

Newsletter

December 2025 | Email: secretariat@coms-africa.org | Website: coms-africa.org

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Kigali Heights, KG 7 Ave, 5th Floor |
PO Box 6955, Kigali



COMS-A

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

A Message from the Vice President COMS-A

Dear Colleagues, Partners and Friends,

As COMS-A continues to grow, we are encouraged by the shared commitment of medical educators across Africa. Over the past three months, we have expanded our membership, launched leadership and faculty development programs, and advanced work in maternal, newborn, and child health, and gender equity. Guided by our Executive Committee, standing committees, and Secretariat, we remain committed to service, continuous improvement, and innovation in medical education, strengthening institutions and training a more resilient health workforce for the continent.

In solidarity,
Prof. Yvonne Dei-Adomakoh
Vice President, COMS-A



Governance and Committees

COMS-A is guided by an Executive Committee and a set of standing committees that provide strategic direction, oversight, and coordination across the consortium. The standing committees cover Finance, Education

and Curriculum Development, Advocacy and Partnerships, Leadership and Professional Development, Research and Innovation, and Audit and Compliance. Together, these governance structures support trans-

parent decision-making and ensure that COMS-A's programs remain aligned with its strategic priorities for strengthening medical education across Africa. The Executive Committee and standing com-

mittees meet regularly to review progress, provide guidance on program implementation, and support effective coordination of COMS-A's initiatives across member institutions.

COMS-A Membership continues to Grow

Since its launch in March 2025 at the MedEdAfrica Conference in Kigali, COMS-A has grown into a truly continental network. From an initial 115 founding medical

schools across more than 30 countries, the consortium has now expanded to over 145 member institutions. This growth reflects increasing recognition of COMS-A as a

collaborative platform for strengthening medical education, leadership, and innovation across Africa. [See full members here](#)

A comprehensive March-

December 2025 progress report detailing membership growth and programmatic achievements will be published on the COMS-A website

Secretariat Updates

The COMS-A Secretariat is fully operational and continues to strengthen coordination across the consortium's programs and member institutions. To support delivery at scale, COMS-A has expanded its Secretariat team with dedicated roles in programme coordination, technical de-

livery, communications, and monitoring and learning.

As part of this expansion, COMS-A has recruited a Director to lead Secretariat operations and coordinate implementation across the consortium. The Director reports to the Executive Committee, which provides

COMS-A's overall governance and strategic direction.

The Director is supported by a Communications Coordinator and Administrative Assistant, alongside programme-specific roles including a Program Lead for Women in Leadership (WIL), a Program Lead for Mater-

nal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH), and a Research Assistant supporting both WIL and MNCH programs. This strengthened team will enhance operational delivery, documentation, and learning across COMS-A initiatives.

COMS-A Legal Registration

COMS-A is making strong progress toward formal legal registration and is in the final stages of being officially registered in Rwanda. This milestone will further

strengthen the consortium's institutional foundation, governance, and ability to operate sustainably across the continent. Formal registration will support expanded part-

nerships, improved accountability, and more efficient delivery of COMS-A programs as the consortium continues to grow and serve its member institutions.

Membership and Country Champions

COMS-A has designated Champions in **30 African countries** to serve as points of contact and to support communication and engagement across the consortium. In the next phase, COMS-A will prioritize outreach to

strengthen representation of medical schools across all five regions of Africa, expanding collaboration and ensuring broader regional participation in COMS-A initiatives.



Hosted by Ministry of Health – Ethiopia in partnership with COMS-A



Advancing Medical Education in Africa Conference

MedEdAfrica2026

The event has been rescheduled

Save the Date
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Click to save the date

NEW DATES
6-8
JULY
2026



Scan for
inquiry form



www.mededafrica.org

Registration and abstract submission coming soon



MedEdAfrica 2026, Addis Ababa

Planning is underway for MedEdAfrica 2026, to be hosted in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**, from **6-8 July**. Convened in collaboration with the Ministry of Health-Ethiopia, the conference will bring together

medical education leaders, faculty, researchers, learners, and partners to share innovations, strengthen collaboration, and advance Africa-led solutions in health professions education. The

Ministry of Health and the Minister have reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the conference and its objectives. MedEdAfrica 2026 will also advance COMS-A's vision to establish a **continental student body** and a **simulation educators group**, strengthening peer learning, leadership development, and simulation-based training across member institutions.

Leadership Academy: Developing African Medical Leaders

The COMS-A Leadership Academy is a nine-month hybrid program designed to strengthen the leadership capacity of current and future deans of African medical schools. Delivered in partnership with the

American Association for Physician Leadership (AAPL), the Academy combines virtual learning, a one week in person residency, mentorship, and applied institutional projects, with a focus on governance, financial

management, innovation, digital transformation, and health equity. The program received 64 applications, and the selection process is now underway. Applicants will be notified about the next steps shortly.

Strong interest in the inaugural cohort reflects the growing demand for structured leadership development in medical education across Africa.

SHARP-Africa Launch: Strengthening Health Professions Education

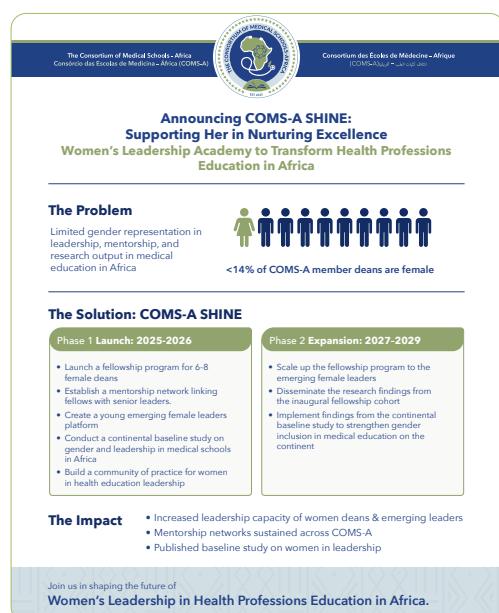
COMS-A is supported by the SHARP-Africa project to improve the quality and consistency of medical education through a coordinated, pan-African approach. A central focus is Work Package 3, which is establishing the COMS-A

Faculty Development Academy to strengthen teaching, assessment, curriculum design, and educational leadership. The Academy is being implemented through Regional HPE Training Centers and Africa Centers of Excellence, cre-

ating a continent-wide network of educators equipped to drive sustainable improvements in health professions education. To support this work, COMS-A has identified **eight** Regional HPE Training Centers and **three** Africa Centers

of Excellence that will serve as hubs for faculty development and institutional support across the continent. [For more information, please read our 2025 report here](#)

SHINE Initiative: Supporting Her in Nurturing Excellence



The flyer for the SHINE Initiative is titled "Announcing COMS-A SHINE: Supporting Her in Nurturing Excellence" and is associated with the "Women's Leadership Academy to Transform Health Professions Education in Africa". It features the COMS-A logo and the text "Consortium des Ecoles de Médecine d'Afrique (COMS-A) Consortium des Ecoles de Médecine d'Afrique (COMS-A) - CAP 2025".

The Problem: Limited gender representation in leadership, mentorship, and research output in medical education in Africa.  <14% of COMS-A member deans are female.

The Solution: COMS-A SHINE

- Phase 1 Launch: 2025-2026**
 - Launch a fellowship program for 6-8 female deans
 - Establish a mentorship network linking fellows with senior leaders
 - Build a young emerging female leaders platform
 - Conduct a continental baseline study on gender and leadership in medical schools in Africa
 - Build a community of practice for women in health education leadership
- Phase 2 Expansion: 2027-2029**
 - Scale up the fellowship program to the emerging female leaders
 - Disseminate the research findings from the inaugural fellowship cohort
 - Conduct a second continental baseline study to strengthen gender inclusion in medical education on the continent

The Impact

- Increased leadership capacity of women deans & emerging leaders
- Mentorship networks sustained across COMS-A
- Published baseline study on women in leadership

Join us in shaping the future of Women's Leadership in Health Professions Education in Africa.

COMS-A launched SHINE (Supporting Her in Nurturing Excellence) to strengthen women's leadership in African medical education and advance gender-responsive training in **Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH)** and **Gender, Sexual, and Reproductive Health and Rights (GSRHR)**.

The initiative supports a pilot fellowship for **eight women leaders**, provides 15 scholarships for the **MGHD in GSRH**

track, and establishes a MNCH Research Mentorship Program with **10 funded research scholars**. Through mentorship, peer learning, and targeted investments in leadership, education, and research, SHINE is building a continent-wide pipeline of women leaders and experts who will strengthen medical education and improve health outcomes across Africa. [More detailed information can be found here](#)

Engagement with WHO AFRO and Curriculum Harmonization

COMS-A is strengthening collaboration with the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO) to support regional align-

ment in medical education. As part of WHO AFRO's work on a harmonized medical curriculum, COMS-A completed a first-round review

and submitted technical feedback, contributing to curriculum standards that reflect Africa's health priorities and training needs.

The COMS-A President represented the consortium at the launch of the prototype curricula in Pretoria, South Africa, in November.

Strengthening Simulation-Based Training in Maternal and Newborn Care

UGHE, in partnership with Laerdal Global Health, is distributing **897 birthing simulators** to **56 academic institutions across 13 African countries** through the

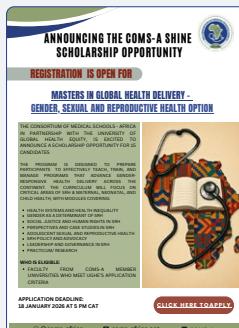
Buy One Gift One initiative. The MamaBirthie and MamaNatalie simulators are expanding opportunities for hands-on training in maternal and newborn care for medi-

cal, midwifery, and nursing students. This investment supports stronger pre-service training, improved clinical competence, and shared learning across institutions,

complementing COMS-A's broader work in faculty development, curriculum strengthening, and MNCH education.

Upcoming Opportunities

MGHD/GSRH online program (applications open for COMS-A members)



MNCH Research grant



MedEdAfrica 2026

Appreciation

We sincerely thank our partners for their continued and significant support and collaboration in advancing COMS-A's mission across Africa. Your engagement has been instrumental to our progress, and we look

forward to achieving even greater milestones together.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to COMS-A members for your ongoing collaboration and support. Your contribu-

tions across COMS-A programs have been essential to advancing our shared mission. We are deeply grateful for your commitment and look forward to delivering even greater impact together.

Call to Action

COMS-A will prioritize outreach to strengthen representation of medical schools across Africa, expanding collaboration and ensuring broader participation in COMS-A initiatives. Medical schools and partners can join COMS-A or engage in its programs by contacting secretariat@coms-africa.org or sub-

mitting a membership application through the **COMS-A Membership Form**.

Scan to register as a new COMS-A member



COMS-A extends sincere appreciation for your partnership and commitment throughout 2025.

Wishing you a joyful festive season filled with warmth, peace, and meaningful time with family, friends, and colleagues. As we welcome 2026, we look forward to continuing our shared work to strengthen collaboration across Africa's medical schools, advance excellence in medical education, and develop ethical, socially accountable leaders who contribute to equitable health outcomes across the continent.