



## **Omu Anzala, MBChB, PhD**

Dr. Omu Anzala is an associate professor at the University of Nairobi's Department of Medical Microbiology, and **Programme Director of the Kenya AIDS Vaccine Initiative (KAVI)**. He is currently leading or overseeing several HIV epidemiology studies at KAVI, including research to evaluate immunologic and viral markers of recently infected individuals. Under his co-leadership KAVI has conducted 5 early-stage clinical trials on AIDS vaccine candidates in collaboration with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI).

Dr. Anzala graduated with a medical degree from the University of Nairobi in 1986, and a PhD in virology from the University of Manitoba, Canada in 1996, followed by postdoctoral work in molecular immunology at Oxford University in UK.

His research on sexually transmitted infections started in the 1980s, working with commercial sex workers in the Majengo slum of Nairobi. This work led to the design of one of the first AIDS vaccine candidate to reach human trials—the 'DNA-MVA' vaccine.

An ardent advocate for AIDS vaccines, Dr. Anzala is optimistic that the race to an AIDS vaccine will be won one day. "Many basic scientific puzzles remain about the human immunodeficiency virus, AIDS, and the body's responses to infection. These hold the key to the discovery of the next generation of AIDS vaccine candidates. I have no doubt in my mind that we will get there, and sooner rather than later," he says.

Dr. Anzala holds a Diploma in Epidemiology from Tufts University and certificates in Good Laboratory Practice (GLP), Ethical Aspects of Clinical Research, Experimental Epidemiology, and Bioethics. He is the author of nearly 30 scientific publications.

Currently the chair of the Department of Medical Microbiology at the University of Nairobi, Dr. Anzala also and serves as an advisor to the African AIDS Vaccine Program (AAVP), the African Childhood Vaccine Program, and the National Polio Eradication Expert Committee.

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## **Prof. Walter Jaoko, MBChB, MTMed, PhD**

Professor Walter Jaoko is an associate professor in the Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Nairobi, and the **Deputy Programme Director of the Kenya AIDS Vaccine Initiative (KAVI)**. He has served as principal investigator (PI) in several epidemiological studies and phase I vaccine trials conducted by KAVI with funding from IAVI. He is currently the PI for a protocol that will generate valuable information on the mechanisms the body uses to fight incident HIV infection.

Prof. Jaoko obtained his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery degree from the University of Nairobi in 1986 and a Masters in tropical medicine from the University of Liverpool in 1993. He earned his PhD in medical microbiology from the University of Nairobi (2001). He has worked as a lecturer at the University of Nairobi since 1989, where he is the immediate past chair of the Department of Medical Microbiology.

“We have had Kenyans coming up in large numbers to volunteer for the trials and studies that we’ve done, and we thank them for their altruism. Our collective contribution will speed up the process of finding an efficacious vaccine against HIV and AIDS,” he says.

Professor Jaoko holds a diploma in research methodology from the Danish Bilharziasis Laboratory and the University of Copenhagen and certificates in Good Clinical Practice from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and in Modern Approaches to the Epidemiology and Control of Infectious Diseases from Oxford University, UK.

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## **Dr. Gaudensia Nzemi Mutua, MBChB, MPH**

Dr. Gaudensia Mutua is a **trial physician/principal investigator** with the Kenya AIDS Vaccine Initiative, where she manages the work of a team of 25 at a clinical trial site in Kangemi, Nairobi.

Dr. Mutua received her degree in medicine and surgery in 1995 from the University of Nairobi, and after 7 years of medical practice, a Masters degree in public health from the same institution.

The staff at KAVI-Kangemi includes physicians, nurse-counselors, community outreach workers, laboratory technicians, and data entry and administrative staff. Under Dr. Mutua's leadership the trial site participated in a multi-site, multi-country study, completed in 2007, that helped establish African medical reference ranges. She and her team continue with epidemiological research and a study to examine early-stage HIV infection.

“We are now able to conduct the full range of vaccine trial work, from counseling and testing a large cohort of volunteers, to storing samples and records, to managing data,” says Dr. Mutua, who led the infrastructural and human resource expansion of KAVI-Kangemi between 2004 and 2007.

Dr. Mutua holds certificates in Good Clinical Practice from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, and has taken continuous education training conducted by national AIDS organizations in Kenya. She is the secretary of the Kenya Medical Association (KMA), Nairobi division, and training coordinator for the Gold Star Network, an initiative that equips private practitioners in Nairobi to offer comprehensive, high quality HIV/AIDS care.

The environment and human rights are issues close to Dr. Mutua's heart; she has researched and published on waste management procedures for healthcare facilities, and sees an important role for doctors in safeguarding human and women's basic rights.

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## **Gloria Omosa-Manyonyi, MBChB, MSc**

Dr. Gloria Omosa-Manyonyi is a **Senior Research Physician and Medical Manager with the Kenya AIDS Vaccine Initiative (KAVI)**. She is involved in the management of HIV vaccine research being conducted by KAVI in collaboration with the International Aids Vaccine Initiative (IAVI). She has participated in the management of five HIV vaccine clinical trials and two cross-sectional studies over the past six years.

Dr Omosa-Manyonyi obtained her degree in medicine from the University of Nairobi, and her Masters degree in Infectious Diseases from the University of London.

Previous to joining KAVI, she worked as a doctor in various settings in Kenya.

“My work in the district hospitals positioned me well for the epidemiological research we are conducting at KAVI. Over the last 10 years KAVI has matured into a world-class clinical trial site in Africa, thanks to the support of our sponsors, primarily IAVI,” she says.

Dr. Omosa-Manyonyi holds a post-graduate diploma in HIV/AIDS & Sexually Transmitted Infections from the University of Nairobi, and certificates in the Planning and Implementation of Clinical Vaccine Trials from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Good Clinical Practice and Public Health (Swiss Tropical Institute).

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