

 **Website**: www.getafrica.org

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 **Call for Abstracts**

 **7th African Conference on One Health and Biosecurity**

***“Universal Approach to addressing Biosecurity Threats: Genomics Intelligence and Vaccine”***

 **Lagos, Nigeria**

**27th -29th October 2021**

The 7th African Conference on One Health and Biosecurity is coming up from 27th-29th October 2021. The conference is organized by Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment Consortium (GET) and the host is the Lagos state Ministry of Health.

The whole world has been severely affected by the impact of COVID-19 pandemics. As of May 2021, over 100 million people have contracted the virus worldwide and over 2.3 million died from the disease. According to the International Monetary Fund, the global economy shrunk by 3.5 per cent in year 2020. This represents the deepest global recession since the Second World War.

However, despite the enormous scale of the challenges the pandemics has posed, it has also triggered a response that now signals a new era in scientific collaboration and discoveries. The COVID pandemic has shown the importance of genomics in the management of infectious diseases. Scientific advances in genomics can elucidate infectious disease pathology, immunology, and vaccinology; which will enhance the efficiency of public health interventions and policies. It is now possible to develop, test, and review multiple safe and effective vaccines against a new disease in less than a year. To have ended up with such encouraging efficacy results from more than one vaccine candidate puts the world in an extraordinarily promising position, both in terms of ending the COVID-19 pandemic and developing vaccines against other diseases, including future pathogens that could be a source of another pandemic in the future.

Africa has to join the chariot in terms of involvement in genomics research and vaccine technology and production on the continent. This is important in addressing the ongoing pandemic and preparing for future biosecurity threat. The conference will focus on discussion on the various efforts at containing the pandemic in Africa; the huge potentials of genomic research in helping African countries address public health issues and biosecurity threats; and develop **a well planned vaccination program for African countries that will boost economic recovery on the continent and reconnect Africa to the rest of the world.**

**The conference thematic areas are as follows:**

1. **The need for a Vaccine strategy for emerging infectious diseases in Africa, with the following sub themes:**
	1. COVID-19 vaccine - progress and prospects
	2. Developing a COVID-19 vaccine strategy for Africa
	3. Role of African governments and indigenous vaccine manufacturers in vaccine R&D
	4. Challenges and prospects of vaccine R&D for emerging infectious diseases
2. **The importance of genomics research in addressing biosecurity threats in Africa**
	1. genomics for the management of infectious diseases and epidemics
	2. Precision medicine
	3. Addressing genomics and bioinformatics research gap in Africa
	4. Ethics of genomics research
3. **Emerging Infectious Diseases as an accelerating phenomenon and the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic, with the following sub themes**:
	1. Sustainable infectious diseases, preventive measures and community engagement
	2. Post COVID-19 recovery strategies
	3. Clinical trials (update)
	4. One Health
	5. Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR).
	6. Plasma and a Plasmapheris agenda for Africa (update)
	7. Infectious disease burden and trends across Africa (Lassa, Yellow Fever, COVID-19)
4. **Biosecurity and Biothreat Reduction in Africa: with the following sub- themes:**
5. Biosecurity and biosafety in Africa: Lessons from COVID-19
6. Bioethics in Africa
7. Ethical/Regulatory Issues specifically for Africa in relation to biosecurity

d. Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA)

e. Public health crisis management in megacities

f. International biosecurity Conventions: Biological Weapons Convention and United Nations 1540 Security Council Resolution

**(5)** **Biobanking infrastructure, with the following sub-themes**:

a. Lagos biobank project

b. Importance of a biobank during a pandemic

c. Biobanking Networks (H3Afica, etc.) and societies (ISBER, ESBB, BBMRI, etc.)

 **(6) The Cultural, Anthropological, Social and Economic Impact of Emerging Infectious**

**Diseases (CASE), with the following sub themes:**

a. African cultural practices and management of biosecurity threats

b. Community engagement in the fight against emerging infectious diseases

d. Ethics and the management of EIDs in Africa

e. Contextualising policy approaches and intervention strategies to fit local responses to biosecurity threats in Africa

**(7) Other emerging issues with the following sub themes:**

a**.** Climate change and biosecurity threats in Africa

b. Harnessing the digital revolution and digital platforms to advance biosecurity in Africa

**Abstract submission**

A 200-300 word electronic abstract must be submitted latest by **30th of July, 2021**. Kindly submit your abstract to bobadoyed@getafrica.org. Specify platform or poster presentation preference. You will be notified of the fate of your submission by **15th of August, 2021.**

**Important Dates to note**:

* Abstract submission due: July 30, 2021.
* Abstract acceptance notifications: August 15, 2021.

**Conference registration fees**:

**In-person participants**

* $50 (Students)
* $100 (African delegates)
* $200 (Non-African delegates)
* Delegates with accepted abstracts will have a 50% reduction in their registration fee.

**Virtual participants**

* $50 (African delegates)
* $100 (Non- African delegates)