



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
AFRETEC – KNOWLEDGE CREATION
PROGRAMME

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER MENTORSHIP AND TRAINING

DATE: 22nd to 24th October, 2024

VENUE: UoN TOWERS Room MLT 403

DAY 1 (22nd October 2025)

Moderator: Prof. Opanga/Prof. Lukhoba/Dr. Kimilu

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Arrival and registration	Shadrack Mutavi
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Welcome Remarks Overview of Afretec	Sylvia Opanga
9.30 am – 10:00 am	Session 1: Keynote: Introducing the challenges and opportunities in early-stage research careers. • Finding Your Path • Building a Research Identity	Michael Bodunrin
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Tea Break	
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Session 2: Expanding research impact and access to funding. • Collaborations & Networks • Lessons from Successful Grant Seekers	Michael Bodunrin George Abong Sheila Okoth Marianne Mureithi Davies Segera
11.30am – 1.00 pm	Session 3: Panel discussion with experienced academics and researchers on career planning, work-life balance, publishing, teaching, and networking. • Topic selection • Supervisor relationships • Time management • Staying motivated	Michael Bodunrin Thomas Ochuku Mbuya George Abong Fredrick Madaraka Sheila Okoth Sylvia Opanga
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Lunch Break	
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Session 4: Funding in Europe Grant me Strength: Surviving the EU Funding Game without Losing your Mind	Esther den Hartog Colette Gerards
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Opportunities for collaboration with CNRS and other French Universities/Research Institutions. Essential	Lydia Roose

	elements of initiating and cultivating collaborations, funding and carrying out high quality research.	
4.00 pm – 4.45 pm	Session 5: From obstacles to insights: The Dual Face of Research Ethics Review	Patrick Onyango
4.45 pm – 5.00 pm	Closing Remarks: Reflections and Takeaways.	Michael Bodunrin
END OF DAY 1		

DAY 2 (23rd October 2025)

Moderator: Prof. Opanga/Prof. Lukhoba/Dr. Kimilu

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY
8.30 - 9.00 am	Arrival and registration	Shadrack Mutavi
9.00 - 9.10 am	Brief recap of key learnings from Day 1	Richard Kimilu
9.10 – 9.40 am	Session 6: Experiences and reflections of Early Career Researchers Opportunities and challenges of early career researchers/academics in France and Europe. Strengthening early career North-South research and academic partnerships	Simon Meunier
9.40 – 10.00 am	Opportunities available through the Engineering and Science Complex Project and other related projects	Marc Zolver
10.00 – 11.00 am	Opportunities and challenges of early career researchers/academics in Kenya and Africa. How can we leverage existing networks, personal and institutional linkages to strengthen collaborations within Africa and beyond?	Davies Segera Fredrick Madara
11.00 – 11.30 am	Coffee Break	
11.30 – 12.20 pm	Session 7: Understanding Grant Calls and Application Guidelines How to analyze a call for proposals; Key sections in call documents, eligibility, evaluation criteria, and common pitfalls in submission.	Michael Bodunrin Marianne Mureithi Catherine Kunyanga Evans Miriti
12: 20 - 1.00 pm	Session 8: Essential Elements of Competitive Proposals Deep dive into components of a strong proposal: background, objectives, significance, innovation, impact, and expected outcomes.	Michael Bodunrin Catherine Kunyanga Evans Miriti
1.00 – 2.00 pm	Lunch Break	
2.00 – 2.30 pm	Session 8: Pursuing a PhD at Amsterdam UMC: Opportunities, Challenges and Recommendations	Saskia Hartog
2.30 – 3.15 pm	Supervising within the thesis by publication format	Liezel Frick
3.15 – 4.00 pm	Cohort based supervision	Meshack Aziakpono
4.00 – 4: 15 pm	Closing Remarks: Reflections and Takeaways.	Fredrick Madaraka
END OF DAY 2		

DAY 3 (24th October 2025)

Moderator: Prof. Opanga/Prof. Lukhoba/Dr. Kimilu

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Arrival and registration	Shadrack Mutavi
9:00 am - 9:15 am	Brief recap of key learnings from Day 2.	Catherine Lukhoba
9.15 am – 10:30 am	Session 9: Research Grant Proposals: Budgeting, Work Plans, and Justification Understanding how to create aligned, transparent, and funder-compliant budgets. Using activity-based costing and linking budgets to work plans.	Marc Zolver Thomas Ochuku Mbuya Catherine Kunyanga Sheila Okoth
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Tea Break	
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Session 10: Building Strong Research Teams and Partnerships How to form competitive consortia, define clear roles, and leverage interdisciplinary strengths.	Michael Bodunrin Desmond Bodunrin Frederick Madaraka Thomas Ochuku Mbuya
12.00 – 1.00pm	Session 11: Use of AI in Research	Davies Segera Michael Bodunrin Timothy Kamanu
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Lunch Break	
2.00 – 4.00 pm	Session 11: Continued How to use AI in a productive and responsible manner	Sioux McKenna Nompilo Tshuma
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Q&A and Closing Remarks	TBD/Thomas Ochuku
4.30 pm	Tea break and Departure	
End of Day 3		