



African Union
Scientific Technical Research Commission



African Scientific
Research and
Innovation Council

The ASRIC IP Taskforce on the Development of IP protection in Joint Research and Collaboration during Outbreaks

Working Group Profile

Introduction

African Scientific Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC) is a specialized Technical Advisory Body on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to the African Union with African Union, Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (AU-STRC) as its Secretariat. The ASRIC was established through the African Union's Executive Council Decision (EX.CL/Dec.747 (XXII)) and it promotes scientific research and innovation in order to address the challenges of Africa's socio-economic development. It also mobilizes African research excellence and provides a platform for dialogue among African scientists and serves as a voice of the scientific community in building and sustaining continental research and innovation nexus.

Launching the ASRIC during its Congress in November 2018 was a land mark in the Science, Technology and Innovation impact on Africa's future and prosperity. The ASRIC Congress is composed of African scientists from all the African National Science Academies, National Research Councils, top Science, Technology and Innovations (STI) Institutes in Africa, Diaspora Scientists and Partners. The Congress decides on the implementation of key science and technology programme and projects in accordance with the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024) and the overarching continental framework AU Agenda 2063.

In light of the unprecedented emergence of the Corona Virus Disease Pandemic (COVID-19) ravaging the world the onus lies on ASRIC to respond to the challenges. It is well known that after any outbreak of diseases research institutions and pharmaceutical companies race to develop live-saving drugs and vaccines to combat these pandemics, while this is going on there is components of IP that is needed to be considered. The IP rights are usually compromised or seems to be ignored by the international research partners which is the case in Africa. Mostly in such situation, the continent is exploited for pathogens which are used for materials for vaccine research and developments as well as for development and validation of diagnostics, this is usually done in total disregard to IP issues and benefit to the continent.

Against this Taskforce was formed with the ultimate objective of to develop a comprehensive guideline on IP protection in joint research and collaboration during outbreaks in the continent.

The following are the Taskforce Members:



Prof. Wallace Bulimo

Wallace Bulimo is a Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Virology in the School of Medicine, University of Nairobi and leads the respiratory pathogen surveillance program at the U.S. Army Medical Research Directorate –Africa (USAMRD-A). He has broad experiences in clinical applications, training development, biomedical research, teaching, and mentorship. He has mentored over 50 postgraduates at MScs and Ph.D. levels, who have taken up strategic, scientific, research, and administrative roles in Kenya and globally. At USAMRD-A, he oversees activities of many clinical surveillance sites across Kenya to conduct surveillance for viral respiratory pathogens. He also serves as Principal Investigator on numerous research protocols and coordinates activities on other protocols aimed at developing medical products and information to protect the health of communities. Globally, he has established several scientific partnerships with academia and government agencies in Kenya and the United States to research infectious agents in East Africa. He conceived, established and led a vibrant

program at USAMRD-A that educates, trains and guides young scientists, and more experienced colleagues, to achieve maximum scientific impact. He is an ardent champion of Biorisk management matters and is the Deputy Chair of the Biorisk Management Association of Kenya and an International Federation of Biorisk Association approved professional



Professor Modest Mulenga

Professor Modest Mulenga is a Professor in the School of Public Health at the Copperbelt University in Zambia. He is the immediate past Executive Director and senior medical researcher at Tropical Diseases Research Centre, a national health research institution in Zambia.

He is a Zambian medical doctor and an international expert in tropical and infectious diseases. He obtained a BSc in Human Biology and a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from the University of Zambia. He also obtained an MSc in Infection and Health in the Tropics *with distinction* and a PhD in Tropical and Infectious Diseases from the University of London in the UK. He also holds a postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Tropical Medicine and a Diploma in Health Systems Management from the Royal College of Physicians of London, UK and Galilee College, Israel respectively.

He has served on various health research advisory boards and committees in the Zambian and

internationally. He was the Vice Chairman of the National AIDS Research and Ethics Committee under National AIDS Council of Zambia, Vice Chair of the Developing Countries Coordinating Committee of the EDCTP etc. He is a member of the National Health Research Advisory Committee for the Zambian Government and Chair of the National Nutrition Research and Academia Committee in Zambia, and he is also the country representative on the Joint Coordinating Board of the WHO/UNDP/UNICEF and World Bank Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (WHO/TDR) (where he also served as Vice Chair, . member of the Research Directors' Joint Coordinating Committee of the East, Central and Southern Africa-Health Community. He sits on IAP Specialized Health Committee.

He has been an active researcher and research manager for over 24 years with several publications. His medical research interests are in poverty related tropical and infectious diseases, especially clinical epidemiology and interventions for the control and prevention of infectious diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, TB etc.



Dr. Anthony Conrad K. Kakooza

Dr. Anthony C. K. Kakooza, is a former Dean and currently Associate Professor of Law at the Faculty of Law, Uganda Christian University, Mukono (Uganda) as well as Partner at Sipi Law Associates in Kampala.

He holds a Doctor of the Science of Law (J.S.D) degree in Intellectual Property and Cyber Law from the University of Illinois (U.S.A) where he has since been retained as an Adjunct Professor and conducts a short course in Intellectual Property, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. He also holds a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree in International Economic Law, specializing in International Intellectual Property Law, from the University of Warwick (U.K), as well as a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) degree from Makerere University (Uganda). He has Visiting Professorship positions at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic and Cornell Law School (USA), where he has taught course units in Intellectual Property in Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. He is also a Visiting Professor at the University of Rwanda where he teaches Cyber Crime.

Dr. Kakooza is an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda and an accredited Arbitrator and Mediator of Intellectual Property Disputes with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). He has worked with WIPO on projects related to the regulation of Traditional Knowledge and Folklore in Uganda, Malawi and Ghana.



Dr. Bassem Awad

Dr. Bassem Awad is a Judge and Head of Court at the Appeal Courts of Egypt. He is a Visiting Professor and Director of Areas of Concentration in Intellectual Property, Information and Technology at the Faculty of Law at the University of Western Ontario, Canada. He is also a Head Tutor and Professor at the Academy of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva. Previously, Dr. Awad was the Deputy Director of Intellectual Property Law and Innovation at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) in Canada and served as a member of the Expert Committee established by the African Union to develop the Pan African Intellectual Property Organization (PAIPO).

Dr. Awad has remarkable experience in intellectual property law, technology, and innovation policies. His research focuses on the governance of intellectual property rights in the data-driven economy. Dr. Awad received his Ph.D. and LL.M degrees in Law from the University of Montpellier and the Sorbonne University,

in France and conducted his postdoctoral research studies at Western University in Canada. His experience includes working in both common and civil law systems and conducting research projects for international and regional organizations in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Canada. Bassem speaks, writes, and teaches in English, French and Arabic.



Menna-t-allah M. El-Kotamy

Menna-t-allah M. El-Kotamy is a pharmacist with a demonstrated experience in the field of intellectual property. She is the executive director of the "Egyptian Innovation Bank" and the "Innovation & IPR help desk" affiliated to Egypt's Academy of Scientific Research and Technology. She worked as a pharmaceutical patent examiner at the Egyptian Patent Office since 2009. She was an officer of trademarks and industrial design registration in Kuwait during the year 2011. She is also one of the trainers at the National Intellectual Property Academy and a member of the WIPO Academy's tutor team.

She has a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree from Ain Shams University (Egypt). She did post graduate studies in Intellectual Property and Innovation Management. She was awarded a number of certificates from the WIPO, WHO and WTO. She also obtained a number of certificates of continuing medical education from the Harvard Medical School.

She is passionate about IP education, with a special interest in the effect of IP on access to medicines, and the use patent information for the development of the local pharmaceutical industry. She participated in many workshops and conferences related to this field. She organized several awareness sessions to a number of national and international organizations working in the field of patients' rights and access to medications.
