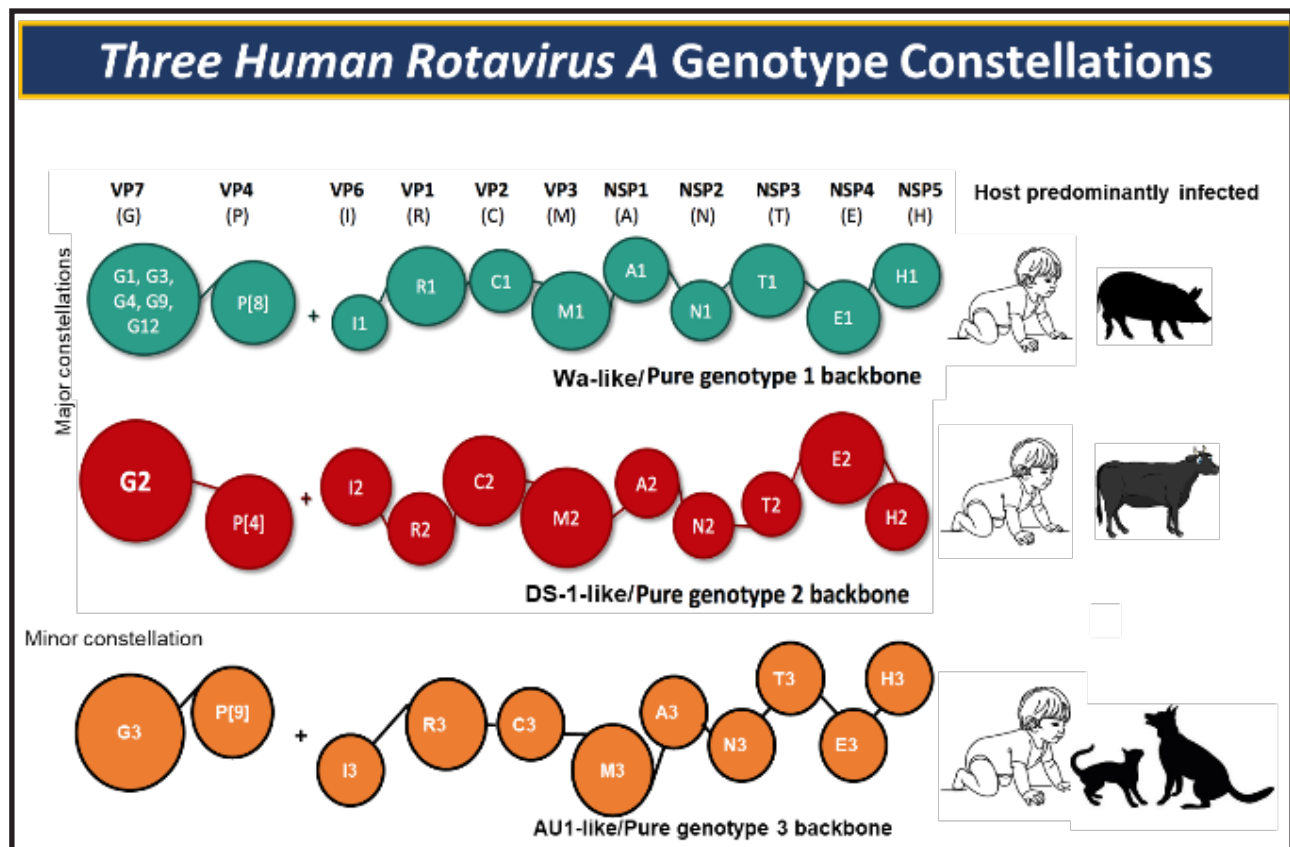


Fig. 1: Genotype constellation of Human Species A rotaviruses

PERSONALITY PROFILE

PROFESSOR IRENE AYI (NÉE GYAMBIBY)



Ayi obtained other skills training in Parasite Immunology, School Health Management, Clinical Immunology of Infectious Diseases and Total Quality Management from JICA via the University of Tokyo and TMDU, Japan and the Suez Canal University, Ismailia, Egypt.

Prof. Ayi pioneered research work in Toxoplasmosis at NMIMR which contributed to intensified awareness of its silent but debilitating effects on maternal and child health, as well as eye and immune health in adults among healthcare workers and academics. Her research in Toxoplasmosis enhanced the knowledge and skills of staff from the Korle-Bu Central and Reference Laboratories, through post-graduate research supervision which influenced improvement in the diagnostic method for Toxoplasmosis at the Reference Laboratory. Her research work and interests for the past 34 years span Neglected Tropical Diseases (Schistosomiasis, Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis and Snakebite Envenoming), entero-parasitic diseases (Cryptosporidiosis, Giardiasis, Amoebiasis), intra-cellular and blood zoonoses (Malaria, Babesiosis, and Trypanosomiasis) in the areas

Prof. Irene Ayi (née Gyambiby) is an Associate Professor of Parasitology and the immediate past Head of Parasitology Department, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana, having previously served in the same capacity from 2012 to 2015. Professor Ayi had her elementary education at the Phillip Quarcoo Girls' Primary and Middle Schools, Cape Coast. She later attended the Mfantseman Girls Secondary and Holy Child Schools for O' and A' Level Certificates, respectively. She was born in Cape Coast, Central Region (maternal lineage) and hails from Asato-Akan (near Kadjebi), Oti Region, Ghana. Professor Ayi holds a BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences from the former University of Science and Technology (now KNUST), Kumasi and a PhD in Medical Sciences (Environmental Parasitology) from the ex-while Tokyo Medical and Dental University (now Institute of Science), Tokyo, Japan.

She was first posted to NMIMR for National Service (1991-1992), engaged on a schistosomiasis project on contract basis upon completion and offered regular employment as a Research Assistant in April 1993. Professor of development and evaluation of diagnostic tools, potency testing of remedies for snakebite envenoming, malacology and drug discovery towards effective and efficient control and/or elimination.

Prof. Ayi has also contributed immensely to school health management in Ghana and across Africa (5 ECOWAS countries and others) and the Middle East through awareness creation, advocacy for policy development and capacity building of teachers and school health managers in the education and health sectors on transmission, infection prevention and treatment of malaria, schistosomiasis and STH. She worked in WHO groups of experts to develop two (2) Guidelines on mollusciciding for schistosomiasis in the field and laboratory and a review of school health-related policy on non-communicable diseases. She recently worked with Sight Savers International to explore alternative ways of schistosomiasis intermediate host snail control, pioneering work in Ghana with promising results. She serves on the Intra-Country Coordination and the Schistosomiasis and Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis Expert Committees of the Ghana NTD Programme.

Professor Ayi is currently working with the NTD Programme and other collaborators in a multi-country study to estimate the prevalence of Female Genital Schistosomiasis (FGS: a complication of urinary schistosomiasis) and use the data in an algorithm for possible development of a non-invasive diagnostic tool for FGS. Prof. Ayi's research work culminated in the training and mentoring of several young researchers at the undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate levels some of whom are in academia at professorial level and in industry across the globe, and several of whom became family. She currently supervising a PhD student with sponsorship from Afrique One Consortium and has a MPhil student and young mentees on her schistosomiasis and malaria/babesiosis projects. She has co-authored several publications, including patents in drug discovery, book chapters, conference abstracts and peer-reviewed journal articles, which have impacted research around the world and still counting. Prof. Ayi contributed significantly to the development of the first ever MPhil and PhD degree courses soon to be run at NMIMR prior to her retirement from official government service in July 2024.



DEPARTMENTAL PROFILE

**The Department of Animal Experimentation
– A world-class hub for Pre-Clinical Animal
Studies**

The Department

Established in 1981 as a Special Experimental Laboratory (SEL) with the responsibility for the production and maintenance of animals for biomedical research, teaching and testing, the Department of Animal Experimentation produced and maintained conventional mice, rats, guinea pigs, hamsters and rabbits for experimentation. Six (6) years later, the name SEL was changed to Animal Unit and the unit was expanded to include an in-house diagnostic laboratory for the scientific appraisal of animal production and maintenance. Animal Unit was changed to the current name Department of Animal Experimentation during the time when units in the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research migrated to the Department level in the University of Ghana. In the year 2000, the Government of Japan, through JICA under the infectious disease project II, constructed a two-storey centralized Laboratory Animal Facility (LAF).



The Laboratory Animal Facility

The facility has a Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) breeding suite as well as animal housing and procedure rooms for rodents and rabbits exposed to biosafety level 2 (BSL2) biohazards. There are isolators for caesarean derivation and clean air racks for both positive and negative air pressure. Apart from the independently controlled housing rooms, the animal facility is access controlled and monitored, the lighting in animal rooms is automated and individually ventilated rodent housing rooms have standard cages and contact-bedding. The facility is fitted with heating, ventilation and air-condition (HVAC) system. Security and biosafety are central to the facility's operations, and access is strictly controlled through restricted entry protocols, documentation, and clearly marked safety symbols. Regular husbandry and breeding care for the animals is provided and the facility is manned seven days a week. A facility manager, veterinarians, technologists, technicians, and animal caretakers make up the staff. The staff provide excellent care for the animals through daily inspections, and they support research by using their expertise in breeding, husbandry, handling, and animal welfare in general.





To uphold the integrity of animal research data, the LAF strictly adheres to internationally recognized guidelines, including the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) standards for testing, the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement, and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) principles. Additionally, all research involving animals undergoes rigorous ethical review process by the University of Ghana Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (UG-IACUC). With its strong commitment to excellence in laboratory animal science, the LAF continues to serve as a regional hub for ethical and welfare of animals used for research.



Since its establishment, the LAF has served as a key resource for the conduct of pre-clinical animal studies in Ghana and the West African sub-region. The SPF animals are produced and supplied for research, disease modelling, vaccine development, and drug discovery. Its contributions have strengthened biomedical research and enhanced the quality of scientific advancements in the region.

Training

The Department is committed to capacity-building through structured training programmes. These programmes equip researchers, technicians, and students with essential skills in laboratory animal science, ethical animal research practices, and advanced experimental techniques.



Molecular genotyping





Animal ethics & welfare



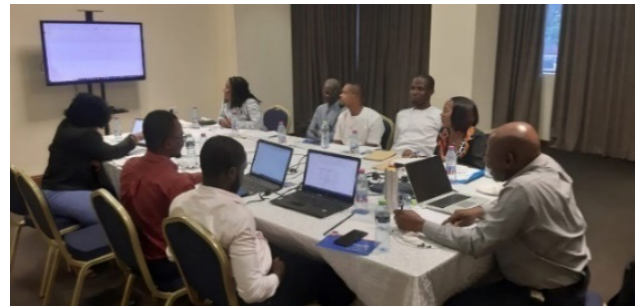
Organ harvesting



Animal phlebotomy



Laboratory Animal Science



Focus group discussion



Animal handling

Research focus

Over the years, the Department has been involved in several research activities, including experiments for new drug development and testing during pre-clinical evaluation, development of disease models or simulations for communicable and non-communicable diseases, among others. Specialized veterinary laboratory diagnostic and monitoring services in support of public health in line with the One-health concept are also provided. One significant research milestone is the establishment of the grasscutter as a model for studying the pathogenesis of Buruli ulcer disease. Current research focus includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Establishment and characterization of Conventional and Specific Pathogen-Free animals
- Development of disease-specific animal models for research
- Efficacy and safety studies: Screening and evaluation of natural/synthesized compounds
- Investigation of pharmacological properties of plant-based natural products
- One Health and Emerging Infectious Diseases: Studying infectious diseases at distinct zoonotic interfaces
- Vaccine/Biologicals industry product development research

Animals and Animal Products

Animal and animal products available and can be purchased for research, teaching and testing

- Specific Pathogen-Free (SPF) Animals:
 - o Mice: ICR, C57BL/6, BALB/c, SKH1
 - o Rat: Sprague Dawley
 - o Hamster: LVG Golden Syrian Hamster
- Conventional Animals:
 - o Guinea pigs, Rabbits, Sheep, and Turkeys
- Sheep whole blood
- Defibrinated sheep blood
- Sheep serum
- Rabbit plasma
- Microbial culture media (general purpose, selective, and differential)

Services provided by the Department

- General toxicology services
- Efficacy testing of biologicals
- Animal model development
- Animal experimentation services (ABSL1 and ABSL-2 animal holding facility)
- Breeding and supply of on-request specific laboratory animal strains
- Advisory services on in vivo studies
- Customized training in laboratory animal science, ethics, and welfare
- Veterinary surveillance services
- Pathogen culture
- Pyrogen testing of products
- Minimum inhibition concentration testing
- Antimicrobial sensitivity testing
- Food microbiology
- Animal facility establishment consultancy and advisory services
- Potency testing of products

Contact for further enquiries

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Phone: +233 30 3942842

IP phone: 7236

Website: <https://noguchi.ug.edu.gh/research-departments/animal-experimentation>

AWARDS AND HONOURS

NMIMR Director, Prof. Dorothy Yeboah-Manu honoured at Ghana Women of Excellence Awards

Prof. Dorothy Yeboah-Manu, Director of NMIMR, has been honoured at the 10th Ghana Women of Excellence Awards for her impactful work in medical research and public health.

The event, organized by Top Brass Ghana in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, took place on the eve of International Women's Day on March 7, 2025, and celebrated Ghanaian women driving change. NMIMR congratulates Prof. Yeboah-Manu on this well-deserved recognition.



NMIMR's High Containment Laboratories Earn Prestigious 4-Star Rating

The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) is delighted to share that its Advanced Research Laboratories (ARL) High Containment Facilities (P3) have received a prestigious 4-star rating from the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

This recognition follows a rigorous assessment in March 2025 under the Africa CDC Biosafety and Biosecurity (BSBS) Initiative, a continental programme aimed at strengthening laboratory systems and safety standards across Africa. The evaluation reviewed critical areas including infrastructure, operational protocols, staff competence, and compliance with international biosafety and biosecurity standards.

NMIMR's ARL facilities met and exceeded the required benchmarks, earning a certificate of recognition. This success was made possible through:

- Visionary leadership from NMIMR Management.
- Technical expertise and capacity-building support from the JICA-supported Noguchi QMS Project.
- Diligent coordination by the NMIMR Safety Office, ensuring continuous preparedness and quality improvement.

This 4-star achievement cements NMIMR's position as a Regional Centre of Excellence in high containment laboratory operations and reinforces its commitment to providing safe, secure, and world-class platforms for research, diagnostics, surveillance, and training in infectious diseases.



SPECIAL VISITS

NMIMR and University of Tsukuba Strengthen Research Collaboration, March 3, 2025

NMIMR hosted a delegation from the University of Tsukuba, Japan, led by Dr. Kyosuke Nagata, to enhance research collaboration.

A symposium highlighted key research areas such as **skin wound healing**, **infectious diseases**, **HIV cure research**, and **antimicrobial resistance**. Discussions focused on **joint research projects**, **academic exchanges**, and **capacity-building initiatives**, reinforcing the long-standing partnership between the two institutions.



Japanese Delegation Visits NMIMR, January 9, 2025

On January 9, 2025, Mr. Ryosei Tanaka, a Japanese House of Representatives member, visited NMIMR along with officials from Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and JICA.

Prof. Dorothy Yeboah-Manu welcomed the delegation, acknowledging Japan's **significant contributions** to NMIMR's development, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Tanaka expressed admiration for NMIMR's achievements and emphasized continued collaboration in **health research and capacity building**.

The visit reaffirmed Japan's commitment to supporting NMIMR's efforts in addressing global health challenges.





Japanese Minister of Education Visits NMIMR to Strengthen Scientific Collaboration, May 2, 2025

Japanese Minister of Education, Abe Toshiko, visited NMIMR with officials from the Ministry, Embassy, and JICA. She was welcomed by the NMIMR Director, Prof. Dorothy Yeboah-Manu. The visit highlighted NMIMR's work in disease surveillance and Japan's support through funding and training.

Minister Abe praised the Institute's efforts and pledged continued collaboration. The visit ended with an exchange of tokens to mark the strong Ghana-Japan partnership.





EVENTS IN PICTURES

NMIMR Celebrates Achievement of ISO 15189:2022 Accreditation February 24, 2025

The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) has attained **ISO 15189:2022 accreditation** from the **Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS)**, reaffirming its commitment to laboratory quality management and diagnostic excellence.

This milestone, supported by the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** through the **Noguchi Quality Management Systems (QMS) Project**, strengthens NMIMR's leadership in biomedical research and diagnostics in West Africa.

Prof. Dorothy Yeboah-Manu commended the dedication of staff, emphasizing that the accreditation will enhance partnerships, help secure funding and drive continuous improvement.



NMIMR Observes World NTD Day with a Call for Community Action, February 6, 2025

Under the theme **"Involving Communities: A Hands-on Approach to Neglected Diseases,"** NMIMR marked **World NTD Day 2025** by emphasizing the role of community engagement in eliminating **Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)**.

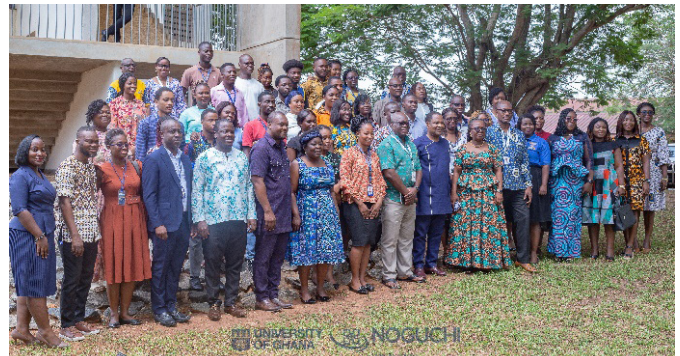
Speakers, including **Prof. Dorothy Yeboah-Manu** and **Prof. Alfred Yawson**, highlighted Ghana's progress in eradicating **trachoma** and **Guinea worm**, stressing the need for sustained commitment, funding, and strategic partnerships.

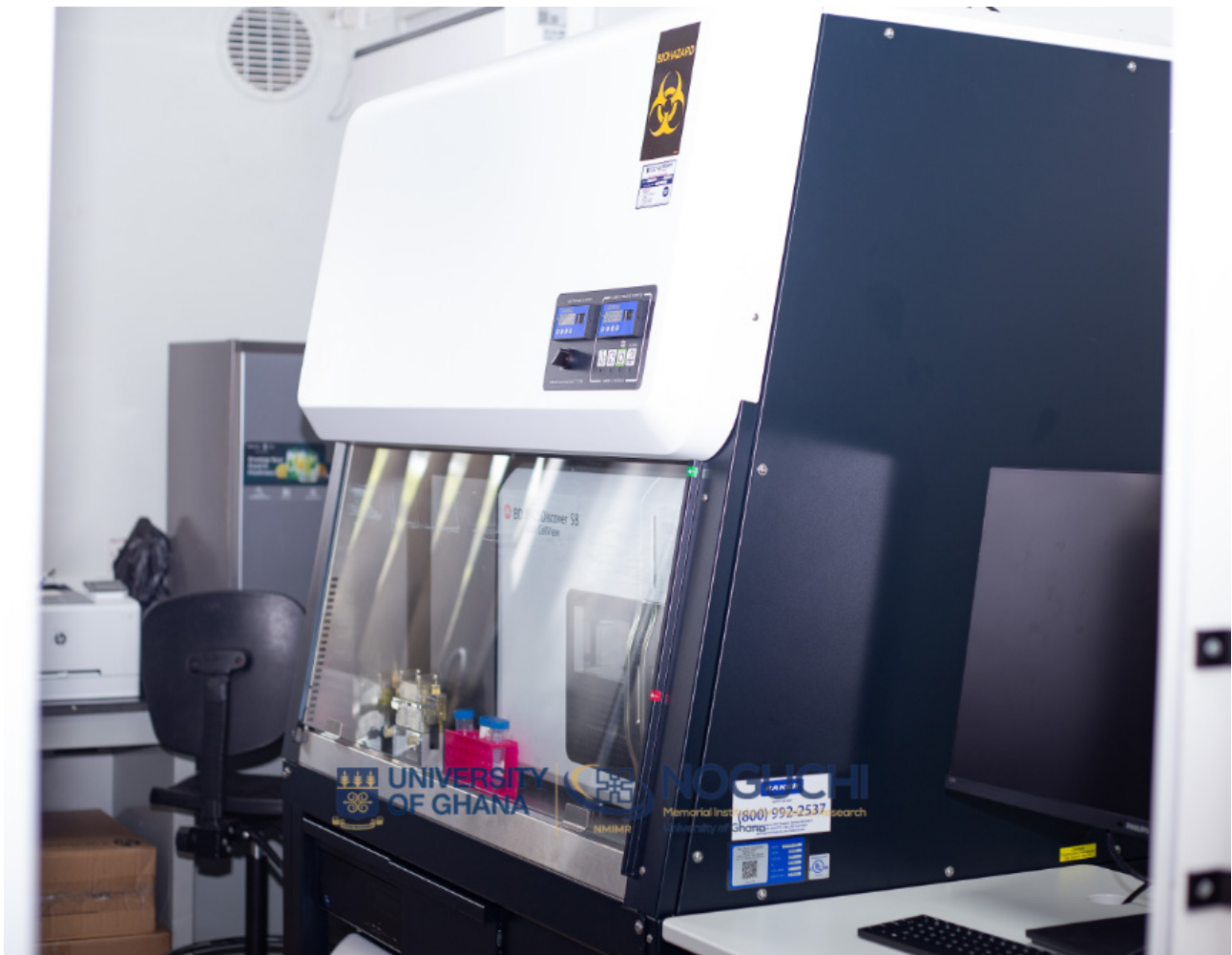
The event reinforced NMIMR's mission to support national and global efforts toward **health equity**.



NMIMR Enhances Research Capabilities with Cutting-Edge Flow Cytometer, February 19, 2025

The S8 FACS Discover Flow Cytometer the first of its kind in the sub-region, has been acquired by NMIMR, advancing research in immunology, cancer, and infectious diseases. This new technology aligns with the **University of Ghana's 2024–2029 Strategic Plan** and is expected to attract research collaborations and funding. A live demonstration highlighted its high-precision capabilities, showcasing its role in fostering multidisciplinary research. During the event, the Institute also commissioned its high-end **Molecular Biology Suite**, located in the main NMIMR building. Together with a similar facility in the ARL Building, this new molecular biology suite greatly enhances NMIMR's capacity for large scale molecular biology in support of research and disease surveillance efforts.





NMIMR Hosts Seminar for National Service Personnel, March 8, 2025

The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) recently organized a seminar for **National Service Personnel (NSP 2024/2025)** under the theme “*What’s Next?*”, to equip service personnel with essential **career planning, leadership, and personal development skills**.

The event featured insightful sessions from:

- **Dr. Evelyn Yayra Bonney** – Goal setting and personal growth
- **Prof. Kwadwo Asamoah Kusi** – Graduate school opportunities
- **Pastor Elliot Mensah** – Leadership and spiritual development

The seminar provided a platform for **interactive discussions**, preparing participants for their post-service careers. **Dr. Kwadwo Kyereme Frimpong** encouraged service personnel to embrace **continuous learning and mentorship**, reinforcing NMIMR’s commitment to professional development.



NMIMR Explores KAIZEN Principles for Institutional Growth, March 14, 2025

The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) hosted a seminar featuring **Dr. Sathasivam Sthaharun**, who spoke about the **KAIZEN theory** as a strategy for improving organizational efficiency. Drawing from successful implementations in Indian organizations, he emphasized **continuous improvement, waste reduction, and workflow optimization**.

Key concepts such as **Gemba** (on-site observation) and the **TIMWOOD** framework were discussed to identify inefficiencies in energy use, material wastage, and office systems. Dr. Sthaharun encouraged **employee involvement** in decision-making and stressed that small, incremental changes lead to long-term progress.

The session concluded with a call for NMIMR to adopt KAIZEN principles to enhance productivity, innovation, and operational excellence.



NMIMR Leads Efforts to Combat TB with Awareness and Screening Activities, March 25, 2025

The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), in partnership with key health institutions, marked World Tuberculosis (TB) Day 2025 with a three-day campaign focused on awareness, screening, and advocacy. Under the theme “Yes! We Can End TB! Commit, Invest, Deliver,” the initiative emphasized the urgency of eliminating TB, which infected 10.8 million people and caused 1.25 million deaths in 2023.

Activities included free TB screenings at Chorkor Galilea and Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, community education sessions on TB symptoms and treatment, and a public awareness seminar at the Public Health Nursing School, Korle-Bu. The event culminated in a TB awareness float through Accra’s streets, engaging the public in discussions on prevention and treatment.





Prof. George Armah Elected Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences

On April 11, 2025, Prof. George Armah with the Department of Electron Microscopy and Histopathology, NMIMR, was named a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) in recognition of his pioneering work in rotavirus research and vaccine development.

A trained physicist and immunologist, Prof. Armah has led landmark vaccine trials, co-founded the African Rotavirus Network, and played a critical role in the rollout and monitoring of rotavirus vaccines in Ghana and across Africa. His outstanding contributions continue to influence immunization strategies and public health outcomes on the continent.



NMIMR Marks World Malaria Day 2025 with Walk, School Outreach, and Free Screening

The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) joined the global commemoration of World Malaria Day 2025 on April 25 under the theme *"Malaria Ends with Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite."*

In the lead-up to the day, NMIMR held a community health walk on April 23 from Okponglo to Bawaleshie, where staff and students distributed flyers, promoted the use of insecticide-treated nets, and encouraged residents to get tested. This was followed by an educational outreach at Bishop Girls School, using games and discussions to equip students as malaria prevention ambassadors.

The commemorative day featured a community screening at Jamestown Park, where more than 200 residents were tested and those who tested positive received free treatment. NMIMR experts stressed the importance of early detection, adherence to treatment, and partnerships to eliminate malaria.



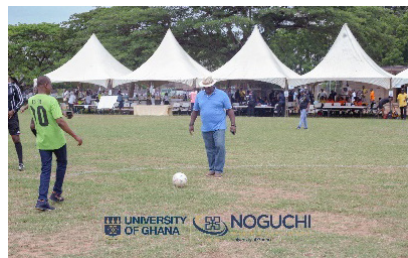
NMIMR Staff Unite in Sports and Spirit at 2025 Nogulympics Games, April 30, 2025

The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) staff came together in vibrant style at the 2025 Nogulympics Games held at the University of Ghana athletic oval. The event celebrated wellness, unity, and teamwork with spirited competitions in football, volleyball, athletics, table tennis and the popular Ladies' penalty shootout.

Director, Prof. Dorothy Yeboah-Manu, officially opened the games and applauded staff for embodying the Institute's spirit of community and camaraderie.

The *Viral Spikes* emerged football champions, while *Outbreak Defenders* topped volleyball. *ParaRangers* triumphed in the Tug of Peace while *Immune Strikers* claimed the table tennis and ladies' penalties titles and were crowned overall champions. The games ended with an awards ceremony celebrating both winners and the collective joy of participation.

The 2025 Nogulympics underscored NMIMR's commitment to promoting a balanced and connected workplace.





NMIMR Launches Second Mentorship Cohort, Closes First with Colourful Ceremony, May 16, 2025

The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) marked a key milestone in its capacity-building efforts on Friday, 16th May 2025, with a joint event to close the inaugural Mentorship Programme, launch the second cohort, and orient new participants.

The event brought together members of both cohorts, mentors, senior researchers, and guests. The Director, Prof. Dorothy Yeboah-Manu, commended the progress made by the first cohort and urged the new mentees to embrace the journey ahead, emphasizing mentorship as a tool for both personal and institutional growth.

Programme Director, Prof. Anita Ghansah, highlighted the initiative's role in fostering leadership and sustaining research excellence. Guest speaker Rev. Dr. William Okyere-Frempong led an engaging orientation, while testimonials from outgoing mentees affirmed the programme's positive impact.

Initiated in June 2023, the Mentorship Programme trained 17 staff in its first year and is set to train 10 more in the 2025–2026 cycle.





Over 200 JHS Students Explore Science at NMIMR STEM Fair

As part of its youth engagement efforts, NMIMR teamed up with Vacation Initiatives Science, Africa (VISA) to host a vibrant 4-day STEM Fair under the theme “*Science Fair.*”

The event drew 240 students from 13 Junior High Schools, giving them the chance to interact with scientists, explore lab setups, and discover how science impacts everyday life.

The fair aimed to spark curiosity and encourage young minds to consider future careers in science and research.



Prof. Regina Appiah-Opong Champions Herbal Medicine for National Development at her Inaugural Lecture

Prof. Regina Appiah-Opong, a distinguished toxicologist and former Head of the Clinical Pathology Department at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, delivered her inaugural lecture on **July 31, 2025**, at Great Hall of the University of Ghana.

Speaking on the theme “*The Potential Role of Medicinal Plants in Ghana's Healthcare and Economy,*” she highlighted the health, economic, and employment potential of Ghana's herbal medicine sector. She **advocated for the production of affordable, scientifically validated herbal products** to meet international standards and tap into the growing global market.

Prof. Appiah-Opong also called for updated trade data, increased research funding, stronger regulation, and training for Traditional Medicine Practitioners in intellectual property rights. She

warned that illegal mining and deforestation threaten the survival of medicinal plant species and urged environmental protection measures.

The Vice-Chancellor, **Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo**, and Registrar, **Mrs. Emelia Agyei-Mensah**, praised her contributions to science, education, and national development.



NMIMR Celebrates Three Retirees for Dedicated Service

The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) on 31st July 2025 held a colourful ceremony to honour three retiring staff members for their outstanding service and contributions to the Institute.

The honourees were Prof. Anthony Ablordey, Associate Professor, and Head of the Bacteriology Department, 33 years, Prof. Samuel Kweku Dadzie, Associate Professor, Department of Parasitology, 29 years and Mr. Samuel Sowah Anang, Assistant Technician, Department of Animal Experimentation, 14 years.

Each received a citation and gifts in recognition of their commitment to research, mentorship and service.

Director of NMIMR, Professor Dorothy Yeboah-Manu, commended them for their invaluable contributions, noting that their impact would continue to shape the Institute long after their retirement. The NMIMR Choir and tributes from colleagues added warmth to the celebration.

Their chapter at NMIMR may be closing, but their legacy of dedication and excellence will continue to inspire.



NMIMR Marks World Hepatitis Day with Quiz, Seminar and Outreach

The Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR), through its Viral Hepatitis Outreach Program (VHOP), marked World Hepatitis Day 2025 with engaging activities to raise awareness and promote healthy living.

The celebration began with a Junior High School quiz competition, where 12 schools showcased their knowledge of hepatitis and liver health. Association Community School emerged winners at the grand finale on 18th July.

A hybrid seminar, also held on 18th July, brought together health professionals and stakeholders. Keynote speakers reflected on VHOP's five-year journey, while long-standing sponsors were honoured for their support.

The commemoration climaxed with a free medical screening and hepatitis B vaccination outreach at Kasoa Old Station, giving residents the chance to know their status and receive protection.

The 2025 celebration, themed *"Unite, Act, Eliminate: A Hepatitis-Free Future for All,"* reinforced the power of partnerships and accessible healthcare in building healthier communities.



STAFF APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS AND UPGRADES

Appointments

NO.	NAME OF STAFF	DEPARTMENT/ UNIT	APPOINTED AS
1.	Prof. Nancy Quashie	Epidemiology	Deputy Director, RID, UG

Promotions/Upgrades

NO.	NAME OF STAFF	DEPARTMENT	PREVIOUS RANK	CURRENT RANK
1.	Dr. Irene Owusu Donkor	Epidemiology	Research Fellow	Senior Research Fellow
2.	Dr. Constance Agbemelo-Tsomafo	Animal Experimentation	Chief Research Assistant	Research Fellow
3.	Dr. Sena Adzoa Matrevi	Epidemiology	Principal Research Assistant	Research Fellow
4.	Dr. Believe Ahedor	Animal Experimentation	Principal Research Assistant	Research Fellow
5.	Mr. Collins Kissi Bamfo	Transport	Senior Driver	Assistant Transport Officer
6.	Mr. Ignatius Agomba	Security	Assistant Security Officer	Security Officer
7.	Mr. Felix Hotor	Security	Campus Guard Grade II	Security Officer
8.	Mr. Samuel Sowah Anang	Animal Experimentation	Assistant Technician Grade 1	Assistant Technician
9.	Ms. Rukaya Issahaku	Administration	Head Cleaner	Senior Headwoman
10.	Mr. Henry Aryee	Transport Unit, Administration	Senior Driver	Chief Driver
11.	Mr. Kwaku Dua Asamoah	Administration	Cleaner	Headman
12.	Mr. Daniel Frimpong	Administration	Cleaner	Headman
13.	Ms. Hagar Ama Agyapong	Administration	Messenger/Cleaner	Senior Messenger/Cleaner
14.	Mr. Dominic K. Dzagbo	Administration	Senior Administrative Assistant	Principal Administrative Assistant
15.	Mr. Bernard Addo	Animal Experimentation	Laboratory Technician	Senior Laboratory Technician
16.	Mr. Godfred Awiah	Administration	Senior Works Superintendent	Principal Works Superintendent
17.	Mr. Kwame Osei	Administration	Senior Accounting Assistant	Principal Accounting Assistant

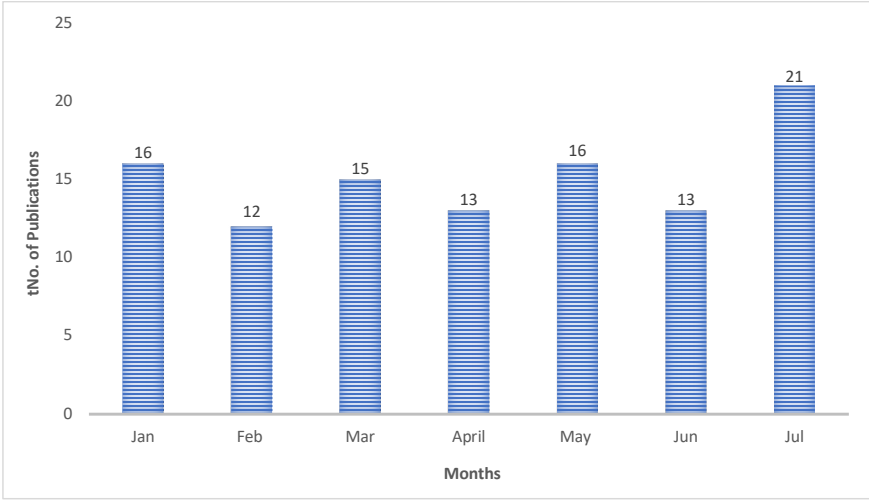
GRANTS

AWARDED - 2025

No.	Project Title	Duration	Funding Agency
1.	Antimicrobial Resistance as a Public Health Threat: An analysis of stakeholder's opinion from Bolivia, Italy, Ghana, Guatemala, and Nepal	01/Jan/2025- 30/Jun/2026	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with funds from the Federal Ministry for economic cooperation and development (BMZ)
2.	CONTAIN: CONTACT Tracing, Infection and Transmission: An INterdisciplinary approach	01/Jan/2025-31/Dec/2026	UKRI
3.	Scaling up biomarker discovery to understand the role of preeclampsia in women with sickle cell disease	06/Jan/2025- 31/Jan/2026	AREF
4.	In Support of WHO Schistosomiasis Control and Elimination Programs: Progressing a TPP-compliant serological test for Schistosoma mansoni to Field Testing and Manufacturing Process Development	10/Jan/2025- 10/Jan/2027	GHIT
5.	Assessing the effect of placental malaria on the pathophysiology of Hypertensive disorders in pregnancy	01/Mar/2025- 29/Feb/2028	GSK
6.	A Multi-stage Malaria Vaccine for Control and Elimination	01/Mar/2025- 28/Feb/2030	EDCTP3
7.	Enhancing Global Health Security: Expanding Efforts and Strategies to Protect and Improve Public Globally (AFIs) - Subaward	03/June/2025- 30/Sep/2026	CDC
8.	Harnessing mosquitoes for epidemic and pandemic research in Africa (MOSEPIC)	01/Jul/2025- 30/June/2030	SFA/IRSS
9.	Building capacity in cell biology to explore the immunological interplay driving the Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex epidemic in West Africa	28/Jul/2025- 30/May/2026	AREF



Summary of NMIMR Publications for 2025



Scan for list of all Publications

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the following persons for their various contributions in getting the Newsletter completed.

- Mr. Pius Dickson-Sarpeh
- Mr. Michael Nartey Addy
- Ms. Griselda Osae-Amoako
- Ms. Millicent Asante
- Mr. Isaac Cabral Jang

Thank you for your continued support.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**Prof. Kwadwo
Asamoah Kusi**
Chairperson



Dr. Charles Quaye,
Member



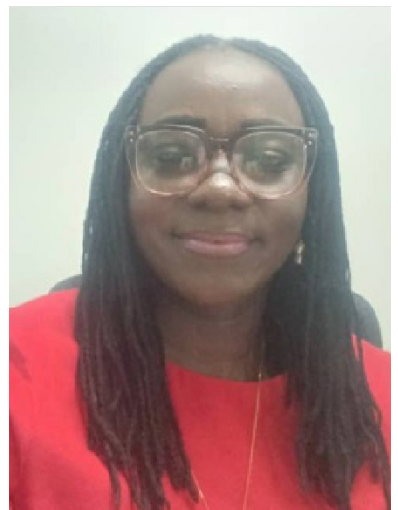
Dr. Gloria Ivy Mensah,
Member



**Dr. Sawudatu
Zakariah-Akoto,**
Member



**Dr. Constance
Agbemelo-Tsomafo,**
Member



**Mrs. Evelyn Beloved
Amenuke,**
Secretary

