

HJF Medical Research International Collaborator Network Africa

HJF Medical Research International (HJFMRI) has been working to advance scientific and medical research since 2001. The HJFMRI team develops partnerships, infrastructure and expertise around the world to help researchers understand, prevent and treat infectious diseases and respond rapidly to emerging outbreaks that threaten public health.

As a global leader in international medical research related to infectious diseases, HJFMRI has supported research for antimicrobial resistance, influenza, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, febrile and vectorborne illnesses, malaria, Ebola, enteric infections, Lassa fever, mpox, respiratory infections and SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).

HJFMRI is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc. (HJF). HJF's long-standing collaborations with U.S. Department of Defense partners like the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR), Global Emerging Infections Surveillance (GEIS) program, Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC), and the Joint Program Executive Office (JPEO), along with the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Gates Foundation, have resulted in an extensive network of partner sites working to build scientific knowledge and develop state-of-the-art lab and clinical research capabilities in Africa working alongside national ministries of health and other partners in host countries where research is conducted.

HJFMRI's Focus Areas

HJFMRI has decades of experience supporting partners in a wide range of complex research endeavors. A multidisciplinary team of experts works to implement flexible, comprehensive approaches to vaccine development, clinical research, infectious disease surveillance and therapeutics, global health program implementation, capacity building and military-to-military health initiatives.

Our Services

To assist with the implementation of medical programs, HJFMRI provides scientific and technical personnel as well as administrative and logistical expertise. We also provide support services in protocol planning, site development, research operations, data collection and analysis, laboratory and biorepository management, regulatory compliance, and international program staffing and contracts.

Where we Work

This booklet highlights some of our partners who conduct clinical studies in Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. In addition to these clinical trial sites, HJFMRI supports additional surveillance and cohort study sites and employs teams in Tanzania, Kenya and Nigeria who implement high-impact, comprehensive HIV prevention, care and treatment programs with WRAIR funded by PEPFAR. In addition to our work in Africa, HJF and HJFMRI also work in the Middle East, Europe, Lain America and Southeast Asia.

HJFMRI Regional Office

HJFMRI provides management and administrative support to its international programs through its Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya. HJFMRI hires host-country staff with regional expertise in both administrative oversight as well as technical execution – including research scientists, epidemiologists and laboratorians – to work with local organizations to advance global health, focusing primarily on infectious diseases. In addition to its Regional Office in Nairobi, in 2020, HJFMRI opened the HJFMRI Western Kenya Office in the town of Kisumu to better support the Government of Kenya and partners in the region.

Kenya

KEMRI-Kericho Clinical Research Centre (CRC)

The Clinical Research Centre, also known as KEMRI/Walter Reed Project, has successfully conducted more than 80 studies with support from WRAIR, HJFMRI and other partners, ranging from clinical trials of therapeutics and vaccines to cohort studies. This CRC established Kenya's first College of American Pathologist (CAP)-accredited laboratory. The Kericho CRC has conducted rigorous randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trials, fully compliant with U.S FDA investigational new drug (IND) regulations. Our research spans from first-in-human to Phase 4 trials and covers all age groups, including pregnant women.

- **HIV vaccine:** The Kericho CRC has completed four HIV vaccine studies. The site will take part in an mRNA HIV vaccine study in 2025 as part of the USAID-funded BRILLIANT Consortium comprised of research organizations in eight sub-Saharan African countries.
- **Therapeutics:** The CRC has conducted therapeutic studies related to HIV/AIDS care and associated infections, such as tuberculosis, malignancies (Kaposi's sarcoma) and malaria.
- Other emerging and infectious diseases: The site has participated in polio, Ebola, Shigella, yellow fever, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), hepatitis B and COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials. The site is preparing to conduct a Leishmania vaccine study.
- Cohort and epidemiological research:
 - The Kericho CRC has an extension site in Homa Bay, a fishing town on the shores of Lake Victoria, which is also participating in the MOCHI prospective observational study of HIV and other STIs.
 - The Kericho CRC participated in the African Cohort Study (AFRICOS), a large PEPFAR-supported cohort to evaluate the impact of clinical, biological and socio-behavioral issues on HIV acquisition and disease progression.
 - In a completed acute HIV cohort study (RV217), the site enrolled more than 900 volunteers requiring twice-weekly blood draws of participants to help characterize the earliest stages of HIV.
- NIH networks: The Centre is part of several U.S. National Institutes of Health networks including the Advancing Clinical Therapeutics Globally (ACTG), HIV Vaccine Trial Network (HVTN), International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT), and COVID-19 Prevention Trials Network (COVPN).

- **HIV cure:** This site conducted an HIV therapeutic study (P1115) investigating the effects of very early ART initiation for newborns to achieve remission, with a long-term follow-up of participants.
 - The P1115 study required recruitment of mothers at risk of transmitting HIV to their children at the time of delivery, who were recruited through education and referral from labor wards. The site has enrolled 37 mother-infant pairs into the study.
 - The Kericho CRC will participate in the DART HIV cure study, which will investigate a combination of bispecific monoclonal antibodies.
- Monoclonal antibodies: Participated in the RV398, a Phase 1 study testing a broadly neutralizing monoclonal antibody, VRC01, in participants in early acute infection with HIV. The site also participated in an HVTN-funded safety and tolerability study of a long-acting triple monoclonal product in healthy, HIVuninfected adult participants.
- Clinical lab capabilities: The Kericho lab, accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) since 2008, supports all research, HIV care, and Mycobacteria tuberculosis testing for several counties in Western Kenya.
- Implemented mucosal secretion collection, lymph node and sigmoid colon biopsies; CSF collection via lumbar puncture.

Microbiology Hub Kericho

The Kericho CRC is co-located with the Microbiology Hub Kericho (MHK), facilitating unique synergies between the CRC lab and the MHK in support of bacterial pathogen clinical trials, such as Shigella vaccine trials. The MHK was historically primarily a surveillance lab for enteric diseases. In 2023, it merged with the large antimicrobial resistance (AMR) lab from the main KEMRI campus in Nairobi. The newly merged MHK has robust capacity for surveillance and research on diverse pathogens, enteric parasites and viruses, whole genome sequencing, bioinformatics and translational work. The enhanced capabilities of the lab, which is supported by HJFMRI, can be leveraged to further support the CRC and broader research efforts in the region.



KEMRI-Kisumu Clinical Research Site

Kisumu Clinical Research Site (CRS) is situated in Kisumu, Kenya's third largest city, on the grounds of Western Kenya's largest tertiary care referral hospital, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital. The CRS combines staff from KEMRI's HIV and TB research divisions, and has conducted numerous vaccine and therapeutic studies sponsored by industry, NIH, U.S. DoD, U.S. CDC and academia:

- Treatment trials: TB treatment shortening, HIV third line options
- Prevention trials: HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis and TB vaccine
- Feasibility and acceptability evaluations: vaginal ring for low-risk women
- Lab accreditation: The HIV and TB research labs are both ISO accredited. The WHO accredited the HIV lab as a national reference lab for HIV drug resistance and in 2018 prequalified the HIV Research Lab to evaluate in-vitro diagnostics.
- **Pharmacy capabilities:** The pharmacy can prepare products under aseptic technique including intramuscular injections, monoclonal infusions and vaccines.
- **NIH networks:** The CRS participated in Advancing Clinical Therapeutics Globally (ACTG), HIV Prevention Trial Network (HPTN) and COVID-19 Prevention Trials Network (COVPN) research.

KEMRI-Kombewa Clinical Research Centre

The Kombewa Clinical Research Centre in Kisumu County first opened in 1998. It's adjacent to the Kombewa County Hospital, which can be used for inpatient studies. An updated center was built in 2003 to conduct Phase 1 clinical trials on malaria vaccines and therapeutics, enteric diseases and Ebola.

- Cohort and epidemiological research:
 - The Kombewa CRC participated in the AFRICOS study and other PEPFAR-supported research for the optimization of HIV prevention and treatment services.



- Participates in epidemiological cohort studies in malaria, HIV, sexually transmitted infections and diarrheal diseases
- Vaccine research: The Kombewa site has conducted Phase 1-3 vaccine studies in malaria, Ebola, TB, pneumonia, polio and COVID-19.
- **Therapeutics:** The CRC has conducted therapeutic studies for diarrheal diseases and malaria, including testing of Coartem Dispersible formulation, tafenoquine, intravenous artesunate and other antimalarial drugs.
- Surveillance: The Kombewa Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) grew out of the Kombewa Clinical Research Centre in 2007 and has since established itself as a platform for conducting clinical trials and epidemiological studies evaluating diseases of public health importance, including malaria, HIV and global emerging infectious diseases such as dengue fever.

Moi University Clinical Research Center (MUCRC)

Located at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH), in Eldoret, Kenya, this site has been an NIH-funded ACTG center since 2008 studying HIV therapeutics and co-morbidity research in partnership with the Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) collaborative research program.

- **Research facilities:** The AMPATH Centre was built in 2005 on the grounds of the MTRH and houses outpatient clinical and research activities. The program includes an ISO-accredited laboratory, including biobanking and biospecimen storage capacity; an IRB with US Federal Wide Assurance; a research and sponsored projects administrative office; program management staff; and research cores that provide expertise in biostatistics and data management, informatics, and qualitative research.
- HIV research, care and treatment: HJFMRI and partners collaborate with this site primarily on HIV therapeutics and co-morbidity research, including Phase 1-3 clinical trials. The site also provides linkage to HIV care and treatment through the AMPATH HIV clinics for adults, adolescents and children.

Nigeria

Health Innovations Centre (HIC), Abuja, Nigeria

The Abuja Clinical Research Centre conducts and supports infectious disease research in collaboration with international and local partners to advance scientific knowledge and help people live longer, healthier lives. The CRC moved in 2023 to HJFMRI's Health Innovations Centre, a new clinical research, laboratory and office complex in Abuja's Federal Capital Territory. Activities include Phase 1-3 clinical trials, cohort studies and public health intervention programs, with capacity to enroll 20 vaccine trial participants per day.

The Abuja CRC was established in 2014 through a United States-Nigeria military-to-military partnership with WRAIR. The Centre receives additional laboratory support from the Nigerian Defence Reference Laboratory (ISO 15189 accredited by AALA).

- Emerging infectious disease threats: The site is involved in research to identify new and recurring infectious diseases to develop biomedical prevention and treatment tools:
 - Lassa Fever: The site is participating in a Phase 2 Lassa virus vaccine trial sponsored by IAVI. The team also conducted an epidemiologic study adopting the One Health approach that identified previously unreported animal reservoirs for Lassa virus in Nigeria.
 - Surveillance: The CRC is part of a network of sites in Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia conducting research for the early identification and characterization of suspected cases of severe infectious diseases.
 - Mpox: The site conducted studies to determine mpox seroprevalence and describe virus epidemiology in regional research cohorts.
- **Ebola:** The site has completed multiple Ebola vaccine studies, including the first Ebola vaccine trial in Nigeria for Ad26.ZEBOV/MVA-BN-Filo and ChAd3-EBO-Z.
- **Malaria:** The CRC partners with ACEGID and NMOD to develop geographically and genetically diverse malaria parasite master cell slide banks to use for controlled human malaria infection studies.
- HIV: TRUST/RV368 Study, Prospective cohort study characterizing HIV and STI prevalence and incidence in key populations

Tanzania

National Institute for Medical Research -Mbeya Medical Research Center (NIMR-MMRC)

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HJF has conducted clinical research in partnership with NIMR-MMRC since 1999 with the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. The site has successfully implemented vaccine trials for HIV, Ebola and TB, as well as cohort studies that contribute to vaccine research and trial development.

- Ebola: The NIMR-MMRC Investigated safety and immunogenicity of two Ebola vaccine regimens in healthy volunteers and people living with HIV.
- Vaccine trials: The site has conducted Phase 1-2b trials for HIV vaccines PrePVacc and TamoVac, as well as vaccine trials through the HVTN. It is part of the of USAID-funded BRILLIANT Consortium to build clinical and laboratory research capabilities to participate in HIV vaccine research.
- Monoclonal antibodies:
 - The site is conducting a study evaluating 10e8/imab + bispecific antibodies for HIV prevention and previously completed the HVTN 703 (AMP Study), a Phase 2 study testing a broadly neutralizing monoclonal antibody, VRC01, for HIV prevention.
 - Participated in the RV398, a Phase 1 study testing a broadly neutralizing monoclonal antibody, VRC01, in participants in early acute infection with HIV.
- Cohort and epidemiologic research: African Cohort Study (AFRICOS), RV217 Acute HIV Infection Cohort
- NIH Network: Conducted HIV vaccine studies HVTN 111, 120 and 703 as part of MHRP's Clinical Trial Unit for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN).

Mozambique

Polana Caniço Health Research and Training Center (CISPOC), National Institute of Health (INS) (CISPOC-INS)

In Maputo, Mozambique, HJF has supported local researchers working on HIV vaccine development since 2015 with CISPOC, which has conducted several vaccine and therapeutic studies sponsored by NIH, industry, U.S DoD and academic partners.

- HIV: The site conducted HVTN 107, HVTN 705 and PrEPVacc vaccine trials, as well as the HVTN 703 AMP trial of monoclonal antibodies for HIV prevention.
- Cohort study: The site completed an HIV prevalence/incidence study (RV363)
- Ebola: The site completed an Ebola Phase 2 vaccine study sponsored by WRAIR
- NIH Network Served as a Clinical Research Site with NIAID/HVTN and CoVPN.

Uganda

Makerere University Walter Reed Program (MUWRP)

HJF began supporting HIV research with MUWRP in Uganda in 2002, and the collaboration has expanded and diversified to include a range of disease threats. MUWRP has research success in conducting trials for vaccines, therapeutics, monoclonal antibodies, prospective cohort research, surveillance and PEPFAR program evaluations. The site has experience with HIV, Ebola, leishmaniasis, emerging infections, influenza, anti-microbial resistance and SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).

- HIV vaccine: MUWRP has completed several Phase 1/2HIV vaccine trials and is currently conducting a
 novel trial called RapidVax, combining experimental HIV vaccines with a novel dose escalation strategy
 with the goal of improving the body's immune response.
- MUWRP is also part of the of USAID-funded BRILLIANT Consortium, which is supported by HJF, to build clinical and laboratory research capabilities to participate in HIV vaccine research.
- HIV cure: The site is taking part in the NIH-funded HOPE (HIV Obstruction by Programmed Epigenetics) Collaboratory. Capabilities include leukapheresis and other optional procedures for people living with HIV.
- **Ebola:** Conducted multiple Phase 1/2 Ebola and Marburg vaccine trials, including the first clinical study of an Ebola vaccine in Africa.
- **Monoclonal antibodies:** MUWRP participated in the RV 398, a Phase 1 study testing a broadly neutralizing monoclonal antibody, VRC01, in participants in early acute infection with HIV.
- Cohort and epidemiologic research: African Cohort Study (AFRICOS); MOCHI; and participated in completed landmark acute HIV cohort study RV217.
- Supporting development of pioneering capabilities:
 - In addition to CAP accredited laboratory, PBMC processing and biorepository capabilities, MUWRP increasingly supports immunologic study objectives with flow cytometry and humoral assays.
 - Implemented mucosal secretion collection, lymph node and sigmoid colon biopsies, CSF collection via lumbar puncture, and apheresis.

Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital-MUWRP/JMEDICC Site

The Joint Mobile Emerging Disease Intervention Clinical Capability (JMEDICC) was established in 2016 to accelerate development and deployment of medical countermeasures in a filovirus outbreak (Ebola/Marburg) by MUWRP, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases and HJF. One of only 13 regional referral hospitals in the country, it has 333 patient beds and a graduate medical training program.

The site has proven ability to conduct FDA regulated clinical trials for evaluation of vaccine, diagnostic, and therapeutic products and it has knowledge and skills to work with high consequence pathogens with established Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) procedures. It boasts:

- Mobile response ability
- Host response biomarker testing and discovery

SEPSIS research: The site is conducting an observational study of sepsis; 570 visits/year under the Austere environments Consortium for Enhanced Sepsis Outcomes (ACESO). It has Monitored Emergency Use of Unregistered and Investigational Interventions (MEURI) for outbreak preparedness.

Laboratory capabilities: The laboratory has South African National Accreditation System (SANUS) laboratory accreditation, and has unique capabilities such as:

- Clinical isolation rooms w/camera monitoring system
- Portable ultrasound and emergency resuscitation equipment
- Advanced laboratory equipment and testing BioFire FilmArray, Cepheid GeneXpert, RT-PCR, MinION sequencing



Multi-site Cohort Studies

HJFMRI supports cohort and epidemiologic studies in multiple sites across Africa. This foundational research helps characterize regional infectious disease incidence populations and identifies potentially affected populations to inform the development of prevention and treatment tools, programs and policies.

Sepsis Research

HJF supports sepsis research conducted by the Austere environments Consortium for Enhanced Sepsis Outcomes (ACESO) across five countries on three continents, including including Uganda, Madagascar, Ghana and Liberia.

Multinational Observational Cohort of HIV and Other Infections (MOCHI)

This prospective observational study of HIV and other STIs is designed to provide one unified protocol and set of data collection instruments for deployment across multiple sites in diverse regions of world. In Africa, MOCHI takes place in Kenya and Uganda.

African Cohort Study

AFRICOS was a 10+ year cohort study to evaluate HIV prevention, care and treatment services funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) that enrolled more than 4,000 participants at 12 HIV clinics in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Nigeria.

Multinational Disease Surveillance

Disease surveillance helps countries monitor the health of their populations to detect emerging issues quickly, inform their response and guide countermeasure development. Since 2010, HJFMRI has served as the managing partner for U.S. DoD Global Emerging Infections Surveillance. The focus of these efforts is rapid detection and advanced characterization of endemic or emerging threats to military forces, both U.S. and host country, including vectors and reservoirs of infectious disease transmission. HJFMRI supports these programs in Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Tanzania, and Nigeria and across other Sub-Saharan African nations in collaboration with WRAIR-Africa and local partners.

Community Engagement

Partner sites prioritize meaningful community engagement with the broadest array of community and research team stakeholders. HJFMRI is committed to the concepts of Good Participatory Practice Guidelines and engages Community Advisory Boards (CABs) to ensure active community engagement throughout the entire lifecycle of clinical research.













THURSDA



HJFMRI is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc. (HJF). HJF's long-standing collaborations in Africa has helped support an extensive network of partner sites working to build scientific knowledge and develop state-of-the-art lab and clinical research capabilities working alongside national ministries of health and other partners in host countries where research is conducted. Photo credit: Sarah Day Smith