

Dr. Jesse Gitaka, M.B.,Ch.B, MTropMed.

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Languages (fluent): English, Swahili.

Nationality- Kenyan

Date of birth- 3rd October, 1980

Profile:

Focused on medical development career with hands on research, training and clinical skills, highly proactive, innovative, conscientious and efficient, I seek to grow working with teams in pharmaceutical products development, academic medicine and global health sectors.

Education:

University of Nairobi, College of Health Sciences

PhD in Infectious Diseases 2012-2015 (Ongoing)

Institute of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University, Japan

Masters of Tropical Medicine (MTM) 2010- 2011

Modules: Clinical Tropical Medicine, Public health, Bacteriology, Virology, Protozoology, Helminthology

Scores: Distinction in all modules

School of Medicine, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Bachelors of Medicine and Bachelors of Surgery (M.B., Ch.B) 2001—2006

Distinctions in Anatomy and Pharmacology

Credits in Medical Microbiology, Medicine, Physiology, Biochemistry, Human Pathology, Community Health and Psychiatry

Kakamega High School, Kenya

Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) 1999

Mean grade A plain (94 out of 96 points)

Other trainings:

1. Indigenous Health and Epidemiology Course, University of Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia, August, 12th -23rd, 2013.
2. Ecology of Infectious Diseases Course, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, May 6th -17th, 2013.

3. Immunology in the Tropics Course, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Uganda Virus Research Institute, Entebbe, Uganda, September 10th-21st, 2012.
4. Research Ethics, 10th Nagasaki International Ethics Course, Nagasaki, Japan, July 7 - 9th, 2011.
5. Basic and Advanced Health Research Ethics, AMANET Trust, Lusaka, Zambia, March 22-26th, 2010.
6. Pediatric Life support- Gertrude's Children Hospital-United Kingdom Resuscitation Council collaborative program, April 2010.
7. Statistics, KEMRI-Wellcome Trust, Kilifi, June 8-12th, 2009.
8. Good Clinical Practices (GCP), Pharmaceutical Products Development, South Africa, March 30-31, 2009.
9. Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life support- Kenya Resuscitation Council, December, 2007.

Awards:

1. Japanese Government Ministry of Education and Training (Monbukagakusho) research student scholarship 2010-2011.
2. AMANET conference grant 2010 Advanced Health Research Ethics workshop.
3. In Depth conference grant 2009 Good Clinical Practices workshop.
4. Best Student Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education Western Province Kenya, 1999.

Work experience:

2011 to date: Lecturer, Department of Clinical Medicine, Mount Kenya University, Kenya

2012 to date: Associate lecturer, Medical Microbiology, Department of Pathology, School of Health Sciences, Kenyatta University, Kenya

2009-2010: Clinical Trials doctor /Research Officer, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Kilifi, Kenya.

2008-2009: Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, Ol Kalou District Hospital, Kenya

2007-2008: Medical Officer-Intern, Ministry of Health, Nyeri Provincial Hospital, Kenya

Grants:

1. Japan Society for Promotion of Science Research grant 2013-2015- Kshs. 3.8m
2. Three Vice Chancellors Grants, Mount Kenya University 2012- Kshs. 1.0m.
3. Proposal to study hematological and biochemical reference intervals on 'Healthy' Kilifi children with a budget of 1500 USD approved and ongoing.

Research experience and technical skills:

Clinical trials and fieldwork:

Kenya Medical Research Institute- Wellcome Trust Research Program- Kilifi 2009-2010

- Prepared and reviewed study protocols, Standards of Operations (SOPs) for specific study procedures and Manual of Operation for Dispensary level patient management for malaria vaccine trial in time and exceeded expectations.
- Actively involved in internal study monitoring and coordinated with external monitors in source data verification and thus instrumental in timely query resolution and data integrity.
- Adverse Events and Serious Adverse Events reporting, management and follow up.
- Led the radiology committee in setting up the X-ray unit to international multi-centre study required standards in terms of staff training, safety regulations, quality control and quality assurance.
- Developed field skills in community education, mobilization and recruitment.
- Responsible for leading team in study participants consenting, clinical management, reporting and follow up.
- Actively involved in planning for three field study sites, setting up and running. This included coordinating the stocks of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical consumables to ensure cost effective utilization, timely procurement and updated inventory.
- Acquired scientific writing skills and co-published in peer reviewed journals.
- As principal investigator in a reference intervals study responsible together with data manager for planning data entry and database management.
- Responsible for data collection, analysis and monthly study progress presentation.
- Assisted in project management and problem solving.
- Did commentary and demonstration for documentary on Malaria and role of Vaccines in fight against Malaria.

Public health skills and policy meetings:

- Field experience in community education
- Undertook study of public health situation of Thailand
- Done module on outbreak management
- Involved in community diagnosis of Gatundu division as a medical student
- Disease surveillance and outbreak response
- Kenya National Biosafety Authority-University of Nairobi forum
- Kenyatta University Family Medicine forum
- Point of care diagnostics workshop-21st to 26th June, 2012

Laboratory skills:

- Plasmid construction
- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) optimization and sequencing
- *E. coli* based cloning
- *Plasmodium falciparum* transfection
- *In vitro Plasmodium falciparum* culturing
- Poly-Acryl amide gel electrophoresis and electron microscopy
- Immuno-fluorescent assays and fluorescent microscopy
- Generic molecular and serology skills

Information technology:

- Bio-edit software in gene sequence alignments and related bio-informatics applications
- Photoshop, Endnote, Excel, Word and Power Point
- Stata

Administrative:

- Assisted the Principal Investigator in day to day study administrative functions and as Principal Investigator of the 'reference intervals study' set up and coordinated team at KEMRI-Kilifi.
- Led a multi disciplinary staff as Medical Officer in Charge at Ol Kalou District Hospital 2008 in improving hospital services.
- As the HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Care Clinic team leader at Ol Kalou strengthened the patient follow up and laboratory resource efficiency.
- Governing council member of Youth Agenda in Development in Science, Technology and Innovation at University of Nairobi 2005.
- Awarded honor of merit as Vice chairman Counselors Board 1998-99 Kakamega High School for good achievements.

Teaching and curriculum development:

- Lecturer, Department of Clinical Medicine, Mount Kenya University, December 2011 up to date.
- Associate lecturer, Medical Microbiology, Department of Pathology, School of Health Sciences, Kenyatta University, Kenya.
- Coordinator and Committee Member, MB.,Ch.B and B.Sc. Health Informatics and Information Management curriculum development respectively, Mount Kenya University- Ongoing.
- Responsible for communicating and disseminating technical and practical knowledge to clinical officers, nurses and fieldworkers in malaria vaccine trials 2009-2010.
- Selected as human anatomy tutorial assistant to the first year students 2003-2005 at University of Nairobi.

Seminar Presentations:

1. Intra-erythrocyte protein trafficking of *Plasmodium vivax* subtelomeric protein 1 and 2 using *plasmodium falciparum* transport machinery.
Institute of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University 1st, March 2011.
2. The RTS, S Malaria Vaccine Kilifi site update to Program for Appropriate Technology in Health and Malaria Vaccine Initiative working group.
Kenya Medical Research Institute- Wellcome Trust Research Program- Kilifi, Kenya, 28th, May 2010.
3. Haematology and biochemistry reference intervals for 'healthy' Kilifi children between 4 weeks and 2 years.
Kenya Medical Research Institute- Wellcome Trust Research Program- Kilifi, Kenya, 7th, May 2010.
4. Rapporteur: Advanced Health Research Ethics course- Africa Malaria Network Trust (AMANET) workshop 22nd -26th, March 2010, Lusaka, Zambia.
http://www.amanet-trust.org/files/5th_Advanced_HRE_Workshop_report.pdf
5. Non-surgical Mortality trends at Nyeri Provincial Hospital 2007.
Kenya Medical Association, Nyeri Chapter, 22nd, January 2008.
6. Nyamakima Building Collapse: A clinical management audit presented at the 22nd Surgical Society of Kenya Scientific conference held at Kakamega Golf Hotel as a 5th year medical student, University of Nairobi, April 2006.

Publications:

1. Agnandji, S.T., Lell, B., ... **Gitaka, J.**, *et al.* First results of Phase 3 trial of RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine in African children *N Engl J Med* 2011;365,1863-75.
2. Chilengi R, **Gitaka J.** Is vaccine the magic bullet for malaria elimination? A reality check. *Malaria journal*. 2010;9 Suppl 3(Suppl 3):S1
3. Oyugi J, Ambia, J, Meeme C, Chanzu N, **Gitaka J.** *et al.*, Teaching Research Ethics of Clinical Trials to Interdisciplinary and International Trainees in Global Infectious Disease Research. *J Clin Res Bioeth*5: 166. doi:10.4172/2155-9627.1000166
4. Agnandji S.T., ... **Gitaka, J.**, *et al.* Efficacy of the RTS,S/AS01 Malaria Vaccine by Study Center during 18 Months of Follow-up. (In press- *PLOS Medicine journal*).
5. Derda R, **Gitaka J.**, *et al.*, Enabling the development and deployment of next generation point of care diagnostics (In press- *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases journal*).
6. **Gitaka J.**, Ndakala F, *et al.*: Dynamics for decisions regarding artemisinin combination therapy in sub-Saharan Africa, 10 years later (Manuscript under development).

7. **Gitaka J.**, Ogwang C, Chilengi R, *et al.*, Cross sectional observational study to document clinical laboratory reference values of ‘healthy’ Kilifi children from 4 weeks to 2 years. (Manuscript under development).
8. **Thesis:** Project to evaluate the transport of *Pv*STP1 and *Pv*STP2 using *Plasmodium falciparum* trafficking machinery.

Professional Affiliations:

1. Registered member, Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board- A6174
2. Member, Kenya Medical Association, Thika Chapter

Interests:

1. Creative Writing: Published short stories in the Daily Nation short story series and currently working on a collection for publication.
2. Keen football player, with fair amateur skills as striking midfielder.
3. Playing scrabble with a mean of 350 points scored in the last 20 games.
4. Playing the violin.

Referees:

Dr. Roma Chilengi,
Head- Programme for the Awareness and Elimination of Diarrhoea (PAED),
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