

12th ANREC

ANNUAL NATIONAL RESEARCH
ETHICS CONFERENCE

THEME

COMMUNITIES AS PARTNERS: STRENGTHENING
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH

21-22 October
2025

Hotel Africana
Kampala, Uganda

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Monday 20th October 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY
9:00am - 1:00pm	Chair: Dr. GRACE NDEEZI Forum for REC/IACUC Chairpersons in Uganda (for Research Ethics Committees/ Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees Chairpersons ONLY)

Tuesday 21st October 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:00 - 8:30am	Registration of participants – UNCST Secretariat
8:30 - 10:50am	PLENARY SESSION 1: Moderator/Chair: Dr. Joseph Kagaayi & Ms. Deborah Kasule
8:30 - 9:00am	Welcome remarks: a. Chair Organizing Committee b. Secretary to the Authority NDA c. Director General UNHRO d. Executive Secretary UNCST
9:00 - 9:15am	Drama Skit: <i>"Did you engage the community?"</i>
9:15 - 10:00am	Keynote address 1: Communities as partners in Research: What does it mean for research to be responsive to the needs and priorities of local community? A global overview Dr. Janestic Twikirize College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University (CHUSS)
10:00 - 10:30am	Official opening: a. Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze , Chairperson, UNCST Council b. Hon Dr. Monica Musenero , Hon Minister of Science Technology and Innovation Launch of • Revised National guidelines for research involving Humans as Research participants • Guidelines for Community Engagement in Research • Guidelines for Joint Scientific and Ethical Review of research
10:30 - 10:35am	Group photograph
10:35 - 11:00am	HEALTH BREAK
11:00am - 1:15am	PLENARY SESSION 2: The Changing Regulatory Landscape for Research Ethics: Global and National Outlook Chair & Co-Chair: Dr. Pauline Byakika-Kibwika & Dr. Victor Musiime
11:00 - 11:25am	a. Updates to the Declaration of Helsinki and potential impact for Research in Uganda and the Region - Dr. Frederick Nakwagala, Mulago National Referral Hospital
11:25 - 11:45am	b. Overview of the revised National Guidelines for Research Involving Humans as Research Participants - Dr. Nelson Sewankambo, Prof. Emeritus College of Health Science (CHS), Makerere University



TIME	ACTIVITY
11:45 - 12:10pm	c. National Health Research Priorities: The Essential National Health Research Agenda 2026 - 2030 Dr. Sam Okware, Director General Uganda National Health Research Organization (UNHRO)
12:10 - 12:40pm	d. Looking Beyond Community Advisory Boards!! How to effectively engage a research community. Ms. Noni Mumba, Kenya Medical Research Institute-Wellcome Research Programme (KWRP), Kenya
12:40 - 1:00pm	e. Status of Community engagement in Research in Uganda: Regulatory perspective Ms. Hellen Opolot, Assistant Executive Secretary, Uganda National Council for Science & Technology
1:00 - 1:15pm	Panel discussion (Q&A session)
1:15 - 2:00pm	LUNCH BREAK
	PLENARY SESSION 3: Ethics and Animal Welfare: Considerations for animals in research Chair & Co-Chair: Dr. Sylvia Angubua Baluka & Dr. Lawrence Mugisha
2:00pm - 2:30pm	Animal health and Community Engagement in Research: Historical perspectives on Conduct of Animal Research in Uganda Dr. John David Kabasa, Prof. Emeritus College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Resources & Biosecurity (COVAB), Makerere University
2:35 - 5:00pm	PARALLEL SESSIONS
	TRACK 1: Ethics and Animal Welfare: Considerations for animals in research Chair & Co-Chair: Dr. Sylvia Angubua Baluka & Dr. Lawrence Mugisha
	Presentation 1: Community engagement & Animal research: How to effectively engage animal owners in research that involves animals as research subjects. Dr. Emily Ouma, Country Representative Uganda International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
	Presentation 2: Wildlife animal and welfare: Navigating the world of research oversight and compliance with free-range species (Role of the Principal Investigators, attending veterinarians, Uganda Wildlife Authority and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee). Dr. Margret Driciru, Head Research Department, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)
	Presentation 3: Agricultural animals in research: Special issues and ethical consideration related to the use of agricultural animals in biomedical research. Dr. Swadiq Mugerwa, Deputy Director General National Agricultural Research Institute (NARO)
	Presentation 4: Establishment of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC) and Roles & Responsibilities of the IACUC, Host institutions, Investigators, Sponsors: Challenges and Opportunities. Dr. Halid Kirunda, Director Research National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO)
	TRACK 2: Research Ethics and Traditional-Alternative Medicine Research Chair & Co-Chair: Dr. Yahaya Gavamukulya & Dr. Ahmed Kiswezi
	Presentation 1: Research in Traditional and Alternative Medicine: Ethics, intellectual property & Cultural Relevance. Dr. Sekagya Yahaya Hills (Kagali III), Director Institute of Traditional Medicine, President PROMETRA Uganda (NGO)
	Presentation 2: Data Ownership and Knowledge in Traditional and Alternative Medicine Research: Case of Batwa Indigenous People and Local Communities in Kisoro District, Uganda Dr. Francis Omuja, Senior Research Officer, Natural Chemotherapeutics Research Institute (NCRI)
	Presentation 3: Pathways to conventional clinical trial testing of Traditional and Alternative Medicine research: Navigating fears of intellectual property rights & loss. How to effectively engage communities in Traditional and Alternative Medicine (TAM) research? Dr. Pauline Byakika-Kibwika, Vice Chancellor Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)
	Presentation 4: Intellectual property landscape in Uganda, Application to Traditional and Alternative Medicine research: Regulatory Perspective Mr. Marvin Alinaitwe, Intellectual Property Officer, Uganda National Council for Science & Technology (UNCST)



TIME	ACTIVITY
2:35 - 5:00pm	PARALLEL SESSIONS
	TRACK 3: Ethics of Novel Innovations and Emerging Research Designs Chair & Co Chair: Dr. Fred Bulamba & Dr. Jane Nakibuka
	Presentation 1: The ethical conduct of cell and gene therapy research: Novel challenges and ethical considerations for researchers and regulators (REC, UNCST & NDA) Dr. Cissy Kityo, Executive Director Joint Clinical Research Center (JCRC)
	Presentation 2: Ethics of Adaptive trial designs: What are they and what do Research Ethics Committees (REC), research regulators and research participants need to know? Dr. Victoria Nankabirwa, College of Health Science, School of Public Health Makerere University
	Presentation 3: Ethics of Social Behavioral Research and Community Engagement Dr. Stella Neema College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS), Makerere University
	Presentation 4: Establishing a single sex Schistosoma mansoni Controlled Human Infection Model for Uganda: Experiences and Lessons Learned Dr. Moses Egessa- Uganda Virus Research Institute/Medical Research Council- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UVRI/MRC-LSHTM)
	TRACK 4: Research Ethics in Disease Outbreaks and other Emergencies Chair & Co-Chair Dr. Richard Katuramu & Dr. Kassim Sadik
	Presentation 1: Research Ethics and Research in Emergency situations: Balancing Urgency with Informed Consent and Participant Protection. What are the ethical implications? Dr. Bruce Kirenga, Principal College of Health Sciences (CHS), Makerere University
	Presentation 2: Emergency Research Prioritization: Who is researched on? Who benefits? Who decides? Dr. Alex Riolexus Ario, Uganda National Institute of Public Health, Ministry of Health
	Presentation 3: Ebola vaccine trials in Uganda: Community Engagement in emergency disease outbreaks: lessons learned. Dr. Betty Mwesigwa, Deputy Executive Director, Makerere University Walter Reed Project (MUWRP)
	Presentation 4: Community engagement and Research during Climate Driven Disasters: What are the ethical Challenges? Dr. Yazidhi Bamutaze, Deputy Principal College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES), Makerere University
4:40 - 5:00pm	Panel discussions in the Tracks (Q & A session)

**** **END OF DAY 1** ****



Wednesday 22nd October 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:00 - 8:30am	Registration of participants – UNCST Secretariat
8:30 - 10:40am	PLENARY SESSION 1: Community Engagement Across the Research Life Cycle and Post Research Responsibilities Chair: Dr. Grace Ndeezi & Dr. Ian Clarke
8:30 - 9:10am	Keynote address 2: Ethics of Post Research Responsibilities (PRR) and obligations: The Past and Present, Areas of Agreement and Controversies; Next steps for Uganda and the Region. Dr. Flavia Matovu, Senior Research Scientist MU-JHU Care Ltd
9:10 - 9:35am	a. Landscape of Traditional and Alternative Medicine Research in the region: Ethics, Challenges and Opportunities - Global overview Dr. Patrick Ogwang Engeu, Associate Professor of Pharmacy, Mbarara University of Science and Technology
9:35 - 10:00am	b. Engaging communities in identifying community needs and protocol development (Researchers' perspective and experiences): Case study of Uganda: Dr. Clemensia Nakabiito, Clinical Research Site (CRS) Leader MU-JHU Care Ltd



TIME	ACTIVITY
10:00 - 10:25am	c. Ethics of Controlled Human Infection Studies in low resources Settings, Is Region Ready? Dr. Primus Che Chi & Dr. Maureen Njue, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) - Wellcome Trust Research Programme (KWTRP)
10:25 - 10:40am	Panel Discussion (Q& A session)
10:40 - 11:00pm	HEALTH BREAK
11:00am - 1:00pm	PLENARY SESSION 2: - Community Engagement Across the Research Life Cycle!! Chair & Co-Chair Dr. Phillipa Musoke & Dr. Julaina Obika
11:00 - 11:25am	a. Community Engagement in a Pathogen Economy Ms. Brenda Nakazibwe- Pathogen Economy Team Lead Science Technology and Innovation - Secretariat (STI-OP)
11:25 - 11:50am	b. Clinical Trials Insurance, are we enriching or making insurance companies wealthier: Serious Adverse Events and compensations for research related injury (Role of the Research Ethics Committee, Principal investigator and National Regulators (UNCST & NDA). Who is responsible for what? Ms. Diana Kesi Nakitto, Manager Clinical Trials Unit National Drug Authority
11:50am - 12:15pm	c. Changing paradigms, electronic research methods and consenting: Ethical and legal Issues and how to engage the research communities. Dr. Adrian Jjuuko, School of Law, Makerere University
12:15 - 12:40pm	d. Social and Behavioral Research: Engagement and Post Research Responsibilities Dr. David Mafigiri, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University
12:40 - 1:00pm	Panel Discussion (Q& A session)
1:00 - 2:00pm	HEALTH BREAK- LUNCH
2:00 - 4:00pm	PLENARY SESSIONS
2:00 - 3:00pm	PLENARY SESSION 4 - PANEL DISCUSSION: Stakeholder Perspective - Community Engagement Session Chair & Co Chair: Dr. Frederick Nakwagala & Dr. Victoria Namuggala
	Not Just Optional: Why do Community Voices matter in public health emergencies? Shared experiences in community.
3:00 - 4:00pm	PLENARY SESSION 5 - CLOSING SESSION Session Chair & Co Chair: Dr. Joseph Kagaayi & Dr. Martin Ongol
	Summary of Proceedings, Chairperson Scientific & Planning Committee 12th ANREC
	Vote of thanks, Participant representative
	Official Closing Dr. Rhoda Wanyenze, Chairperson UNCST Council
4:00pm	COCKTAIL AND DEPARTURE

PARTNERS



**MAKING
UGANDA
THE BEST**