

Welcome message from the Director



Welcome and thank you for choosing to visit the website of University of Nairobi (UoN) Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (UNITID). We are located at the Kenyatta National Hospital University of Nairobi campus, off Ngong Road, about four (4) kilometers from Nairobi City Central Business District (NCCBD). Our offices are in the UNITID building which is next to the Medical School Library.

The Institute commenced its operations in March, 2004, as one of the five fully-fledged constituent components of the College of Health Sciences, University of Nairobi. (The others then were: Schools of Medicine, Dental Sciences, Pharmacy, and Nursing Sciences)).

We take pride in four core mandates; namely:

- (i) Creating, Storing and Disseminating knowledge related to Infectious Diseases, Non-infectious diseases, Neglected Tropical Diseases and Zoonosis through research, teaching and supporting various policy formulations. In this regard we focus on postgraduate training of the next generation of infectious diseases experts and well-grounded researchers in both biomedical and behavioral sciences.
- (ii) Contribution towards our university's efforts in Globalization of university education through establishment and management of vibrant collaborations both locally and internationally.
- (iii) In partnership with our collaborators we conduct cutting edge research that translates to innovations and patents.
- (iv) Take active and leading role in the prevention and management of disease outbreaks.

The Institute has developed a strong research base in HIV/AIDS, other Sexually Transmitted Infections, Malaria, Tuberculosis, Filariasis, Schistosomiasis, Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers and Diarrhea Diseases. In addition, issues such as newly emerging and re-emerging infections, drug resistant infections and bio-terrorism are of keen interest to us.

To efficiently and effectively deliver our core mandates, the institute is home for ultramodern chain of laboratories from level 2 to Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) enhanced. With

the establishment of BSL 3 enhanced laboratories, Kenya became the third country in Africa, after South Africa and Gabon, with such facilities. These laboratories have the full capacity to handle highly infectious outbreaks such as hemorrhagic fever viruses and other high risk group 3 and 4 microorganisms. The labs are also capable of carrying out drugs resistance testing, particularly antiretroviral drugs. Other levels of the chain of our laboratories handle research activities in molecular biology, immunology, tissue culture, flow cytometry, gene technology, and of course routine laboratory tests. With such facilities the institute is well placed to serve as a reference monitoring and diagnostic centre for all newly emerging and re-emerging tropical infectious diseases.

In partnership with some of our collaborators we offer locally relevant and market driven postgraduate training, which includes PhDs and Post-Doctorate attachments. Currently we offer the following training programs, all structured along the guidelines provided for by the Kenya Commission for University Education (CUE): PhDs in various aspects of biological, behavioral and laboratory Sciences; Master of Science (MSc) in Tropical and Infectious Diseases (TID), MSc in Biomedical Statistics (MSc Med Stat), Post Graduate Diploma in Research Methods (PG-DRM) and HIV Capacity Building Fellowship. We also offer a wide range of short courses that include: Critical Appraisal of Research Proposals (CARP); Research Administration and Grants Management; Responsible Conduct of Research; (RCR); Bioethics; Research Data Management using STATA Software; and Micro Research. University of Nairobi is a fully registered CITI Program member and therefore our students are able to access all the training packages therein at no extra cost.

As An Institute we are able to attract diverse scientists and scholars highly accomplished in their respective research areas of research through appointments as visiting research scientists or honorary lecturers.

We look forward to welcoming you to join us at UNITID either as individual researcher or through collaboration with your institution.

If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact us through our e-mail: director-unitid@uonbi.ac.ke or unitid@uonbi.ac.ke