

Newsletter

Quarterly Update | August 2025

Uniting Africa's Medical Schools for a Healthier Future



COMS-A

The Consortium of Medical Schools - Africa
 Consórcio das Escolas de Medicina - África (COMS-A)
 Consortium des Écoles de Médecine - Afrique
 (COMS-A) اتحاد كليات الطب - أفريقيا

A Message from President of Medical Schools-Africa (COMS-A)



Dear colleagues, partners, and friends,

We are honored to share this exciting update from COMS-A, a bold, African-led movement dedicated to transforming the landscape of medical education across the continent. Launched in March 2025 at the Medical Education-Africa 2025 Conference in Kigali, COMS-A brought together 115 founding members from over 30 countries to advance medical education across the continent.

In the past three months alone, 23 new medical schools have joined the consortium, all united by a shared commitment to excellence, equity, and accountability.

The strategic priorities are centered on **building institutional capacity and governance, expanding collaboration and networks, advancing medical education quality and innovation, and knowledge sharing and advocacy.** These initiatives will help foster a resilient, interconnected ecosystem of medical educators and institutions across Africa. We invite all stakeholders, academic leaders, faculty, students, policymakers, and global partners, to join us not only in spirit but in action. Together, we can co-create the future of medical education in Africa, grounded in our shared values of collaboration, inclusion, and innovation.

With determination and unity,

Prof Lionel Green-Thompson

The President of COMS-A

Recap MedEdAfrica 2025 Conference in Kigali Rwanda

Hosted by the University of Global Health Equity in partnership with the Rwanda Ministry of Health, this inaugural event convened over **750 participants** from **46 countries** including

policymakers, students, researchers, and representatives from 115 African medical school to shape a shared vision for the future of medical education on the continent.

A defining outcome of the convening was **the launch of the Consortium of Deans of Medical Schools in Africa (COMS-A) and election of its Executive Committee:**



Prof. Lionel Green-Thompson

President, University of Cape Town, South Africa.



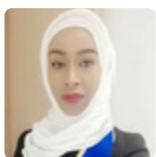
Dr. Yvonne Akotoa Dei-Adomakoh

Vice President & Chair, Audit and Compliance Committee, University of Ghana, Ghana



Prof. Abebe Bekele

Secretary General & Chair, Advocacy and Partnerships Committee, University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda



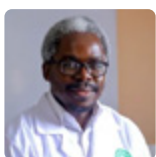
Dr. Salma Abdi Mahmoud

Deputy Secretary General, The State University of Zanzibar



Prof. Angela Frank-Briggs

Treasurer & Chair, Finance Committee, College of Health Sciences, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria



Prof. Lukoye Atwoli

Chair, Leadership & Professional Development Committee, Aga Khan University, Kenya



Prof. Titus Ibekwe

Chair, Research and Innovations Committee, University of Abuja, Nigeria



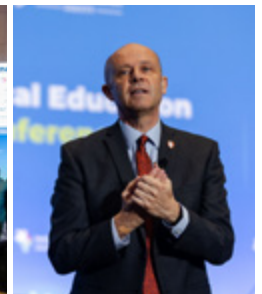
Prof. Simeon Pierre Choukem

Chair, Education and Curriculum Committee, University of Dschang, Cameroon

Moments in Focus



Read the full Conference Report



COMS-A Membership Expands

Since its launch in March 2025, COMS-A has steadily welcomed new members, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for a united African medical education com-

munity. In the past three months alone, 23 new medical schools have joined, bringing fresh perspectives and expertise to the consortium. Each new institution

strengthens our collective capacity to innovate, collaborate, and advance medical education across the continent.

New Member Institutions Include:

- Federal University of Technology Owerri, Nigeria
- Niger Delta University, Nigeria
- Delta State University Abraka, Nigeria
- Shanahan University, Onitsha, Nigeria
- Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Nigeria
- Rivers State University, Nigeria
- Veritas University, Abuja, Nigeria
- Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria
- Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Nigeria
- Federal University Birnin Kebbi, Nigeria
- Federal University Lokoja, Nigeria
- Kaduna State University, Nigeria
- Hawassa University, Ethiopia
- Bethel Medical College, Ethiopia
- Salale University, Ethiopia
- Samara University, Ethiopia
- Adama Hospital Medical College, Ethiopia
- Myungsung Medical College, Ethiopia
- Wollega University, Ethiopia
- Wollo University, Ethiopia
- Université Abdou Moumouni, Niger
- Accra College of Medicine, Ghana
- University of Ghana Medical Students Association, Ghana - Associate Member

Operational Milestones

Appointment of Standing Committee Members

The COMS-A Committee has appointed standing committee members to support the various Committee Heads in carrying out COMS-A activities. Many of these individuals had initially contested for leadership positions during the formation of COMS-A, while others expressed interest in serving on the committees. Below is a list of the appointed members.



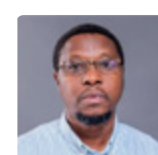
Dr Juliet Gathara
Mount Kenya University



Mr. Tizalegn Tesfaye Mamo
Dilla University



Prof Sebastian Eliason
University of Cape Coast



Prof Wakisa Mulwafu
Kamuzu University of Health Sciences

Education & Curriculum Development Committee



Prof Gabriel Ogun
University of The Gambia



Prof Kouna Ndouongo Philomene
Université des Sciences de la Santé, Libreville (USS), Gabon



Prof Christopher Bismarck Eke
University of Nigeria, Nsukka



**Dr Lina Mohammed
Ahmedtaha**

St. Paul's Hospital
Millennium Medical
College



**Prof Evans
Mpabalwani**

University of Zambia



Prof Stephen Tabiri

University for
Development Studies

Advocacy & Partnerships Committee



Prof Alabi Sulyman

University of Ilorin



**Prof Halle-Ekane Edie
Gregory**

University of Buea



**Dr Eyerusalem
Beyene Erjabo**

Arbaminch University

Research and Innovations Committee



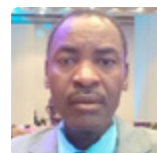
**Prof Titus Osita
Chukwuanukwu**

Veritas University,
Abuja



**Prof Banderembako
Paul**

University of Burundi



**Prof Adamou
Harissou**

Université André
Salifou



Prof Joseph Ngonzi

Mbarara University of
Science & Technology



**Dr Yalemwork
Anteneh Yimer**

Bahirdar University

Leadership & Professional Development Committee



**Dr Getasew Bayu
Asnakew**

Hawassa University



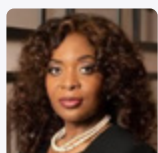
Prof Adakal Ousseini

Dan Dicko
Dankoulodo
University, Maradi-
Niger



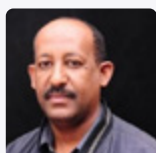
Dr Kara Neil

Africa Health Sciences
University



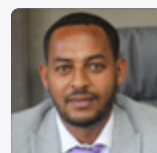
**Prof Flavia
Senkubuge**

University of Pretoria



**Prof Andualem
Deneke Beyene**

Addis Ababa
University



**Dr Aynishet Adane
Gebremariam**

University of Gondar

Audit & Compliance Committee



**Dr Lombamo Liranso
Gichamo**

Wachemo University



Prof Gert Van Zyl

University of the Free
State

Establishment of the COMS-A Secretariat

UGHE is officially the temporary host of the COMS-A Secretariat, as per the MedEdAfrica 2025 conference resolutions. While

UGHE provides a home base for now, decisions about permanent headquarters will be made as the consortium evolves.

COMS-A Website Launch Coming Soon!

While the MedEd Africa website will continue to host information about the upcoming conference, we're excited to announce that

the COMS-A website will soon be launched. It will serve as a centralized hub for consortium updates, events, and member resources.

COMS-A's Logo - A Reflection of Who We Are

We are excited to share that COMS-A now has a logo! This significant symbol was carefully designed to reflect our identity and mission.



54 Stars

Each star represents one of the 54 African countries, reflecting the pan-African reach and inclusivity of the consortium.



African Map Silhouette in Stethoscope Shape

A stylized stethoscope forms the shape of the African continent, highlighting the commitment to clinical care and public health.



Open Book

Located beneath or integrated within the design, the book symbolizes knowledge, learning, and the academic core of COMS-A's mission.



Chain of Hands in the Middle of Africa

At the heart of the logo, a circle of linked hands conveys unity, cooperation, and solidarity among medical schools throughout Africa.

COMS-A's Foundational Paper

We are pleased to share a new paper, *"African Solutions for African Medical Education: The Strategic Establishment of the Consortium of Medical Schools in Africa (COMS-A)"* Authors: Prof. Abebe Bekele, Dr. Kara L. Neil, Prof. Yvonne Dei-Adomakoh, Dr. Salma Abdi Mahmoud, Prof. Angela Frank-Briggs, Prof. Lukoye Atwoli, Prof. Titus Ibekwe, Prof. Simeon Pierre Choukem, Prof. Lionel Green-Thompson.


[Read the full Paper](#)

Major Activities and Progress on the Two-Year Plan

Looking ahead, COMS-A has developed and adopted its first Annual Plan, a key step toward operationalizing our collective

vision. This plan outlines priority activities designed to advance health professions education and strengthen the delivery of medical

care across the continent. We are already making steady progress toward this year's goals:

Major Activities

1. Establish its Secretariat, operational staff, and infrastructure
2. Strengthen partnerships with existing platforms in Africa such as AfreHealth, ACHEST, CONSAMS, and others.
3. Plan for the MedEd Africa 2026 Annual Conference
4. Conduct a continental survey of African Medical Schools
5. Membership expansion to at least 200 medical schools
6. Establish Africa's Women Leadership in Medical Education Forum and mentorship program
7. Support the Curriculum harmonization process that is being led by WHO AFRO
8. Prepare to launch a Faculty Development academy in English and French
9. Prepare to launch the Higher Education Leadership Academy
10. Hold scientific forums and working groups
11. Establishment of a continental digital data-sharing platform on medical education metrics
12. Develop shared digital learning and resource-sharing systems
13. Launch a student and faculty exchange structure among member medical schools.

Progress on the Two-Year Plan



Plan and Host the MedEd Africa 2026 Annual Conference

The draft concept note for MedEd Africa 2026 has been prepared and will soon be finalized. Once complete, it will be shared with member institutions to invite expressions of interest to host the next medical education conference.



Conduct a Continental Survey of African Medical Schools

We have successfully gathered a significant amount of data from 120 member institutions, covering areas such as Number of medical students enrolled by the medical school, Duration of undergraduate medical training, Availability of specialty programs and accreditation status by regional bodies. This data will inform future strategies and help shape a unified approach to medical education reform and easy partnerships among member institutions.



Expand Membership to At Least 200 Institutions by End of 2025

To date, COMS-A has grown to 133 member institutions, with 106 institutions having officially signed the COMS-A Constitution. The remaining 27 institutions are in the process of completing the necessary requirements, reflecting steady progress toward our goal of 200 members by the end of 2025.



Support the Curriculum Harmonization Process Led by WHO AFRO

The COMS-A Education Committee is actively collaborating with WHO AFRO to support the development of a harmonized curriculum framework tailored to the African context.



Develop a Continental Digital Data-Sharing Platform

We have collected critical institutional data across 120 members from both Founding members and New members, laying the groundwork for a platform that will enable access to real-time medical education metrics across the continent.



Hold Scientific Forums and Thematic Working Groups

Initial conversations around thematic subcommittees and scientific collaboration are in motion, with more updates to follow in the next quarter.



Create Shared Digital Learning and Open-Access Resource Systems

Plans are in development to explore platforms for resource-sharing and digital learning across member schools.



Launch the Higher Education Leadership Academy

COMS-A is partnering with the Africa Association for Public Health Leadership (AAPL) to co-design a leadership training program specifically for Deans and academic leaders.



Establish a Faculty and Student Exchange Program

This remains a key goal for enhancing cross-institutional collaboration and learning. A framework will be developed as part of the next implementation phase.

Proposals Submitted to Donors

We have submitted strategic proposals to key donors and partners to support these activities and will share updates as conversations progress.

Building the Future...

As we reflect on the remarkable strides made in such a short span, it is clear that the strength of COMS-A lies in its collective resolve. From expanding membership and forming robust committees, to laying the groundwork for data-sharing and launching strategic programs, our progress is a testament to what is possible when Africa's medical education leaders unite for a common purpose.

We are inspired by your commitment, collaboration, and vision—and we remain confident that COMS-A will continue to grow as

a powerful platform for driving innovation, equity, and excellence in health Professions education across the continent.

In the coming months, we look forward to deepening partnerships, refining our priorities, and continuing to elevate African voices in shaping the future of global health.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are building a healthier, more resilient Africa—one medical school at a time.

Get Involved: Join the Movement

We warmly welcome institutions and individuals interested in contributing to COMS-A's mission. To join, use this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/ys-8bRPr5R6>

For easy access, scan the QR code



We kindly encourage you to share this within your relevant networks to enable their institutions to register with COMS-A.

For membership inquiries and participation opportunities, please reach out to us at: secretariat@coms-africa.org

