



Young voice

**Dissou
Affolabi**

Benin
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I obtained my degree of Medical Doctor from the National University of Benin in 1998 and worked as medical doctor in a rural hospital in Benin (Adjohoun) for months before going to Paris to take a Specialization in Medical Biology (with disciplines Biochemistry, Hematology, Immunology, Parasitology, Bacteriology and Virology) from 1999 to 2003. After a Master degree in Microbiology at the University of Paris VII obtained in 2004, I started PhD studies in a "sandwich program" between the National Reference Laboratory of Mycobacteria in Cotonou, Benin and the Mycobacteriology Unit of the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium. This PhD thesis in Biomedical Sciences was defended at Antwerp University in 2009. Since 2004, I have worked as a deputy-chief in the National Reference Laboratory of Mycobacteria in Benin and as a senior lecturer of Bacteriology and Virology in the University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin. I am interested in developing tools to improve mycobacterial diseases control, particularly tuberculosis in low-resource and endemic countries.



ITM Colloquium
8-10 November 2010
Antwerp



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**Pati
Pyana**

DR Congo
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I work at INRB/ DR.Congo as researcher (DVM) in sleeping sickness since 2003. I was co-supervisor in the field of THARSAT study in Mbuji-Mayi province in D.R.Congo (from may 2005-2007). The aim of THARSAT: clinical trial to study alternative markers or relapse in order to shorten the classical two years follow-up period after treatment. I was also co-workers in the field for different projects, FP6/ INCODEV financed by EU i.e INRB as member of TRYLEIDIAG and NEUROTRYP consortium. At the Institute of Tropical Medicine, I'm PhD student in Department of Parasitology, Parasite Diagnostics Unit (4th year). I work on the drug resistance of Trypanosoma brucei gambiense (one among parasite of sleeping sickness) and I'm interested to learn about project management in general and in particularly health research, the financial management, good laboratory practices etc... for my future work in the field (slum dwellers) via improved community engagement, novel cooperation and partnerships between public and private partners.



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**Chanda
Mulenga**

Zambia
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A basic scientist by training, I have worked with the Tropical Diseases Research Centre in Zambia for the past 14 years. Main areas of my work have been in Disease Surveillance mainly HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and now Tuberculosis. I have provided technical support to the Ministry of Health by coordinating a number of national surveys. I have experience in sero and behavioural surveillance with population-based, special groups and most at risk populations (MARPS), both at national and lower levels. Populations I have worked with include ANC mothers, commercial sex workers, truck drivers, uniformed services, prisoners, company employees, and adolescents. I would like to move my work to the next level, by looking at aspects of service delivery to the different populations I work with and relate it to improvements in trends of disease statistics.



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Young voice

**Larissa
Otero**

Peru
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I trained as an MD in Peru and was always interested in infectious and tropical diseases. After graduating I worked as a junior researcher in TB at the Instituto de Medicina Tropical Alexander von Humboldt at Lima Peru. In 2008, I graduated from the Master in Disease Control, Option Tropical Medicine at the Institute of Tropical Medicine and then worked in Northwestern Uganda with MSF in an HIV-TB program. I am currently on my first year of my PhD which is focused on TB case detection in high incidence areas in Peru. I am interested in contributing to a more efficient disease control for which I consider translating research results into policies and policy needs into research questions is crucial. I consider a stronger and fluent communication between researchers and policy makers is crucial.



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Young voice

Justin
Masumu

DR Congo
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My professional experience started in animal and health management. For many years I have worked in improving animal production and health through the development of various strategies according to different farming systems. Considering the need of sound investigations when addressing different problems that impede the improvement of animal production, I made a soft shift into research. After having completed my PhD program at the Institute of Tropical Medicine of Antwerp in collaboration with the University of Ghent, I directed my focus in studying the epidemiology of parasitic and viral diseases including trypanosomiasis, tick-borne diseases and viral hemorrhagic fevers. Throughout my carrier, I've been granted several postdoctoral programs with a major focus of developing young researchers through PhDs and MScs programs. Currently I'm involved in several research programs as first investigators, student supervisor or co-supervisor. As first investigator, my main task is to build a strong team of researchers and create a passionate working environment. As a supervisor, my major interest is to help the students develop a strong research interest and ability leading to a remarkable output. Gaining more grants in order to improve animal production and health and develop more young researchers remains my dream.



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Young voice

Ivan
Best

Peru
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I was born in Lima, Peru. My career in biological sciences was developed at the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia. I was always interested in science. Inspired by scientific lectures I was encouraged to understand potential immunological and genetical risk factors that contribute to the development of infectious diseases in exposed populations. From 2003 to 2008, I was in charge of the Laboratory of Immunology at the Instituto de Medicina Tropical Alexander von Humboldt in Peru. During the same time, I was trained for different periods in the HIV and Retrovirology Research Unit at the Prince Leopold Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp and the Rega Institute for Medical Research and University Hospitals in Leuven, Belgium. In December 2007 I obtained the PhD degree with a thesis entitled Immunological Markers related to HTLV-1-associated Myelopathy/Tropical Spastic Paraparesis (HAM)/TSP. During the last two years I have worked as postdoctoral fellow in a preclinical study evaluating potential candidates for vaccines in the treatment of Leishmaniasis. In addition, I am full professor of Immunology at the Faculty of Medicine of the Universidad San Martin de Porres in Peru. I believe the research will always open new possibilities for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases.



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Dieudonné
Mumba

DR Congo
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Educational track record
State diploma, 1984
Doctor in medicine, 1990
Specialist in Medical Biology, 2003
Doctor of Medical Sciences (PhD), 2010
Professional and scientific career
Head of the Unit Parasitology, INRB, 2003 - present
Head of the Unit Mycobacteria, INRB, 2002-2003
Head of the Unit Immuno-Serology, INRB, 2000-2002
Assistant at the Faculty of Medicine, UNIKIN, 1997-2003
Physician at the Kalima General Hospital (Maniema), 1992-1996
Publication list
17 manuscripts published in peer reviewed journals



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Victor Manuel
Neyra Chagua

Peru
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I have been working in the Laboratory of Malaria-Molecular Epidemiology Unit from Instituto de Medicina Tropical "Alexander Von Humboldt" (IMTAVH) from the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH) since 2004. In the year 2006, I obtained a scholarship of the "Fogarty Training grant, USA", for to make a doctorate in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the thesis defence was in the year 2009, about the evaluation and characterization of the gene Pvs230 from *P. vivax* as candidate to vaccine in transmission-blocking of malaria. Currently I continue in the study of antigens candidates to vaccines in malaria vivax, considered as a neglected disease. This training will give me the opportunity to know the importance of research management. Additionally, it will be an important opportunity to have contact with other research groups and try to develop collaborative projects that help everyone in the challenge of malaria disease control. Last but not least, this experience will be very rich and advantageous for my professional development as scientific investigator in my country.



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**Michael
Talledo**

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I have been working in a molecular biology lab from a private company for several years. Since 2005 I am part of the HTLV-1 group of the institute of Tropical Alexander von Humboldt of the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia from Lima-Peru.

I am PhD Student of human genetics at the University of Antwerp as part of a collaborative research among this university, the ITM of Antwerp and the Institute of Medicine Tropical Alexander von Humboldt, my research focused to find human genetic factors associated to HAM/TSP disease in HTLV-1 infected individuals from Peru.



Young voice

**Vanessa
Adai**

Peru
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I am a molecular biologist. I have worked in the field of infectious and tropical diseases since 2003, at the Institute of Tropical Medicine "Alexander von Humboldt" in Lima, Peru. My participation in research projects has involved HTLV-1 infection and Leishmaniasis, both endemic health problems in Peru. I'm currently a PhD candidate in Biomedical Sciences at University of Antwerp. My research is focused on a molecular epidemiological approach to the understanding of the emergence and spreading of drug resistance to pentavalent antimony in Neotropical Leishmania populations. I'm interested in contributing to the knowledge of infectious and tropical diseases, and to provide laboratory tools that aid in diagnosis, prognosis, epidemiology, among others.