



Appointment of Dr. Ally Olotu as Chief Executive Director of the Ifakara Health Institute

The Board of Trustees of the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Ally Olotu as Chief Executive Director, effective 1 September 2026.

Dr. Olotu assumes leadership of IHI at an important moment in the Institute's history. Over nearly seven decades, IHI has grown from its roots in Ifakara into one of Africa's leading health research institutions, generating evidence, developing solutions, strengthening research capacity, and contributing to health policy and practice in Tanzania, Africa, and globally.

Dr Olotu succeeds Dr. Honorati Masanja, who has served with distinction as Chief Executive Director since 2016. Under Dr. Masanja's leadership, IHI has strengthened its scientific excellence, expanded its research portfolio and partnerships, and reinforced its reputation as one of Africa's leading health research institutions. The Board expresses its sincere appreciation for his dedicated stewardship and is confident that Dr. Olotu will build on this strong foundation as he leads the Institute into its next chapter of excellence, innovation, and impact.

Dr. Olotu is a medical doctor and health research leader with more than 18 years of experience in infectious-disease epidemiology, immunology, vaccine development, and clinical trials. He holds a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Dar es Salaam and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Oxford.

He has extensive experience leading major clinical research programmes, including multi-country clinical trials, establishing international research collaborations, strengthening research platforms, and supporting the translation of scientific evidence into policy and practice. His work has focused particularly on malaria and vaccine development, while also contributing to research on other infectious and emerging diseases.

Dr. Olotu brings to the position a distinguished record of scientific and institutional leadership, together with a deep understanding of IHI's mission, people, partners, and the communities it serves. He has held several senior leadership positions at IHI, including Director of Science and Head of the

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Department of Biomedical Research and Clinical Trials. In these roles, he provided strategic scientific leadership, supported the development of institutional research priorities, strengthened partnerships, and oversaw major research programmes and clinical-trial platforms.

Before joining IHI, Dr. Olotu worked for nine years at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme in Kenya, where he contributed to major malaria epidemiology and vaccine studies.

Dr. Olotu is the recipient of several prestigious fellowships and awards, including the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership Senior Fellowship, the Medical Research Council African Research Leadership Award, and the WHO/TDR Career Development Fellowship.

The Board and the Institute extend their sincere appreciation to Dr. Masanja for his dedicated leadership and stewardship over the past decade. IHI warmly welcomes Dr. Olotu to his new role and invites its staff, partners, collaborators, communities, and stakeholders to join in congratulating him and supporting him as he assumes this important responsibility.

Issued by:

The Registered Trustees of Ifakara Health Institute

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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