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IFAKARA HEALTH INSTITUTE
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70 YEARS

70TH ANNIVERSARY & 5TH IFAKARA ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 10 – 12, 2026
(Nov. 13 - Bagamoyo Open House)

APC HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
Mbweni-Bunju, Dar es Salaam

70 YEARS OF IMPACT:
ROOTS, REACH, AND WHAT'S NEXT

From a field station in rural Tanzania to a continent-shaping institute, and we're only getting started

AGENDA

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70 YEARS

70TH ANNIVERSARY & 5TH IFAKARA ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE



Guest of Honor

H.E Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete

The Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania

Day 1: Tuesday, 10 November 2026

Foundations:

Building the science base from the field laboratory to the institute (1956-2000s)

MC: Sheikha Salum & Yeromin Mlacha

Time	Session	Responsible
07:00–08:00	**Registration**	**Secretariat**

08:30–09:50	**ROOTS, REACH, AND WHAT'S NEXT**
	Opening Ceremony
	Honouring Ifakara's roots, celebrating its reach and setting the direction for what comes next.
	• **Chief Executive Director: Dr. Ally Olotu**
	• **Founding Member Recognition:**
	  ○ **Switzerland**
	  ▪ **Rudolf Geigy Foundation**
	  ▪ **Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH)**
	  ▪ **The Embassy of Switzerland**
	  ○ **Tanzania**
	  ▪ **Ministry of Health**
	  ▪ **National Institute of Medical Research**
	  ▪ **Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology**
	• **Board of Trustees: Dr. Abraham Mnzava**
	• **Board of Governance: Prof. Said S. Aboud**
	• **Official Opening: Guest of Honour**
		MC: Taji Liundi

09:50–10:20	**Institutional Legacy Lecture: 70 Years of Ifakara Health Institute Science (How did it start?)** **Prof. Marcel Tanner – From** field station to institution: the Swiss Tropical Institute partnership and the case for long-term bilateral investment in African research infrastructure.	**Moderator: Ally Olotu**
10:20–10:45	**Legacy Awards Ceremony and Group Photos** Celebrating Partnerships That Shaped Our Science	**Zawadi Mboma**
10:45–11:30	**Tea Break**	**All**
11:30–12:30	**From the Director's Office: Lessons Learned** **Reflections Panel Discussion 1:** • **Prof. Don de Savigny –** Driving the ambition to shift Ifakara from a Swiss station to a fully Tanzanian Institute • **Prof. Andrew Kitua –** Africanizing scientific leadership: building an indigenous research base and the risks of transition • **Dr. Hassan Mshinda –** From project to institution: registration as an independent Trust and the science-policy interface • **Prof. Salim Abdulla –** Scaling to international clinical science: vaccine trials, expansion to Bagamoyo/Dar, and building trust for human-subjects research in rural Africa • **Dr. Honorati Masanja –** Strengthening governance and institutional leadership	**Moderator: Lukas Meier**
12:30–13:00	**Plenary Lecture: Ifakara at 70: What have seven decades of African science meant for Global Health?** • **Speaker: Prof. Fredros Okumu**	**Moderator: Emmanuel Kaindoa**
13:00–14:00	**Lunch Break**	**All**

14:00–15:00	**High-level conversation: The partnerships that built Ifakara and the partnerships it needs next** **Panelists:** Franziska Freiburghaus, Christian Lengeler, Helen Jamet, Abdisalan Noor, Joseph Komwihangiro, Omary Ubuguyu, Janneke Snetselaar, Nana Aba Williams and Jessica Greene	**Moderator: Zawadi Mboma**
15:00–15:35	**Keynote 1: From Evidence to Policy: What It Actually Takes** • **Speaker: Dr. Alex Gasasira – WHO Tanzania**	
15:35–16:40	**Fireside Chat: Growing Scientists. Growing Science: Stories, Lessons and a Legacy for the Next Generation (Reflections on Mentorship, Capacity Strengthening and the Next Generation at Ifakara)** **Panelists:** Sarah Moore, Maja Weisser, Heather Ferguson, Samson Kiware, Gerry Killen, Fredros Okumu, Honorati Masanja and Salim Abdulla	**Moderator: Neema Kafwimi**
17:00–17:45	• **Coffee and Booths**	**All**



Day 2: Wednesday, 11 November 2026

Translations:

Evidence into Policy and Practice (2000s-Present)

MC: Kyeba Swai & Hania Msami

Time	Sessions	Responsible
07:00–08:20	**Registration**	**Secretariat**
08:15–08:20	**Special Tribute:** • **Speaker: Dr. Mohamed Y. Janabi – Regional Director - WHO AFRO**	
08:20–09:15	**Keynote 2: Beyond Efficacy: What It Takes for Vaccines to Deliver Health Impact, and What Ifakara's Experience Teaches Us** • **Speaker: Dr. Said Jongo**	**Moderator: Maxmilian Mpina**
09:15–10:15	**Panel Discussion 2: Women Shaping the Future of Ifakara Science** **Panelists:** Grace Mhalu, Grace Mwangoka, Sally Mtenga, Victoria Githu, Sarah Moore, Farida Katunzi, Kafuruki Shubis	**Moderator: Irene Moshi**
10:15–10:40	**Tea Break**	**All**
10:40–12:10	**Reflection from IHI Management: "Where does IHI stand, and what must we strengthen to deliver the next 70 years of impact?"** • Moderator's introduction • **Business Development & Partnership** – Zawadi Mageni Mboma • **Scientific Portfolio** – Emmanuel Kaindoa • **Operations** – Raphael Laizer • **Data Systems & Research Support/Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning** – Jossam Katanga / Isaac Lyatuu • **Compliance, Ethics & Research Quality** – Mwifadhi Mrisho & Alwisa Urassa, Chimori Benjamin • Q&A	**Moderator: Doris Rushekya**
13:40–14:25	**Lunch Break**	**All**

12:10–13:40	**SCIENTIFIC PARALLEL SESSIONS – I** **Emerging Challenges and the Future of Health Research** Rhino Hall: Changing infectious disease landscapes Antelope A: From scientific discovery to health impact Antelope B: Vector Biology, Behaviour and Control I	**Moderators: Grace Mwangoka (Rhino Hall), Grace Mhalu (Antelope A) and Brian Tarimo (Antelope B)**
13:40–14:25	**Lunch Break**	**All**
14:25–15:00	**Flagship Session: Community Voices – From Evidence to Policy and Practice** **Speakers:** Sally Mtenga, Felista Tarimo, Dustan Bishanga, Juma Kupewa, Noela Kisoka	**Moderators: Issa Mshani & Fadhila Kihwele**
15:00–17:00	**PARALLEL SYMPOSIA** Rhino Hall: Advancing Malaria Research, Policy, and Building Analytics Capacity in Africa through Geospatial Modelling Antelope A: Maternal and Child Health Symposium Antelope B: Advancing Vector Control for the Next Generation (Vector Control Product Testing Unit – VCPTU)	**Moderators: Victoria Githu (Rhino Hall),** **Walter Msilikale (Antelope A) and Betwel Msugupakulya (Antelope B)**
17:00–18:00	**Entertainment (games; stand-up comedy)**	**Moderators: Alex Limwagu and Aidi Lugenge**

Day 3: Thursday, 12 November 2026

Frontiers:

The Next 70 Years

MC: Robert Ndege & Farida Katunzi

Time	Sessions	Responsible
07:00–08:00	**Registration**	**Secretariat**
08:30–09:15	**Visionary Talk: "What should the next 70 years of African Global Health Science look like?" (Reflecting on Ifakara's legacy, reimagining its future and positioning African evidence for global impact.)** • **Speaker: Dr. Ally Olotu – Chief Executive Director**	**Moderator: Emmanuel Kaindoa**
09:15–10:15	**Panel Discussion 3: The Voice of Scientists for the Next 70 Years** **Panelists:** Prisca Kweyamba, Lilian Moshi, Omar Hassan, Jacqueline Minja, Christina Myalla, and Issa Mshani	**Moderator: Janice Maige**
10:15–10:40	**Tea/Coffee Break**	**All**
10:45–11:15	**Masterclass Lecture: From Algorithms to Action, AI Across Africa's Disease Burden** • **Speaker: Dr. Zac Mtema**	**Moderators: Hellen Hiza & Emmanuel Mwanga**
11:15–12:30	**Panel Discussion 4: Responsible use of AI, Data and Biomedical Innovation for Africa's Disease Burden** **Panelists**: Deus Ishengoma, Mwifadhi Mrisho, Deogracious Protas, Thomas Chali, Anitha Philbert, Mary Maige, and Julie Makani	
12:30–13:25	**Lunch Break**	**All**

13:30–15:00	**SCIENTIFIC PARALLEL SESSIONS – II** **Next-Generation Science, Technology and Health Systems** **Rhino Hall:** Emerging and re-emerging diseases, genomics, and outbreak preparedness **Antelope A:** AI, Digital Science, and Intelligent Disease Surveillance & Response **Antelope B:** Vector Biology, Behaviour and Control II	**Moderators: Brian Tarimo (Rhino Hall), Naomi Masanja (Antelope A) and Aneth Tumbo (Antelope B)**
15:00–15:30	**Future Direction Talk: What Can IHI Become? Building the Next Generation African Centre of Excellence for Health Research** **Speaker:** Susan Rumisha – Malaria Atlas Project (MAP) East Africa Regional Node	**Moderator: Sarah Mswata**
15:35–15:40	**Memorial: Many stories Within a Larger Legacy**	**Moderator: Doris Rushekya**
15:50–17:00	**AWARDS CEREMONY** • Best Oral Presentation (Days 2–3): Turbo talks by the top 5 presenters (3 minutes presentation + 2 minutes Q&A each)	**Moderators: Zawadi Mboma & Yeromin Mlacha**
17:00-17:30	**CLOSING REMARKS**	**Dr. Emmanuel Kaindoa & Dr. Ally Olotu**

Day 4: Friday, 13 November 2026

Bagamoyo Open House:

Site visit

MC: Kyeba Swai & Sarah Mswata

Time	Sessions	Responsible
07:00–09:30	**Registration and Departure to Bagamoyo** • **07:00–07:30**: Registration at APC Conference Center, Mbweni-Bunju • **07:30**: Buses depart from APC Conference Center • **07:30–09:30**: Travel to Bagamoyo	**Secretariat**
09:30–10:30	**Clinical Trial** **Laboratory**	**Omar Zuberi** **Sarah Mswata**
10:30–11:00	**Tea/Coffee Break**	**All**
11:00–13:00	**Transmission Zero** **VCPTU** **Training unit**	**Prisca Kweyamba & Beatrice Magani** **Kyeba Swai & Emmanuel Mbuba** **Kafuruki Shubis & Grace Mwangoka**
13:00–14:30	**Lunch Break and Departure to Dar es Salaam (APC Conference Center)**	**Secretariat**

