

NEWSLETTER

December 2021



Message from the Executive Director, PAMCA



Dear PAMCA Friends and Partners,

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your concerted efforts throughout the year towards helping PAMCA realize its overarching vision of “An Africa free of vector borne diseases.” The success of PAMCA’s initiatives is built on the efforts of our staff, members of our organization, donors, sponsors, and this year we celebrate many achievements from these diverse efforts. Thank you for the commitment that each one of you has shown us.

A blue ink handwritten signature of Prosper Chaki, PhD.

Prosper Chaki, PhD
Executive Director, PAMCA

Indeed, we have come through a year that was filled with both challenges and victories. How reassuring it has been to know that we can count on all of you regardless of what circumstances facing us. On behalf of the PAMCA management, please allow me to extend my sincere appreciation to each and every one for your valuable contributions to this organization. Through our collaborating regional knowledge translation centres (IHI-Tanzania, CRID-Cameroon and IRSS-Burkina Faso) we have trained 75 District medical entomologists in collaboration with the national programs and other partners including the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI). In addition, in collaboration with our partners IHI, and the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) we trained over 60 vector control and surveillance technicians from Rwanda on data management and synthesis with the kind support of BAYER. Furthermore, through our African Gene Drive Network for Vector Control (AGNVC) we have continued to increase the critical mass of Africa scientists participating in conversation on gene drive technologies for vector control through dedicated training opportunities and discussion forums including partner-organized webinars. Despite the challenges from the pandemic, our annual conference has continued to remain a preferred platform for knowledge exchange with over 421 participants drawn from a total of 53 countries within and outside the continent attending the virtual PAMCA Annual Conference and Exhibition 2021.

I call upon everyone, to join us as we reflect on the great achievements

reached in the fight against mosquitoes and the diseases they transmit. To sustain the gains and win this war against mosquitoes, it behoves us to diminish our personal heroism and harness our collective energies to deliver on new innovative solutions for the betterment of the endemic communities ravaged by mosquito borne diseases. We at PAMCA are committed to continue creating the platform for innovating and sharing best practice and solutions that promote the much-needed mosquito control capacity across our PAMCA Chapters and partners in Africa. We are set to continue in building and strengthening South-South and North-South collaborations, to ensure that we always stay ahead of the dangerous mosquitoes and diseases they carry. PAMCA is committed to building the best platform for advancing and sharing expert knowledge to support countries in Africa towards this end.

We appreciate your efforts and thank everyone who has been at the forefront of supporting mosquito research and control activities and we look forward to continuing the journey together as we keep writing new pages in the history of mosquito control in the continent. Together we can! As we come close to the end of 2021, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your resilience in the wake of great adversity we face daily in this era of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Let me take this opportunity to convey my message of good will to you as we come close to the end of the year and wish you glad tidings and success for the new year 2022!

Sincerely
Prosper Chaki, PhD
Executive Director, PAMCA

Spotlight on PAMCA Programs



- ✓ 7th PAMCA Annual Conference & Exhibition, September 20-22, 2021
- ✓ African Gene Drive for Vector Control Network (AGDVCN)
- ✓ Updates from PAMCA Chapters
- ✓ Women in Vector Control (WIVC) Excellence Awards
- ✓ PAMCA Women in Vector Control (WIVC) panel discussion

7th PAMCA Annual Conference & Exhibition, September 20-22, 2021

The 7th edition of the PAMCA Annual Conference & Exhibition 2021, was hosted virtually by the PAMCA Ghana Chapter, with the overall leadership of PAMCA Secretariat. The conference took place from September 20-22, 2021, under the theme: “Empowering local institutions to set the agenda for the elimination of vector-borne diseases.” The conference featured a diverse array of scientific content, plenary discussions; hosted symposia; an Excellence Award featuring Women in Vector Control (WIVC). New this year was a round-table discussion event between major global health funding partners and disease implementing agencies in sub-Saharan Africa, including representatives from the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), National Malaria Control Program, Rwanda (NMCP), among others. The conference saw over 420 participants drawn from diverse disciplines including, research and public health entomology, disease implementing agencies, academia, the private industry, among other groups, from 53 countries around the globe, register and participate.

The annual conference continues to cement PAMCA’s convening capabilities across the continent, providing an excellent platform for participants to share knowledge, show-case innovative solutions, and other advances in vector-borne disease surveillance and response in Africa and around the globe. PAMCA is grateful to the partners who provided the critical financial and material support for hosting of the

annual conference under the four different sponsorship tiers including, Platinum sponsorship (Bayer, Sumitomo Chemical, SC Johnson, VectorBase); Gold sponsorship (Vestergaard); Silver sponsorship (Syngenta); Bronze sponsorship (Royal Entomological Society, Mitsui Chemicals Agro, Inc, Inqaba Biotech, Biogents, Novogene). Special appreciation to our partner, Bayer, for supporting the efforts to showcase the efforts of women in vector control by fully sponsoring the WIVC Excellence Awards. We thank all our sponsors and look forward to your continued partnership with PAMCA. The 8th edition of the PAMCA Annual Conference & Exhibition will be held in Rwanda on September 12-14, 2022. We look forward to your full participation. The call for abstracts will go out on February 1, 2022, please look out for that!

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Strengthening local capacity for malaria surveillance and elimination in Africa – The district entomologist training August – October 2021.

PAMCA, in partnership with three African infectious disease research institutions, dubbed Centres of Excellence, namely Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) - Tanzania, Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases (CRID) - Cameroon, Research Institute of Health Sciences (IRSS) – Burkina Faso; are working to build the capacity of national programs to conduct effective vector surveillance through training of district level entomologists starting with the three countries in which the Centres of Excellence are domiciled. The main objective is to build a critical mass of trained staff at the district level who will be at the disposal of national programs to conduct baseline entomological surveillance and monitoring to guide rational disease control interventions.



The district entomologist training session, field visit, Burkina Faso

The program anchored within the framework of “strengthening local capacity for malaria surveillance and elimination in Africa” and is designed to impart practical hands-on skills in conducting vector surveillance program at the unit of administration in which vector surveillance activities are planned and implemented by the national programs. Among the key concepts and practical skill sets covered include topics on malaria mosquito biology and identification, mosquito surveillance methods, identification

of mosquito vectors, sampling techniques for both adult and aquatic mosquito stages, insecticide resistance monitoring, integrated vector management, among others.

The course curriculum development was led by IHI in partnership with IRSS, CRID and PAMCA with input from selected national malaria control program staff (NMCPs). The curriculum is designed to cover these key concepts within the shortest period but with a ripple effect of immediate adaptability and transferability by the district entomologists to their everyday surveillance activities. The courses run for two weeks (with a 10-day intensive residential training schedule) and consist of theoretical modules that are reinforced through practical laboratory sessions, as well as practical field demonstration components conducted within partner institutions and field sites. The trainings are conducted in close collaboration with the national programs, and PAMCA Country Chapter leadership and target disease implementers drawn from the programs (malaria focal persons and surveillance officers) to ensure immediate benefit of the training outcomes to disease intervention implementation initiatives with the countries.



The district entomologist training, practical session, Cameroon Edition.

The IHI conducted their first round of training from October 4-15, 2021. Thirteen participants were trained, nine of whom were selected from 32 vector surveillance sites in Tanzania; one was a staff of the Tanzania NMCP, while three were selected from the district surrounding the IHI. The IRSS was the other partner to conduct their training sessions from October 18-27, 2021 in Bobo-Dioulasso, in partnership with Burkina Faso NMCP, and the African Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology Innovations to control vector-borne diseases of the University Nazi, Boni (CNRFP).

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The course facilitators were drawn from universities, NMCP staff, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), researchers and technicians from IRSS and CNRFP. Following the conclusion of the first round of trainings, the facilitators are currently conducting follow-up engagements with the participants who took part in the trainings to gather feedback, assess the effectiveness of the training regime to inform subsequent future designs, and to assess the impact of the trainings on vector surveillance and control operations.



*The district entomologist training, practical session,
Cameroon Edition*

African Gene Drive for Vector Control Network (AGDVCN)

As part of efforts to create a critical mass of informed individuals about gene drives and new genetic biocontrol technologies on the continent, the African Gene Drive for Vector Control Network was launched during the 7th PAMCA Annual Conference and Exhibition. The launch was part of a symposium themed 'Who keeps gene drive research safe? Engaging African experts in governance of gene drive research' where discussants from Ifakara Health Institute, Target Malaria, PAMCA and the African Genetic Biocontrol Consortium tackled the importance of engaging African experts in the policy debate and what it takes to make it possible. Dr Prosper Chaki, also presented a summary of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Malaria strategy and grant areas related to genetic vector control currently being supported

by the foundation.

The Gene Drive Symposium at the 7th Edition of the PAMCA Annual Conference & Exhibition



Zaira Lanna from EmergingAg/Outreach Network for Gene Drive Research moderates the gene drive symposium at the 7th annual conference & exhibition

The network aims to promote north-south and south-south collaboration and will facilitate the following:

- A social networking platform to foster a gene drive community of practice
- Gene drive short course and more in-depth training
- Field work and practical sessions
- Policy dialogue
- Webinar series
- Opportunities to network with other stakeholders from non-scientific backgrounds
- Career development, postdoc and fellowship opportunities

The gene drive network builds on our successful series of short course trainings, held since 2017.

AGDVCN activities

In June, the first virtual gene drive short course – “Novel control strategies: from research to acceptance and implementation” was held with support from Target Malaria. The course which lasted four days, attracted 21 participants from diverse disciplines from 20 African countries. Trainees were provided with basic technical understanding of gene drive technologies, public acceptance, regulator issues and ecological concerns. The next iteration of the short course is scheduled for Q1, 2022 and will be advertised on PAMCA platforms.

On August 5th, PAMCA held a joint webinar with Outreach Network for Gene Drive Research entitled, “Gene drives for vector control: current governance and policy debates and the implications for research”. View a replay of the webinar [here](#)

On November 25th, The African Genetic Biocontrol Consortium, of which PAMCA is a member organisation, hosted the webinar: “Moving research from the laboratory for field trials covering the regulatory pathway for genetically engineered organisms and derived products.” Speakers and discussants from Ifakara Health Institute, Oxitec, Target Malaria and the Environmental Affairs department in Malawi discussed the practicalities of field trials, consideration for site selection of biocontrol agents, challenges and approaches to addressing implementation gaps. This webinar and others in this series can be viewed [here](#). To receive updates on activities and join AGDVCN membership database, click on this link. If you have an interest in learning more about gene drive and would like to be a gene drive resource person, please contact emma.orefuwa@pamca.org

Updates from PAMCA Chapters

PAMCA continues to expand its footprint in Sub-Saharan Africa through PAMCA Country Chapters. Since the beginning of 2021, two additional chapters have formally registered and received certificates of registration from the statutory regulatory authorities within their respective countries of jurisdiction. The two new chapters are PAMCA Ethiopia Chapter, and PAMCA Mali Chapter. This brings the total number of chapters that are fully registered to nine (9) including Kenya, Mali, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania. The remaining eight (8) interim chapters are at advanced stages of formally registering their chapters and include, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Malawi, DR Congo, Mozambique, Uganda, Rwanda, and Zambia. PAMCA Country Chapters, are key to mobilizing in - country entomologists, vector control specialists and other allied professionals to work in concert with the disease implementing agencies within the respective countries towards implementing effective vector-borne disease response to achieve PAMCA's goal of "An Africa free of vector-borne diseases."

New PAMCA Chapters Profile

PAMCA Malawi Chapter



PAMCA Malawi Chapter brings together medical entomologists and people from different fields that contribute to the control of vector-borne diseases (VBDs) in Malawi. Malawi is a hotspot for many VBDs including malaria, Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT) or sleeping sickness and Schistosomiasis. Interestingly, the WHO recently declared lymphatic filariasis and Onchocerciasis (River blindness) eliminated in Malawi. The focus for these two diseases is now morbidity management and transmission assessment surveys. There is a dearth of local well trained and qualified local medical entomologists and researchers in the country. Consequently, most of the vector control research and interventions in the country are driven by international collaborators and in an ad hoc manner.

Therefore, PAMCA Malawi Chapter aims to:

- (1) Establish a robust structure that builds the capacity of its members to undertake innovative research that provides evidence for the control of VBDs and for policy.
- (2) Bring together leading local research institutes, academic institutions, and national disease control programmes to develop solutions that are informed by locally generated evidence.

PAMCA Malawi Chapter will also champion for a strong presence of women in vector control given that women are disproportionately affected by some of the VBDs, their role in looking after their sick children, the economic consequences, and their role in science. Though still in its infancy, PAMCA Malawi Chapter is involved in several activities including offering tailored training and supervision of student projects in VBDs and related topics. Some of the Chapter's engagements can be accessed via its Twitter profile (<https://twitter.com/PamcaMalawi>).

Organizational structure

The Chapter is currently finalizing its registration process and is working on strategies to recruit new members. The current PAMCA Malawi Chapter's leadership comprises of young, passionate, and enthusiastic researchers involved in VBDs, including Dr. Steve Gowelo (President), Dr. Jessy Goupeyou-Youmsi (Vice-President), Mrs. Rhosheen Mthawanji (Public Relations Manager), Dr. Evelyn Olanga (Treasurer) and Mrs. Lusungu Kayira (Secretary). The Chapter also has senior entomologists as advisors, Dr. Christopher Jones, and Dr. Themba Mzilahowa.

Training on Mosquito Maintenance

As part of PAMCA Malawi Chapter's initial activities, undergraduate students (final year BSc in Biomedical sciences) from Mzuzu University (in Malawi) were engaged in short-term training. During an intense 3-weeks training period, participants learned mosquito maintenance at the insectary, mosquito dissection and morphological identification, molecular analyses (PCR, ELISA), Field mosquito collections (PSCs, CDC-light traps, aspiration).

They were supervised mostly by PAMCA Malawi Chapter members from the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (the Malaria Alert Centre department and the Biomedical Sciences department) and the Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme (MLW)

*BSc in Biomedical Science
from Mzuzu University
undergoing training of
mosquito maintenance and
molecular analysis*



Women in Vector Control (WIVC) Excellence Awards



During this year's virtual PAMCA Annual Conference & Exhibition ended on a celebratory note with the first ever awards ceremony recognising the spectacular achievement and active participation of women in vector control. The inaugural WIVC Excellence Awards Ceremony was held on the last day of the conference on 22 September 2021. The WIVC Excellence Awards was sponsored by Bayer. The WIVC program aims at strengthening the role of women in the control and elimination of vector-borne disease (VBDs). The objectives of the WIVC Excellence Award were as follows:

- To award excellence in early, mid- career and senior women in vector control
- To increase visibility of women in vector control in Africa
- To empower and build confidence in the work done by WIVC.

The Excellence Award Ceremony was a chance to recognise phenomenal women working in the field; celebrate rising stars and women who have contributed exceptionally to research and leadership in the control of VBDs in sub-Saharan Africa

(SSA). A total of 36 applications were received and awardees were competitively selected based on pre-determined criteria. Following an application and extensive review process by a selection committee, five women were awarded Excellence Awards under three categories; early-career, mid-career, and senior-career. Category winners were awarded with a grant of \$2000, and runners up received \$1000. The awardees will re-invest the funds in initiatives that will continue to promote women participation in VBDs in SSA. Through these awards, PAMCA is actively supporting the global commitment to UN SDG 5 (gender equality); SDG 6 (reduce inequalities); and SDG16 (inclusive societies and strong institutions). The virtual awards ceremony provided the opportunity for each of the awardees to introduce themselves and express their appreciation to PAMCA and their partners for their generosity.

Early-career category



Jessy Goupeyou-Youmsi
Winner Early-career category



Jessy Goupeyou-Youmsi is a Medical Entomologist with a PhD from Sorbonne University in France. She is from Cameroon where she earned her Master's Degree from the University of Yaoundé I, in the Department of Animal Biology and Physiology, with Parasitology & Ecology as specialization. In 2015, as a recipient of the Calmette and Yersin Doctoral Grant from the Institut Pasteur Network, Jessy joined the Immunology of Infectious Diseases Unit at the Institut Pasteur de Madagascar where she carried out most of her PhD work. Some of her doctoral research led to the implementation of the first platform for the experimental infections of *Anopheles* by *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium vivax* in Madagascar. She is passionate about vector control and malaria transmission. In January 2019, Jessy joined the Malaria Alert Centre of the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences in Malawi, where she works as a postdoctoral research fellow under Malawi International Center of Excellence for Malaria Research (ICEMR). She is currently working on a project characterizing *Plasmodium* transmission reservoirs in Malawi and another project assessing the vector competence of local malaria vectors, both under the Malawi ICEMR. For the past two years, Jessy has been an active member of the Vector Control Technical Working Group (VCTWG) supporting the NMCP, Malawi. To support more gender representation on the vector control field, Jessy uses her free time to mentor young researchers in Malawi and in other African countries. She is also one of the leaders in the establishment of the PAMCA Malawi Chapter, and is an active contributor to the global PAMCA WIVC initiative. Jessy continues to demonstrate a commitment to collaborate with scientists and other actors to solve broad multi-disciplinary issues related to vector control and malaria transmission.

Jessy is a go-getter and thrives in any environment she finds herself in. The WIVC awards panel were particularly impressed not only with Jessy's technical ability, but her sound leadership skills. She is passionate about supporting women, and has driven various initiatives for women in Malawi. She is particularly keen on facilitating increased inclusivity, and is spearheading initiatives to support women in vector control from French speaking countries.

What this award means to Jessy

"Vector-borne diseases (VBDs) cause more than 700,000 deaths annually. It is reported that the burden of VBDs is highest in tropical and subtropical areas, and that they disproportionately affect the poorest populations. To be recognized by the PAMCA WIVC for my role in the control of VBDs in SSA is a great honor and a privilege. Therefore, I take this opportunity to thank PAMCA WIVC initiative for this great initiative and for bringing people together, especially for giving us, young female researchers in vector control, a platform to share our research ideas and establish networking. Winning the PAMCA WIVC Excellence Award wouldn't be possible without the continuous support of my mentors whom I also thank: Dr. Themba Mzilahowa, Dr. Miriam K. Laufer, Dr. Lauren M. Cohee, Dr. Abdoulaye Bangoura, Dr. Mamadou O. Ndiath, and Dr. Catherine Bourgouin. I will re-invest the funds of the award to an initiative that promotes women's participation in VBDs in SSA."

Early-career category



Rosalia Joseph

Runner-up Early-career category



Rosalia Joseph is the first female entomologist in Namibia, and she has over 5 years' experience in research. She is a seasoned public health researcher based at the University of Namibia (UNAM) Multidisciplinary Research and a member of UNAM Biomedical Research Laboratory. In addition, Rosalia offers technical support to the National Vector-borne Disease Control Programme where she works closely with the Ministry of Health and social services (MoHSS) staff and Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI). She holds an Honors degree in Environmental Biology from the University of Namibia through which she developed an interest in medical research and the alleviation of suffering of humans by VBDs. Rosalia holds a Master of Science in Medical Entomology and is a beneficiary of the partnership between UNAM, MoHSS, and the University of California San Francisco.

Rosalia delivers capacity building in terms of training laboratory and insectary technicians on general insectary activities and management. She also trains environmental health officers on medical entomology, the epidemiology of malaria and entomological surveillance. Her long-term goal is to lead the One Health approach to public health to address both infectious and zoonotic diseases that threaten the human-animal-environment interaction, as well as bridge the gap. Rosalia wants to use her untiring commitment and drive to aid in addressing the public health challenges

Rosalia stood out because she is the only female entomologist in the Namibia who has managed to carve out a successful career path in a male dominated environment. She has equally attained many achievements, and PAMCA is impressed with her ideas for supporting other women in Namibia.

What this award means to Rosalia

"I am earnestly grateful and honoured for the Excellence Award 2021 (Early-career) I received from PAMCA WIVC for my contribution in the fight against malaria. This recognition is of great prestige to the Namibian nation and myself. It serves as an intrinsic motivation and a shift in paradigm to be recognised on the international arena and contribute to institutional development and knowledge pool in vector control. Winning this award would not have been possible without the inspiration I have received from my mentors and my colleagues, from whom I have derived the strength to challenge myself and perform better at each stage. I promise to not only get better at my work, but be solidly grounded in creating a positive contribution by building a high degree of rapport through operational research and innovation in vector control."

Mid-career category



Evelyn Olanga

Winner Mid-career category



Dr. Evelyn Olanga is an entomologist with extensive experience in mosquito behaviour ecology. She obtained her PhD in Medical Entomology in 2016 from the University of Nairobi. Evelyn received her training at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe), Kenya. Since then, she has been a Postdoctoral research scientist at the Malaria Alert Centre (MAC) of the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (formerly College of Medicine) in Blantyre, Malawi. She has conducted field studies characterizing mosquito behaviour and the risk of malaria in endemic districts in southern and central Malawi.

Evelyn currently works as the Entomology Technical Manager for Vector Link, Kenya, providing leadership and management oversight for the projects' entomological surveillance activities in Kenya. Evelyn has a keen interest in mosquito behaviour ecology, development of novel tools for malaria vector surveillance and control and evaluation of vector control interventions.

Evelyn is self-driven; result oriented and is passionate about capacity building of women in the field of vector control and mentoring young entomologist to be involved in the control of VBD and networking. She has worked in a diverse environment both locally and internationally. Her professional progression and career are quite impressive with several publications and peer reviewed journals with more on the pipeline.

What stood out about Evelyn

Evelyn stands out as a powerhouse within the vector control community and has demonstrated robust leadership by spearheading several innovative projects across the various geographical locations and organisations which she has worked in. An adaptable and proactive scientist with a clear record of delivering impactful research, Evelyn serves as an inspiration and role model to many young African women working in the vector control space. She continues to challenge boundaries of what is possible with her endeavours and is a fervent advocate for other African women within science. The PAMCA awards review committee unanimously agreed that Evelyn was the standout candidate for the mid-career category.

What the award means to Evelyn

"I feel blessed to be the first recipient of the PAMCA WIVC mid-career Excellence Award. I'm aware that not every African woman gets the chance to participate in addressing development issues and research, let alone win an award. This award serves as an ongoing reminder that women can still achieve their dreams, even after taking a break from science and research. Therefore, in the spirit of this award I challenge women to believe in themselves, even if you are facing some challenges. There is still a lot of work to be done in the fight against vector-borne diseases and the contribution of women is valuable in making Africa disease-free."

Senior-career category



Dr. Chioma Amajoh

Winner Senior-career category



Dr. Chioma Amajoh is the Executive Director/ Chief Executive Officer, Community Vision Initiative (CVI) Nigeria, a Malariologist, who has more than 30 years' experience in Malaria Control, and has built up a high degree of expertise in Public/Community Health, particularly on parasitic and vector-borne Diseases. She led and galvanized a strategic partnership with Roll Back Malaria (RBM) in Nigeria, which culminated in a significant impact on the way in which vector-borne diseases are managed in her native country of Nigeria. As Director of Integrated Vector Management and NMCP in Nigeria, she has coordinated the country programme at all levels.

Dr. Chioma is also a consultant for several prominent organisations, including the International Federation of the Red Cross Society (IFRS)/ Alliance for Malaria Prevention (AMP), the ECOWAS Malaria Elimination Project and serves as a member of the WHO GMP Vector Control Technical Expert Group (VC-TEG) of Malaria Programme Action Committee (MPAC), RBM Vector Control Working Group (VCWG), American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Malaria Society of Nigeria, among others.

As Trustee of Society for Mosquito Control in Nigeria (SMCN), Dr. Chioma has played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Nigerian chapter of PAMCA. Dr. Chioma continues to be a strong advocate for women in vector control, and was a facilitator in the first women in vector control workshop, held in Cameroon in 2019.

Dr Chioma Amajoh has dedicated her career to empowering younger women across the continent. Affectionately known as Mama Malaria, she has worked tirelessly over the last 4 decades to fight vector-borne diseases. Despite being retired, she is still very active in the field and has not slowed down. She is a visionary, and is a fervent believer of investing in the next generation.

What this award means to Chioma

"This is my first time to apply and be interviewed for an Award of Excellence, in my several years of receiving Awards of Merit and Excellence. I appreciate the Award so immensely. Mentoring WIVC and Facilitating the Workshop on Cultural Lens on Gender at PAMCA in 2018 in Cameroon brought me remarkably close to the group. Winning the Award seals the relationship. I am pleased with Prof Charles Mbogo, the executive board and entire membership of PAMCA and WIVC."

Senior-career category



Lea Pare Toe

Runner up Senior-career category



Dr. Léa Paré obtained her doctorate in anthropology / sociology at the University of Aix Marseille 2 in France. She is Target Malaria's Stakeholder Engagement Lead in Burkina Faso. Throughout her training and career, Dr. Paré has developed a great interest in the field of research on malaria from an anthropological point of view. Dr. Paré's doctoral research enabled her to specialize in the socio-anthropological analysis of health problems in Africa specifically in vector borne diseases. Author of several publications since 2000, she is interested in questions of social representations of malaria in connection with the acceptance of the means of control developed by science and technology. Her various works have underlined the need to think ahead for fundamental research in malaria control and to look at the perceptions, expectations, and constraints of populations in relation to the use and allocation of research results by the beneficiary populations. Dr. Paré is one of the forerunners of the social sciences who are interested in the problems of genetically modified organisms from the point of view of local communities and stakeholders.

Lea is passionate about community engagement and eliciting the community's views for future technologies for malaria. In a world where civil society is often marginalised from the development of programs, Lea is constantly works to put communities at the forefront of vector control programming and research. She has been instrumental in developing a model of engagement for the community, most notably with gene drive technologies. We are excited to see how Lea's continues to shape the discourse of gene drive and can learn a lot from her.

What the award means to Lea

"The WIVC PAMCAs award means a lot to my entire team and myself. One of my goals is to build a strong research team involving women, in social sciences, to tackle preventable and treatable diseases. This award will give me the opportunity to broaden my research in vector borne diseases. Thus, this award is timely, as it would go a long way to put my vision into reality"

PAMCA Women in Vector Control (WIVC) panel discussion

As part of the WIVC initiative, PAMCA hosted a round table discussion symposium that focussed on the professional development of WIVC in Africa. The overall objective of the panel discussion was to learn from best practices with focus on confidence building measures, self-regulation and management tools, strategic thinking in leadership and to support the career development of women professionals in VBD control.

The virtual panel discussion was facilitated by Emma Orefuwa, Co-founder PAMCA, and Ghislaine Ouedraogo-Ametchie, an Independent Consultant at PAMCA. The panellists were composed of Helen Jamet, Deputy Director, Vector Control,

Malaria, BMGF, Prosper Chaki, Executive Director, PAMCA, and Pamela Mbabazi – Medical Epidemiologist at the WHO Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), WHO Geneva.

Speakers shared their personal experiences in ascending their career ladder, knowledge, tools and strategies for building confidence, maintaining work/life balance and the need for gender inclusive and transformative leadership and male allyship within the dynamic environments.

Women Leaders in Global Health Conference 2021

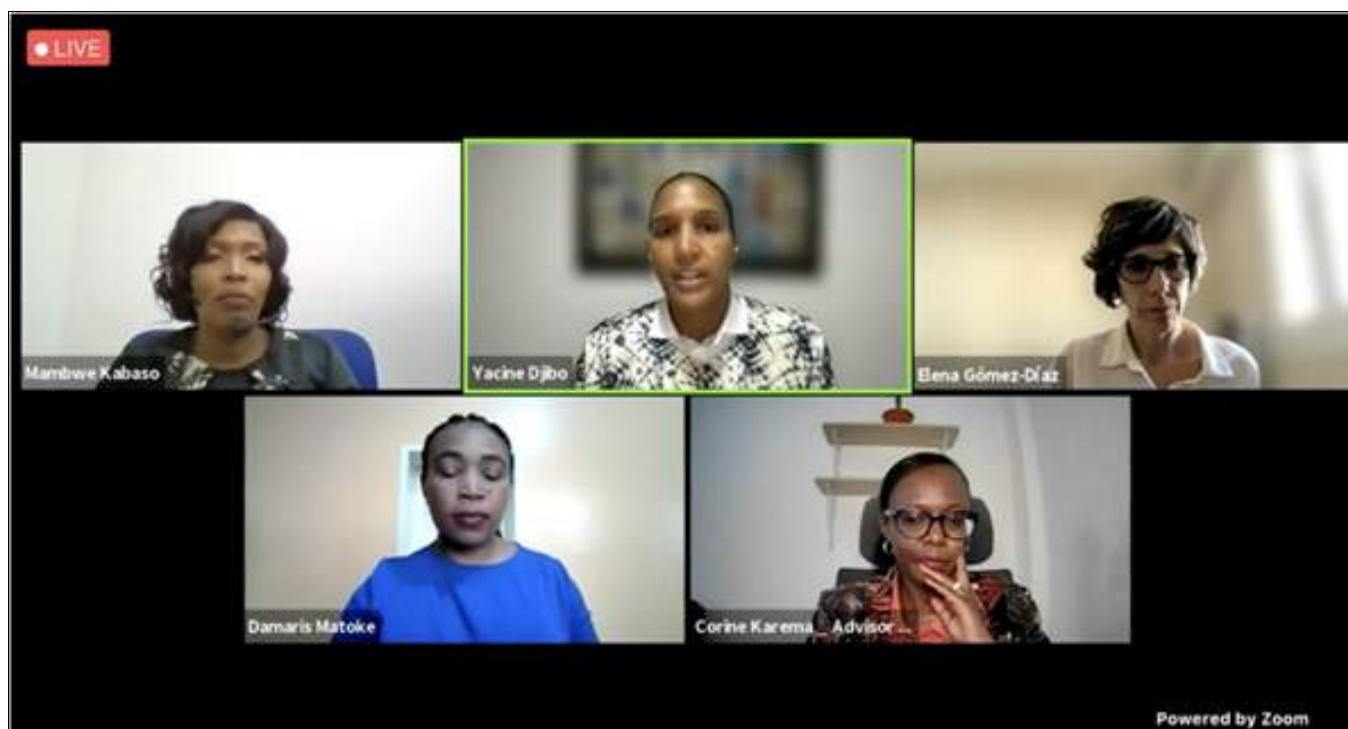
The 5th Annual Women Leaders in Global Health (WLGH) Conference on the theme “Reimagining Leadership” took place from the 15-16 November 2021. The theme of this year’s conference, focused on challenging the gender norms, stereotypes and power imbalances that have historically defined leadership, and enhance our definition of what transformative decision-making looks like. As the world faces massive health inequities amid the COVID-19 pandemic and calls for decolonizing global health grow louder, the WLGH conference served as a critical call to improve health outcomes for all.

The conference brought together participants from all over the world and took a deeper look at how we can transform leadership to promote women’s representation at all levels of the global health field and achieve better health outcomes

for all. The conference also elevated underrepresented voices and facilitated discussion across four key priorities on how we reimagine leadership: centering diverse women and girls in health, catalysing institutional change, optimizing pathways to leadership, and building integrated and resilient health systems.

Dr. Damaris Matoke-Muhia, Program Manager, PAMCA spoke at a panel on the topic Ending Malaria: Why a Gender Lens Matters. In her take home message, Dr. Damaris highlighted her experiences as an Entomologist, and operating in a sector that is male dominated - from the lab to the field, with men occupying the majority of leadership roles. She emphasised that women should be given the opportunity to display the skills they use at community level to make decisions that affect them during the implementation of the policy.





Panel on the topic: "Ending Malaria: Why Gender Lens Matters"

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Dr. Damaris added that “It’s time we changed tactics in leadership against malaria, shifting the 70% male and 30% female to 70% female and 30% male leadership. Women do exception work at the community level it’s possible that the application of gender lens at decision-making level would impact the management of malaria through the implementation of tools that are customized to the needs of the community” said Damaris.



Training on Mosquito Database Management System (MosquitoDB) September 27 – October 8 2021, Rwanda.

In line with PAMCA vision of “An Africa free of vector- borne diseases,” PAMCA conducted an in-field training on Mosquito Database Management System (MosquitoDB), for Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) Vector Control Unit (VCU) from the September 27- October 8, 2021. The training was sponsored by Bayer and targeted 7 entomology sentinel sites in Western, Northern, and Southern Provinces and 5 entomology sentinel sites in the Eastern Province and Kigali City. Dr. Samson Kiware, PAMCA’s Program - Knowledge Management, in collaboration with RBC VCU – trainee of trainers (ToTs) conducted the 1st and 2nd field trainings in Karongi and Rwamagana.



Group photo with group one at the entomology sentinel sites in the Eastern Province, Rwanda



Group two field visit to the entomology centre, Rwanda

Participants were trained on how to enter data using mobile and web-based applications. At the end of the trainings, the ToTs and participants were able to use the system and provided inputs for further improvements. The database management system will be implemented in parallel to the existing system for further testing. Dr. Prosper Chaki, of PAMCA and Dr. Silas Majambere, led and facilitated the first part of the training. At the end of the trainings, certificates of participation were handed to the participants. The PAMCA management also took advantage of their time in Rwanda and visited the Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) data centre to learn more about the IRS spray program and data management.

To learn more about the Mosquito Database Management System (MosquitoDB), please visit: www.mosquitodb.io

Upcoming events 1st quarter - 2022

- **Call for abstracts for PAMCA 2022 – February 1**
- **African Gene Drive for Vector Control Webinar series**
- **Gene Drive short course training**
- **Rollback Malaria Vector Control Working Group Meeting**
- **World NTD Day (addressing neglected tropical diseases) - 30 January**
- **International Womens Day- March 8**

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