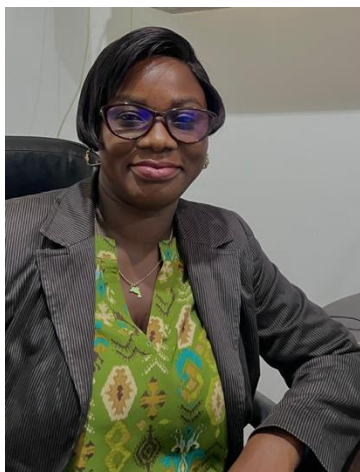


Summer Visiting Fellows 2025



Portia Boakye Okyere, PhD (c)

Portia Boakye Okyere is a PhD candidate at the School of Public Health, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), with extensive experience in scientific data management, statistical analysis, and clinical trials. With over ten years of expertise in clinical research, she has worked on diverse projects involving disease surveillance, vaccine trials, and e-health initiatives. She has collaborated with international organizations, including the International Vaccine Institute, AmeriCares Foundation and United Nations Development Programme, and has served as a consultant and evaluator for various health interventions. As a seasoned researcher and educator, she has facilitated numerous workshops on data analysis, research methodologies, and statistical tools, empowering professionals and students with essential analytical skills.



Tshepiso Choma, MBChB

Dr. Tshepiso Choma is a newly specialised Radiation Oncologist from South Africa, with an MBChB from the University of Pretoria (2014). At 34, she has dedicated her career to improving breast cancer management and access to care, particularly in underserved communities. Her current research project, "Implementation of the 1-week adjuvant breast cancer radiation therapy protocol: A retrospective study from a radiation oncology unit in Johannesburg," reflects her commitment to advancing innovative and patient-centred cancer treatments. Recognised for her impactful work, Dr. Choma was featured in the Mail & Guardian's "Women Changing South Africa" list in 2019. She is passionate about bridging gaps in cancer care and ensuring equitable access to life-saving therapies. As a visiting fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, she looks forward to collaborating with global experts to further her research and contribute to the field of radiation oncology.



Maryna Nazarova, MD, PhD

Dr. Maryna Nazarova, born in 1991 in Vinnytsia, Ukraine, is a physician with extensive academic and clinical training in internal medicine and cardiology. A graduate of the National Pirogov Memorial Medical University (VNMMU) with honors, she holds multiple degrees including a PhD in Medicine, and Master's degrees in both General Medicine and Health Care Management. Since 2023, she has served as Vice Dean of the Faculty of Foreign Citizen Training at VNMMU.

Her academic work includes teaching, student mentorship, and organizing national competitions and conferences. She is actively involved in the Ukrainian Association of Cardiologists, the European Society of Cardiology, and the European Atherosclerosis Society. Clinically, Dr. Nazarova practices at the Vinnytsia Regional Clinical Hospital and currently serves on the Military Medical Commission. She is certified in internal medicine, cardiology, and functional diagnostics. Fluent in English (B2), she is committed to education, research, and supporting young professionals. Outside of work, she enjoys medical reading, travel, outdoor activities, and family life with her husband and two children.



Nelson Masota, PhD

Dr. Nelson Masota is a lecturer and researcher at the School of Pharmacy, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Tanzania. He is a pharmacist with an MSc in Drug Discovery and Regulation and a Ph.D. focused on Nature-driven discovery of novel agents against *Enterobacteriaceae* from Julius-Maximilians University of Würzburg in Germany. His expertise includes the integration of Nature and medicinal chemistry to isolate, characterize, and synthesize novel antibacterial agents targeting globally critical pathogens. His previous work resulted in six compounds effective against multiple MDR strains of *K. pneumoniae* and *E. coli*, new techniques for extracting and isolating NPs, and descriptive libraries of 128 plant species and 122 diverse phytochemicals with strong activities against the two bacteria. Dr. Masota has secured two competitive international funding opportunities and is pioneering the use of Isolation Chips (iChips) to explore antibiotic-producing soil bacteria in Tanzania, with 22 iChips currently planted in soils from distinct ecologies. Additionally, he serves as the Head of the University's Innovation Unit, overseeing the development of innovative solutions in the healthcare space from ideas to commercialization.



James January, PhD

Dr. James January is a Malawian clinical psychologist, senior lecturer, and mental health researcher with over 20 years of experience working in low and middle-income countries (LMICs), including the last five years as a resident in Malawi. He holds a PhD in Mental Health and currently serves as a faculty member at the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS), where he is deeply involved in teaching, research, and mentorship.

With a strong interdisciplinary background in psychology, public health, epidemiology, and implementation science, Dr. January's research focuses on strengthening mental health care systems through culturally appropriate, evidence-based psychosocial interventions. His primary areas of expertise include adolescent and perinatal mental health, psychiatric epidemiology, and global mental health services research. Over the past decade, his work has particularly concentrated on the epidemiology of postnatal depression and the intersections of HIV and mental health in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. January has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and is recognized for his contributions as both a researcher and mentor. His commitment to building research capacity is reflected in his active mentorship several programs, where he supports the development of independent, early-career researchers in mental health. His scholarly contributions aim to promote mental health equity, improve psychosocial support services, and generate actionable evidence to inform health policies and interventions in resource-limited settings.