

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Florence Nafula Oringe (Okwara)

Consultant Developmental Paediatrician and Child Health Expert

Email: okwara.florence@ku.ac.ke | florenceoringe@gmail.com

Personal Profile

Name: Florence Nafula Okwara - Oringe

Qualification: MBChB, MMed (Paed), MPhil (Dev Paed), Cert (Dev Paed), FRCP (SA), PhD.

Department: Paediatrics and Child Health

Designation/ Position: Senior lecturer, developmental paediatrician

Email: okwara.florence@ku.ac.ke
florenceoringe@gmail.com

Area of Specialization:

- Developmental Paediatrics
- Public Health Expert.

Research Interests:

- Early Child Development
- Childhood disabilities
- Global health issues

ORCID ID: 0000-0003-0443-4642



PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior paediatric specialist and academic leader with over 25 years of experience in child health, developmental paediatrics, and public health. Proven track record in institutional leadership, strategy development, health systems strengthening, and program design within both public and private healthcare sectors.

Brings strong governance experience, having served in leadership roles including hospital boards, departmental chairperson, strategic planning lead, and contributor to the establishment of Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital (KUTTH). Recognized for advancing early child development (ECD), integrated care models, and sustainable health systems in resource-constrained settings.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Board governance and strategic leadership
- Paediatric and developmental Healthcare Systems
- Early Child Development (ECD) policy and programming
- Health systems strengthening in LMIC contexts
- Quality of Care and clinical governance
- Medical education and capacity building

- Research, Ethics & Evidence-Based Policy
- Public-Private Health Sector Collaboration

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Fellow, College of Paediatrics of South Africa (Developmental Paediatrics) – 2020
- MPhil, Developmental Paediatrics – University of Cape Town, South Africa – 2020
- PhD, Public Health (Epidemiology & Disease Control) – Kenyatta University – 2015
- MMed (Paediatrics) – University of Nairobi – 2001
- MBChB – University of Nairobi – 1995

LEADERSHIP ROLES

Senior Lecturer, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Kenyatta University (2006 – 2025)

Key leadership roles:

- Departmental Chairperson (2010–2014)
- Departmental postgraduate coordinator (Current)
- Departmental Research, Innovation & Outreach (RIO) Coordinator (Current).

Contributions:

- Led the development of a 10-year departmental strategic plan in 2010- 2020.
- Oversaw curriculum development and academic training program development in the department of paediatrics and child health at Kenyatta.
- Committee member in various University committees involved in institutional growth, teaching quality, and inclusivity in higher education.
- Guided governance structures, SOPs, and operational frameworks at the inception of the department of paediatrics, Kenyatta University.

Director, Beacon Children's Centre (2021 – Present)

Founder and director of a comprehensive child development and rehabilitation centre delivering multidisciplinary services.

Contributions:

- Established governance, operational, clinical, and service delivery frameworks
- Designed sustainable care models for developmental services
- Led strategic growth and service integration

PREVIOUS CLINICAL & SYSTEMS EXPERIENCE

Developmental Paediatrics Specialist

University of Cape Town and Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital (2018–2020)

- Coordinated multidisciplinary care for children with developmental disorders
- Strengthened integrated care approaches in a tertiary setting

Consultant Paediatrician – Ministry of Health, Kenya (2001–2004)

- Led paediatric service delivery at provincial level - in Eastern province
- Coordinated regional paediatric healthcare systems.

Empaneled developmental paediatrician – At various public and private hospitals/institutions.

- KUTRRH
- National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD)
- Kiambu level 5 Hospital
- Gertrude's Children's Hospital
- AAR Kiambu, Hospital
- Metropolitan Hospital
- MP-Shah Hospital
- St. Teresa's Hospital, Kiambu rd.
- Jamaa Mission Hospital

GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND POLICY EXPERIENCE

- Member of the Board of Trustees, Gertrude's Children's Hospital, 2026.
- Director, Beacon Children's Centre, a comprehensive Child development Centre that specializes in developmental assessment, habilitation, and rehabilitation services (2021- to date).
- Member, Committee for the establishment of Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral & Research Hospital (KUTRRH), (2015- 2020).
I contributed to the KUTRRH proposal development and institutional design
- Member, Kenyatta University Ethics Review Committee (KU-ERC) (2010-2018)
I co-developed institutional ethical research governance frameworks and developed the Kenyatta University Ethics Review Guidelines
- Board Member at various schools, including:
Membly Baptist Christian School (2024-2026),
Mnara Secondary School (2022-2024).
Gained experience in governance, oversight, and policy guidance
- Trainer and technical advisor, Early Child Development Programs
In collaboration with the KPA, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, and other international partners on ECD systems strengthening in Kenya.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Established Beacon Children's Centre, a comprehensive Paediatric habilitation and rehabilitation centre.
- Spearheaded development of strategic plans and institutional frameworks in the department of paediatrics and Child health at Kenyatta University.
- Contributed to the establishment of a major teaching and referral hospital-KUTRRH.
- Trained over 800 medical professionals, strengthening national health workforce capacity since 2010.
- Developed ECD training curricula and national-level capacity-building programs in partnership with the Kenya Paediatric Association
- Advanced integration of developmental care into paediatric systems

RESEARCH AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Published researcher in developmental paediatrics, child health systems, and global health.

Key focus areas:

- Role of artificial intelligence in supporting early diagnosis and support for children with developmental disabilities.
- Health service utilization in developmental disorders
- Caregiver perspectives and satisfaction with the health care systems
- Early child development in low-resource settings
- Childhood disability and access to care

Publications in refereed Journals

Okwara FNO, Donald KA, Caregiver perspectives, experiences, and service satisfaction, and health service utilization among families of children with neuro-developmental disorders at a tertiary center in a low-resource setting. *Journal of Research in Autism Disorders*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rasd.2023.102285>

Okwara FNO, Stanzi MR, Donald KA, Health service utilization by young children with autism spectrum disorder versus global developmental delay at a tertiary center, in a resource-limited setting. *Journal of developmental and behavioral paediatrics*, (J Dev Behav Pediatr 00:1–10, 2022)

Okwara FN, Oyore JP, Were FN, Gwer S. Correlates of isoniazid prophylaxis failure for tuberculosis prevention among child household contacts with infectious tuberculosis in high burden settings in Nairobi, Kenya - a cohort study. *BMC Infectious Diseases*. Doi: 10.1186/s12879-017-2719-8

Okwara F, Oyore J P, Were F. Challenges that fraught isoniazid prophylaxis as a child tuberculosis prevention strategy in children household contact with adults with

tuberculosis from high burden settings, Nairobi, Kenya; *East and Central African Medical Journal*, 2014;1 (2): 82- 88.

Okwara F, Makewa D, Karo E. Cryptococcal meningitis in a 5-month-old HIV negative child with Ricketts - case report; *East and Central African Medical Journal*. 2015: 2 (2): 92- 94.

Okwara FN, Obimbo E, Wafula E, and Murila. F Bacteraemia, Urinary tract infections and malaria in hospitalized febrile children in Nairobi. Is there an association? *East African Medical Journal*. Vol 81, No. 1, January 2004.

Musyoka JN, Okwara FN, Yonge S, Uptake of prevention of mother-to-child transmission of human immunodeficiency virus interventions among infected mothers attending health facilities in Mombasa County, Kenya. *International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health*, 2024 May; 11(5):1742-1749

Lumonje IK, Okwara FN, Too W, Factors affecting utilization of available SRH services by youth living in the streets of Nakuru Town, Nakuru County. *East African Journal of Health and Science*, Volume 4, Issue 1, 2019.

Ndungu EW, Okwara FN, Oyore JP. Cross-sectional survey of Care-seeking for acute respiratory illness of children under 5 years in rural Kenya: *American Journal of Pediatrics*. Vol 4, No 3, 2018, pp 69-79. Doi
10.11648/j.ajp.20180403.05

Korir E, Okwara FN, Okumbe G, Menstrual hygiene management practices among primary school girls from a pastoralist community in Kenya - a cross-sectional survey. *The Pan African Medical Journal*. 2018;31:222. [doi:10.11604/pamj.2018.31.222.13521](https://doi.org/10.11604/pamj.2018.31.222.13521)

Makau GM, Okwara FN, Oyore JP: 'Early Infant Diagnosis' and treatment of HIV among HIV exposed and infected infants in Baba Dogo and Kariobangi slums, Nairobi County, *East and Central African Medical Journal*, 2015: 2 (2): 80- 88.

Otiangala D, Mwanzo I, Okwara F, Ngetich E. Caregiver home-based practices for managing children aged 0-59 months with diarrhoeal disease in Western Kenya- *research gate.net*

'Kenyatta University Operational guidelines for Biomedical Research 2010-2020. Drafted by the Kenyatta University Ethics Review Committee, I was a member.

Prescribed food diets for HIV-infected children, by. Masinde AL, Okwara FN, and Okello AB. Lambert Academic Publishing, 2012. ISBN: 978-3-659-14354-0.

Conferences/Workshops/Seminars Attended

Conferences Attended

- The 17th to 24th Annual Scientific Conferences of the Kenya Paediatrics Association, Pride in Hotel, Mombasa, April 2022.
- The 4th International Developmental Paediatrics Association Congress was held in Lebanon, Beirut. – 2021, Virtual presenter.

- The 3rd International Developmental Paediatrics Congress (IDPAC), Manila, Philippines, December 2019.
- Alternatives to breastfeeding and specialized infant feeding formulas, Organized by Lipitis Nutrition, Dubai, October 2015.
- First global conference on 'Patient-centred Care', organized by the School of Medicine, Kenyatta University, Sept 2015.
- International Congress on Tropical Paediatrics, organized by the Kenya Paediatrics Association, Nairobi, June 2014.
- Food and Nutrition in Children conference organized by the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Kenyatta University, June 2014.
- The sixth HOPE meeting with Nobel laureates, organized by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, in Tokyo, Japan, in March 2014.
- The 8th International Conference on 'Mother and Child Handbook' organized by the Ministry of Public Health, and the International Committee on the MCH Handbook, Kenya, May 2012.
- The 3rd to the 13th Annual Scientific Conference of the Kenya Paediatrics Association, Mombasa, April of each year 2002-2012.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Affiliation of Professional Bodies

- Member of the East African Academy of Childhood disabilities
- Member of the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR)
- Member of the International Developmental Paediatrics Association (IDPA)
- Member of the Paediatric Neurology and Development Association of Southern Africa (PANDA-SA)
- Member of the Association of Human Genetics in Africa (AHGA)
- Member of the Deciphering developmental Disorders in Africa (DDD-Africa)
- Member of the Kenya Paediatrics Association (KPA).
- Member of the Kenya Women in Medicine Association (KWMA).
- Member of the Kenya Medical Association (KMA).

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Fellow, College of Paediatrics of South Africa (2020)
- Best Junior Researcher Award – School of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town, 2021.

- African Paediatric Fellowship Program Scholar (2018- 2020)
- HOPE Fellow – Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (2015)

REFERENCES

Available upon request