

CURRICULUM VITAE

CAROLINE WASONGA, PhD

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[A] PERSONAL PROFILE

I am a Kenyan national, Christian, female, married and currently working as a Tutorial Fellow in the Department of Biochemistry, School of Medicine, University of Nairobi. I have gained vast experience in Research, training and mentoring, having lectured in the University of Nairobi for the last eight years and conducted research at the Kenya Medical Research Institute for the last 6 years, mainly working on Diagnostics, immunology and molecular biology of viruses.

[B] CAREER DETAILS

A) CAREER OBJECTIVES

- 1) To seek and attain academic excellence and to assist others acquire knowledge and reach their full academic potential.
- 2) Do research that is able to solve current issues that are of public health importance

B) ACADEMIC SPECIALIZATION

Biochemistry, Immunology and Virology

[C] ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

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| 2016 | PhD. (Medical Virology) , Institute of Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases, KEMRI Graduate School, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya. |
| 2006 | MSc. (Biochemistry) University of Nairobi, Kenya. |
| 2000 | BSc. (Biochemistry and Chemistry) Upper Second Class Honours. University of Nairobi, Kenya. |

[D] PROFESSIONAL AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1. Tutorial Fellow (2008 to date), Department of Biochemistry, University of Nairobi, Kenya. Responsibilities include teaching and assessing undergraduate and postgraduate students; supervising biochemistry practical sessions and student's research projects. Courses taught include: Immunology (BSc. Biochemistry, 2nd and 3rd year); Biochemistry (BSc. Food Science, 2nd year); Immunology (MSc Biochemistry)

2. Laboratory Supervisor (Biological Monitor) (2006 to 2008), Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Nairobi. Worked in the Kesho Bora (HAART) study- an international randomized multi-centre HIV project working on Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV. Duties included quality assurance and coordination of sample collection and

analysis and documentation of laboratory results.

[E] SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS, AWARD NOMINATION AND RESEARCH COLLABORATION

- a) The best poster presentation award during the 4th Medical and Veterinary Virus research conference, held in Hilton hotel in Nairobi on 15th -16th October 2016.
- b) Second best oral presentation award in the Biotechnology session during the 5th KEMRI Annual Scientific and Health Conference held between 4th to 6th February 2015.
- c) Travel Grant to attend the Awaji international Forum on Infection and Immunity Conference held in the Westin international conference Centre, Osaka, Japan between 7th -11th September 2015.
- d) Fellowship Grant no. SRG/2014/18 by the Consortium for National Health Research (CNHR) to undertake post-doctoral research. Grant amount is 2 million. Project title is “*Development and evaluation of point of care test and a micro-neutralization test for detection of acute Chikungunya infection*” in 2014”
- e) Scholarship grant by the Consortium for National Health Research Grant no. RLG-09-001/031, to pursue a PhD degree in Medical Virology in the Institute of Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases, JKUAT, Kenya in 2010

[F] LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

- 1) **Wasonga C. and Omwandho C. O. A. (2017).** Inhibitory effects of mushroom extracts on progression of carcinogenesis in mice, *Journal of Experimental Therapeutics and Oncology. (In press)*
 - 2) **Wasonga C. (2017).** Serological Cross-Reactivity of Alphaviruses to Chikungunya Specific Antibodies and Its Relationship to their Structural proteins. *IOSR Journal of Biotechnology and Biochemistry.* 3(5): 70-76, DOI: 10.9790/264X-03057076
 - 3) **Wasonga C. and Osoro M. (2017).** Anti-tumour activity of Aqueous wheat grass extracts against chemically induced carcinogenesis. *IOSR Journal of Pharmacy and Biological Sciences.* 12(3): 24-28.
 - 4) **Wasonga C., Inoue S., Rumberia C., Michuki G., Kimotho J., Ongus JR., Sang R. and Musila L.: (2015a).** Genetic divergence of Chikungunya virus plaque variants from the Comoros Island (2005). *Virus Genes.* 51(3):323-328.
 - 5) **Wasonga C., Inoue S., Kimotho J., Morita K., Ongus J., Sang R. and Musila L. (2015b).** Development and evaluation of an in-House IgM-Capture ELISA for the detection of Chikungunya and its application to a dengue outbreak situation in Kenya in 2013. *Japanese Journal of Infectious Diseases.* 68(5):410-414.
 - 6) **Wasonga C., Okoth S.O., Mukuria J.C. and Omwandho C.O.A. (2008).** Mushroom polysaccharide extracts delay progression of carcinogenesis in mice. *Journal of Experimental Therapeutics and Oncology.* 7(2):147-152
- a) Conference Proceedings**
- Wasonga C.O., Musila L. A., Ongus J.R., Kimotho J.H. and Sang R.C. (2012).** Characterization and Isolation of Chikungunya Viral antigen for development of ELISA diagnostics. *African Journal of Health Sciences,* Jan-June 2012 ISSN 1022-9297 Volume 20, Nos.1-2 (Supplement)

H) MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/SUMMITS ATTENDANCE

a) *International Meetings/Experience*

- 1) Awaji International Forum on Infection and Immunity conference , Westin International Conference Centre, Osaka, Japan, 7th -11th September 2015.
- 2) The Virology Africa Conference held in University of Cape Town, School of Business, Break water Lodge, South Africa between 29th and 2nd December 2011

b) *Workshops/Training Attended*

- 1) KEMRI Annual Scientific and Health conference, held on 8 -10 Feb. **2017**, in Panari Hotel, Nairobi Kenya
- 2) Research and Grant Proposal Writing Workshop, 11-13 May **2016**. University of Nairobi, Chiromo campus, Nairobi.
- 3) Level 3 Laboratory Biosafety training, Nagasaki University institute of Tropical Medicine (NUTM) P3 Lab-KEMRI, Centre for Medical Research, Nairobi, 15 to 23 Feb **2011**
- 4) Bioinformatics training Course, Walter Reed Project, Conference Room, KEMRI, Nairobi, Kenya, March 7 – 11, **2011**
- 5) Scientific Communication and Publishing Course, Organised by the Training Centre in Communication, Nairobi, Kenya, at School of Biological Sciences building, Chiromo Campus, University of Nairobi, Nairobi Kenya, 4-8 April **2011**

I) SERVICES AND MEMBERSHIPS

1. PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- a) International Veterinary and Vaccinology Network
- b) Kenya Society of Immunology
- c) International Union of Immunological Societies

2. OTHER DUTIES

Course Co-ordinator of 3rd year Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry

J) REFEREES

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