

Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS)

NEWSLETTER

June - December 2025

Message from College

Dear Readers,

Welcome to this edition of the MakCHS June to December 2025 newsletter. Recent months have brought remarkable progress for the college as we celebrate 100 years of existence, themed, "Celebrating a Century of Excellence, Shaping the Future"—from specialised training and impactful research to strong partnerships that continue to strengthen our work.

A common theme runs through our stories: knowledge creates impact when it is shared and applied. Whether improving healthcare, supporting families, or advancing scientific innovation, our work proves that meaningful change happens when expertise reaches the people it serves.

We are preparing for the *MakCHS Centennial Commemoration Event and Dinner on March 6th, 2026*. This landmark celebration will honour 100 years of excellence, service, and innovation, and we look forward to your participation as we mark a century of excellence in health professions training.

Warm regards from
MakCHS

Centennial Commemoration
Event and Alumni Dinner on
6th March 2026, Get your
Dinner ticket for
UGX 200,000
For enquiries:

+256-783060736
+256-757628782

THIS ISSUE FEATURES

03

MakCHS Strengthens
Internationalization
through Strategic
Global Partnerships
and Mobility

04

16 Paediatric Cancer
and Blood Disease
Specialists graduated
from PHO Fellowship
Programme

05

Early Intervention
Psychiatry Services
Clinic Launched at
MakHosp

06

College Renovation
and Rehabilitation
Project takes shape

07

JASH 2025 opens
with Call for renewed
commitment to
Prevention, Innovation,
and Partnership

09

Minister Musenero
urges Scientists to
Translate Science for
Public Understanding
at ORTACH Annual
Meeting

10

MakCHS receives
support from Seed
Global Health

► and more...

MakCHS Centennial Exhibition

The Centennial Exhibition marking 100 years of Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS) opened on 8th December 2025 at the Sir Albert Cook Library, Mulago Hill. The exhibition will run until 16th January 2026, and is open Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM. The launch event drew staff, students, alumni, and partners.

The exhibition highlights MakCHS's rich history, milestones, and contributions since its founding in 1924. Visitors can explore archival photographs, rare documents, memorabilia from the college's early years, historical artefacts, research outputs and innovations, equipment formerly used in training or service delivery, and other materials of historical significance.

► continued on page 2

► continued from page 1

MakCHS Centennial Exhibition



MakCHS is marking a century of excellence in health professions education, research, and service under the theme: “Celebrating a Century of Excellence, Shaping the Future.”

Speaking at the opening, Assoc. Professor Richard Idro, Deputy Principal of MakCHS, welcomed guests and thanked them for honouring the invitation. He highlighted the various activities held so far—including dialogues, a run, a public lecture, and the IDI Science Fair—as part of the centennial celebrations. He reminded attendees that the celebrations will culminate on 6th March 2026 with a centennial commemoration event and dinner, during which a fundraising drive to expand the Davies Lecture Theatre will be launched.

In his remarks, Assoc. Professor David Meya, Chairperson of the MakCHS100 Celebrations Organising Committee, expressed gratitude for the support from the College leadership and the dedication of the organising committee. He

emphasised the importance of alumni engagement, noting, “It is my hope that the engagements initiated during the centennial celebrations will strengthen alumni linkage going forward, and lay plans for the next 100 years.”

Assoc. Professor Meya further reminded the audience that the ongoing fundraising efforts aim to support infrastructure development at MakCHS, starting with the expansion of the Davies Lecture Theatre. He also thanked the partners that have supported the college during the journey. He encouraged all stakeholders to give generously and spread the message.

Assoc. Professor Alison Kinengyere, College Librarian and Head of the Sir Albert Cook Library, thanked all in attendance for gracing the opening. She encouraged them to publicise the exhibition, which will remain open until 16th January 2026. She appreciated the support of the College leadership, organising committee, and recognised Mr. George Kizza for his tireless efforts

in bringing the exhibition to life.

Professor Willy Washington Anokbonggo, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, reflected on the College's journey since its humble beginnings in 1924. He recounted the challenges faced during Uganda's turbulent decades, including faculty who went into exile, those who stayed, and those who lost their lives. He noted that many who had left eventually returned to help rebuild the College. “The journey of MakCHS shows the resilience and commitment of the staff and students who have contributed to development not only in Uganda, but beyond,” he remarked.

MakCHS Management invites staff, students, alumni, well-wishers, and the general public to visit the exhibition and take part in commemorating this proud moment in the history of MakCHS and Makerere University.

MakCHS Strengthens Internationalization through Strategic Global Partnerships and Mobility

Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS) continues to advance its internationalization agenda by strengthening cross-border partnerships and expanding student and staff mobility in response to global health training needs. Recognizing international collaboration as a cornerstone of contemporary health professional education, the College has established strategic partnerships with leading institutions, including the University of the Western Cape (South Africa), the Medical University of Graz (Austria), and Universitas Syiah Kuala Faculty of Medicine (Indonesia). These collaborations focus on joint research initiatives and the training of dentists and physicians.



Masaba Swabra (left) and Orishaba Patience during rotation at Cambridge Institute



Theresa Kirismagi, University of Vermont, Maximilian Gumpoldsberger, Paul Hintervanmkgler Medi Graz University and Otto a fifth-year medical student at MakCHS.

The College also hosted students from Somalia International University, Moi University (Kenya), and institutions in the United States. Most visiting students were medical trainees, with placements mainly in Paediatrics at Mulago National Referral and Teaching Hospital, as well as Emergency Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynaecology at Kawempe National Referral Hospital.

These exchanges demonstrated strong bilateral commitment, notably with the Medical University of Graz, which sent students to MakCHS while simultaneously hosting MakCHS students, even in the absence of Erasmus Mundus Plus funding. Inbound mobility enriched the learning environment through intercultural exchange, inclusiveness, and exposure to diverse clinical and academic perspectives.

Outbound mobility also expanded significantly. MakCHS students undertook clinical rotations in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Austria. Two students completed hematology and oncology rotations at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, while others trained in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Minnesota Medical

Center–Fairview. Additional students undertook highly specialized rotations in paediatric surgery, orthopaedics, neurosurgery, and cardiac surgery at the Medical University of Graz, gaining exposure to advanced, patient-centred healthcare systems and strengthening their global clinical outlook.

Staff outward mobility was equally notable. Several MakCHS staff and graduate students participated in the Annual Global Health Conference organized by NUVANCE Health, an international partner. MakCHS faculty contributed through presentations, posters, and panel discussions, highlighting research on decolonization in global health education, adolescent health, and global mental health. These engagements provided valuable networking opportunities with global health funders and reinforced the importance of transnational academic partnerships in advancing health equity.

Through sustained partnerships, increased mobility, and active global engagement, MakCHS continues to position itself as a key contributor to global health education, research, and practice.

During 2025, MakCHS recorded increased inbound student mobility, hosting 86 short-term international students. The majority (73%) came from eight partner institutions, with Europe accounting for 64% of all inbound students. Norway led with students from the University of Bergen and the University of Agder, followed by Italy and the Netherlands.

16 Paediatric Cancer and Blood Disease Specialists graduated from PHO Fellowship Programme



Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice Chancellor-Makerere University (centre) and Prof. Bruce Kirenga (5th left), Principal-MakCHS with the graduating PHO Fellows

Makerere University marked a major milestone in specialised healthcare training with the graduation of 16 fellows from its Paediatric Haematology and Oncology (PHO) Fellowship Programme on 30 July 2025. The two-year programme equips physicians with advanced skills to diagnose and treat life-threatening childhood blood disorders and cancers, strengthening Africa's capacity to respond to a growing non-communicable disease burden.

The pioneering fellowship, run by the Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS) since 2016, attracted fellows from Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania, Malawi, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Graduates are expected to improve survival rates and quality of life for children across the region.

Addressing the congregation, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, reaffirmed the institution's research-led mission and commitment to producing professionals who respond to

Africa's evolving health challenges. He highlighted Uganda's demographic realities, noting alarming statistics on childhood cancer and sickle cell disease, and stressed the urgency of training more specialists to address preventable deaths.

Professor Nawangwe also recalled Makerere's historic contributions to medical research, including landmark lymphoma discoveries in the 1960s and its role in combating outbreaks such as Ebola, Marburg and COVID-19. He acknowledged key partners, including Texas Children's Global and Baylor College of Medicine, whose collaboration has supported the fellowship since its inception.

The Principal of MakCHS, Bruce Kirenga, described the graduation as part of the College's century-long legacy of medical training excellence. He noted that the PHO fellowship is the College's first sub-specialised programme and announced the expansion into other areas, including Neonatology, Interventional Radiology, and Fetal and Maternal Medicine, with additional programmes under review.

Representing the Ministry of Health, Dr Richard Mugahi, Commissioner for Child and New-born Health, underscored the critical role the new specialists will play in transforming Uganda's healthcare system. He revealed government plans to absorb the fellows into the national workforce

and decentralise cancer care through regional centres in Gulu, Arua, Mbarara and Mbale.

At the clinical front, Dr Rosemary Byanyima of Mulago National Referral Hospital highlighted the shift towards local training of super-specialists as a cost-effective and sustainable model. She noted that local fellowships not only build capacity but also directly benefit patients as trainees deliver services while learning.

International partners also praised the programme's impact. Dr Joseph Lubega of Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital observed that survival outcomes for children with cancer in Africa have improved dramatically where specialised care is available, while calling for wider coverage beyond major cities.

One of the graduates, Dr Ankunda Siyadora from Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital, said the fellowship would transform childhood cancer care in western Uganda through early diagnosis and appropriate treatment, helping change long-held perceptions that such conditions are untreatable.

With government integration plans and expanding regional cancer centres, the newly trained specialists are expected to significantly improve access to specialised care and outcomes for children with cancer and blood disorders in Uganda and across the region.

Early Intervention Psychiatry Services Clinic launched at MakHosp



Cake cutting at launch of Early Intervention Psychiatry Services Clinic

On 30 October 2025, the Department of Psychiatry in partnership with Makerere University Hospital (MakHosp), officially launched the Early Intervention Psychiatry Services (EIPS) Clinic—an innovative programme set to transform the treatment of psychosis and other severe mental-health conditions in Uganda.

The launch drew a broad coalition of stakeholders from academia, clinical practice, research, and the community. Faculty and students from the Department of Psychiatry attended under the leadership of Dr Dickens Akena, Head – Department of Psychiatry, Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS). Hospital staff were led by the Hospital Director, Professor Josaphat Byamugisha. The clinic's core operational team—the Psychosis Working Group—was present, headed by the Principal Investigator, Dr Emmanuel Kiiza Mwesiga. Notably, lived-experience experts—individuals who have accessed and benefited from the clinic's services—also participated, powerfully underscoring the programme's patient-centred ethos.

Operational since June 2024, the EIPS Clinic delivers community-

based early psychosis intervention for first-episode cases, alongside general mental-health services for Makerere University students. The clinic is staffed by a dedicated multidisciplinary team comprising three psychiatrists, two nurses, a psychologist, and a laboratory professional. Services are offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, and include clinical assessment and diagnosis, laboratory investigations, psychological interventions, pharmacological treatment, and long-term follow-up care. Plans are underway to expand the service package, with social-intervention components currently under development.

The initiative has attracted strong support from an array of national and international partners, including the Wellcome Trust, African Population and Health Research Center, Uganda Society for Health Scientists, MQ Mental Health Research, Brain & Behaviour Research Foundation, the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at the Broad Institute, the University of Cape Town, and the MRC/UVRI & LSHTM Uganda Research Unit. This breadth of collaboration highlights the urgency and global relevance of early-intervention psychiatry, particularly in low- and middle-income settings.

Speaking at the launch, Dr Akena emphasised the critical importance of timely care. "The longer somebody stays with mental disorders that are not treated," he noted, "the worse the prognosis becomes." Dr Mwesiga reinforced this message with compelling evidence, observing that patients in Uganda take an average of eight to ten years before reaching a mental-health professional. "They consult physicians, paediatricians, surgeons, traditional healers, and others. We needed to find a way to identify patients early and manage them effectively," he said.

In his remarks, Professor Byamugisha reaffirmed the hospital's commitment to early care, stating, "We want to reach people at a stage where treatment is easier. Let us see how we can help more people live better mental-health lives."

The launch of the EIPS Clinic marks a significant milestone—not only for Makerere University's psychiatry programme, but also for Uganda's broader journey toward accessible, evidence-based mental-health care. The clinic's dual mission—capturing early psychosis cases when intervention has the greatest impact, and responding to the growing mental-health needs of university students—signals a clear shift from reactive to proactive psychiatric care. Its multidisciplinary model, structured clinic schedule, and emphasis on long-term follow-up exemplify this new approach.

As the clinic continues to grow, challenges remain, including sustaining funding, strengthening integration with community-based supports, expanding outreach to identify first-episode cases earlier, and ensuring that planned social interventions keep pace with clinical services. Nevertheless, the launch sends a clear and hopeful message: meaningful progress is underway. For the staff, students, and communities served, EIPS affirms that mental disorders are not merely to be managed—they can, and should, be addressed early.

College Renovation and Rehabilitation project takes shape



Pictorial of some of the planned works under the RRP

The Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS) formerly the Faculty of Medicine has existed for 100 years since its founding in 1924 and celebrations for this achievement happened through 2025 including a public dialogue held in August, Centennial Run in October, Science Fair by the Infectious Diseases Institute, mentorship session by the Lung Institute in November and an exhibition in December. A commemoration event will be held in March 2026.



A new building to have laboratories, auditorium, seminar rooms and administration offices are also planned as part of the RRP.

As part of the preparations for this event, the college plans to renovate and rehabilitate its campus on Mulago Hill. The work defined as the MakCHS Renovation and Rehabilitation Project (RRP) is under implementation in partnership with the Department of Architecture, Margaret Trowel School of Industrial & Fine Art (MTSIFA) at Makerere University College of Engineering, Design Art & Technology (CEDAT), and Estates & Works Department (EWD).

Phase one of the RRP entails: development of the architectural plans and cost estimates for the project, designs and construction of a monument MakCHS' 100 year legacy, re-design of the compound and parking to create a central place for the college ceremonies and other activities, as well as design and construction of a fully branded main gate. An exhibition hall in the Albert Cook Library is also planned for display of curated works of the college.

Space utilization designs for the Research Support Centre are also under development. The RSC will house space for research teams, a conference room that can also be used for exams and a skills laboratory. A new building to have laboratories, auditorium, seminar rooms and administration offices are also planned as part of the RRP.

In addition, works for facelift of exterior of some buildings in alignment with the dilapidation schedule are also under development by the CEDAT teams. Preparation of a RRP concept document and budget costs are continuing to inform fundraising for implementation of the project.

Maintenance and repair works to address urgent needs of old buildings is ongoing at the Departments of Biochemistry, Medical Illustration and general stores for the college. This is being done in a phased approach keeping in mind the challenges presented by the very old age of the buildings and the availability of funds. These initial renovations should be concluded by the end of academic year 2025/2026. ■

JASH 2025 Opens With Call for Renewed Commitment to Prevention, Innovation, and Partnership



Hon. Jane Ruth Aceng Otero (5th left) with Ministry of Health and Makerere University leadership

The 19th Joint Annual Scientific Health Conference (JASH), held alongside the inaugural National Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases Conference (NACNDC), officially opened on 5th November 2025 at Speke Resort Munyonyo. Hon. Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng Otero, Minister for Health, presided over the opening and urged stakeholders to recommit to prevention, innovation, and strong partnerships to end preventable communicable and non-communicable diseases by 2030.

Held under the theme “Unified Action against Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases”, the five-day conference convenes over 500 delegates from government, academia, civil society, development partners, and the private sector. It is organised by Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS), Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH), and the Ministry of Health.

In her address, the Minister highlighted Uganda’s progress in areas such as vaccination, child nutrition, life expectancy, and HIV control. However, she noted ongoing challenges, including low uptake of new vaccines due to misinformation, inequalities in access to quality care, and rising obesity rates linked to NCDs. She called for stronger health

systems, enhanced community engagement, and cross-sector collaboration—spanning education, local government, water, sanitation, and transport—to sustain gains and address emerging threats.

Permanent Secretary Dr. Diana Atwine commended organisers for the successful joint conference, describing the inaugural NACNDC as a milestone in responding to the country’s double disease burden. She emphasized the alignment of the

conference theme with the Ministry’s strategic direction amid declining external funding, and highlighted key priorities including hospital upgrades, expanded blood bank capacity, digitisation, specialised staffing, and strengthened immunisation and community health systems.

Academia, she stressed, remains central to innovation and evidence-based policy. “Your research should answer our burning questions,” she told university researchers.

Prof. Bruce Kirenga, Principal of MakCHS, appealed to government to absorb graduates from training institutions, noting that 40,000 trained nurses remain unemployed. He also invited stakeholders to the MakCHS Centenary Alumni Dinner on 12th December 2025, which will support infrastructure improvement at the college.

Reaffirming the role of universities, Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze, Dean of MakSPH, pledged continued research leadership and the training of a workforce aligned to national health needs. Representing the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Robert Wamala reiterated Makerere University’s commitment to sustained research-policy-practice partnerships, calling for the conference to mark the beginning of continuous health dialogue.

Conference Co-Chair Dr. David Musoke underscored the importance of integrated, evidence-driven approaches to Uganda’s evolving health challenges. He noted that the joint convening strengthens alignment between research, policy, and community practice to build a resilient, responsive health system.

The conference, which began on 3rd November with pre-conference sessions on mental health, paediatric healthcare, and other thematic areas, continues through 7th November as delegates explore strategies for strengthening Uganda’s health system within a shifting funding landscape.

“
Conference Co-Chair Dr. David Musoke underscored the importance of integrated, evidence-driven approaches to Uganda’s evolving health challenges.



JASH conference in session

The five-day meeting closed with the 23rd **Matthew Lukwiya Memorial Lecture** and the presentation of the **Kampala Declaration**, a collective commitment to strengthening Uganda's fight against communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Kampala Declaration: A Unified Call to Action

Presenting the Declaration, Dr. David Musoke outlined the urgent need to respond to Uganda's dual disease burden, the rise of antimicrobial resistance, climate-sensitive diseases, and persistent gaps in access to care. The Declaration emphasises:

- Multisectoral collaboration and a One Health approach
- Integrated, people-centred prevention and care across CDs and NCDs
- Strengthening data, research, and policy translation
- Increased and efficient domestic financing, alongside innovative funding models

Clear calls to action were directed to government, academia, development partners, civil society, and the private sector, urging each to champion integrated health strategies, evidence-based innovation, resource mobilisation, and community

engagement.

The delegates also endorsed the development of a National Integrated Disease Control Strategy, a Multisectoral Action Framework, and a monitoring mechanism to track progress. Annual joint NACNDC-JASH conferences will continue to sustain momentum.

Keynote Insights: Setting the Pace

Keynote speakers underscored the importance of unified responses to Uganda's evolving health challenges.

- Dr. Queen Dube (WHO) highlighted rising NCDs driven by industrialisation, urbanisation, and lifestyle changes, calling for collaboration over fragmented efforts.
- Prof. Francis Omaswa (ACHEST) challenged delegates to recommit to equity, leadership, youth engagement, and coordinated action—strategies that once yielded Uganda's gains in HIV control.
- Prof. David Serwadda (MakSPH) stressed the critical link between research and implementation in achieving unified disease control.

Matthew Lukwiya Memorial Lecture

The conference concluded with the 23rd Memorial Lecture honouring Dr. Matthew. This year's theme, "Identified Critical Gaps in the Response to Outbreaks," convened experts to reflect on lessons from past epidemics and chart pathways to stronger preparedness and resilience.

Next Steps and Closing

Prof. Rhoda Wanyenze, Dean of MakSPH, thanked delegates for their contribution to advancing integrated approaches to Uganda's health system and handed over organisation of the 2026 conference to the School of Medicine.

Closing the conference, Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary Dr. Diana Atwine urged stakeholders to embrace innovation, mindset change, integration over verticalisation, smart investments, and full implementation of resolutions. She thanked partners and participants for their commitment to strengthening health outcomes for all Ugandans.

Minister Musenero Urges Scientists to Translate Science for Public Understanding at ORTARChI Annual Meeting

The Minister for Science, Technology and Innovations, Hon. Monica Musenero, called on African scientists to translate scientific knowledge into local languages to make it accessible to the general population. She delivered the message while officiating as Chief Guest at the O.R. Tambo Africa Research Chairs Initiative (ORTARChI) Annual Meeting held from 27–28 October 2025 at Makerere University.

ORTARChI, launched in 2018, supports research and innovation across Africa and has established 10 Research Chairs in seven countries—Uganda, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia. Uganda's Chair, held by Prof. David Basigaye Meya at the Makerere University College of Health Sciences, focuses on infectious and neurological diseases.

Hon. Musenero urged scientists to bridge the gap between research and society, noting that Africa must rethink its approach to science if it is



Hon. Monica Musenero (4th right) with the ORTARChI Chairs

to overcome development challenges. She emphasized translating science into everyday language, engaging policymakers, collaborating across borders, and protecting intellectual property to turn knowledge into wealth.

She challenged researchers to rethink the “publish or perish” mindset in favour of a value chain that prioritizes research, protection, product development, and then publication. She also encouraged the creation of think tanks, stronger continental networks, and intentional innovation to build African industries and job creators.

Makerere University Vice Chancellor, Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, welcomed participants and highlighted Africa's opportunity to harness its youthful population and expanding research capacity. He emphasised the need for ecosystems that translate research into policy, practice, and prosperity, urging tangible actions toward a self-sustaining research environment.

Keynote speaker Dr. Ham-Mukasa

Mulira called for investment in research, innovation, and artificial intelligence to build a future-ready generation. Discussions at the meeting centred on improving institutional uptake of research chairs, strengthening communities of practice, increasing research funding, aligning research to Africa's natural resources, boosting manufacturing capacity, enhancing science communication, and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration.

In closing, Dr. David Serukka, Acting Executive Secretary of the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology, echoed the Minister's call for Africa to define its role in the emerging digital knowledge economy. He emphasized the need for partnerships, sustainability, knowledge protection through patents, and a strong pan-African mindset.

He thanked partners, including South Africa's National Research Foundation, for supporting ORTARChI and urged the Research Chairs to continue developing ideas that drive the continent forward.

Hon. Musenero urged scientists to bridge the gap between research and society, noting that Africa must rethink its approach to science if it is to overcome development challenges.

MakCHS receives support from Seed Global Health



Assoc. Professor Richard Idro (right), Deputy Principal-MakCHS receives donated equipment from Ms. Irene Atuhaire (left), Country Director-Seed Global Health As Assoc. Professor Tom Ngabirano and Dr. Richard Muhindo look on.

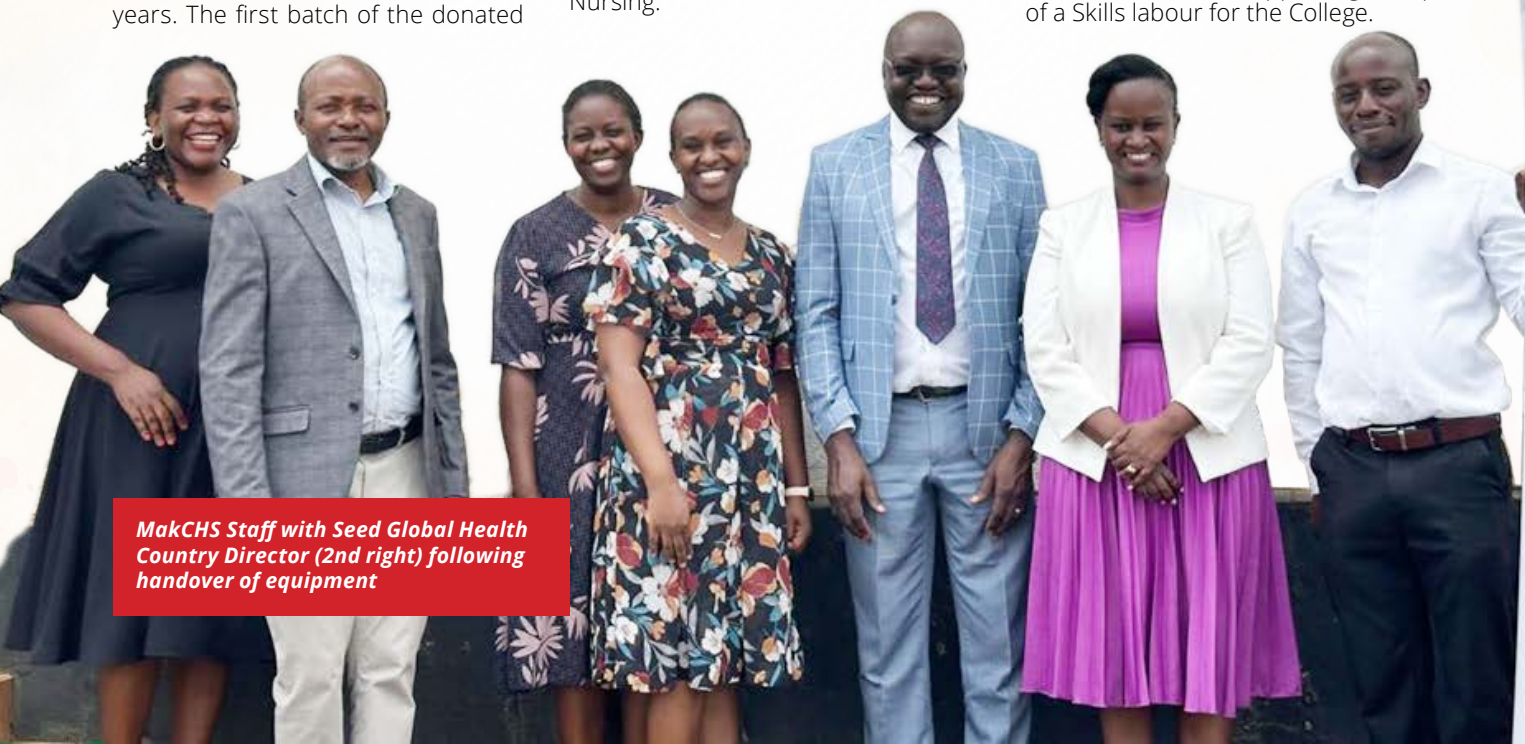
Seed Global Health has been a key partner of MakCHS for many years. The organisation has supported the College in establishment of a Fellowship in Neonatology implemented by Department of Paediatrics & Child Health, Master of Medicine in Emergency Medicine in the Department of Anaesthesia and is now supporting development of a curriculum for Masters Programme in Emergency and Critical Care Nursing.

Seed Global Health has also committed to donating equipment worth USD 150,000 over the next five years. The first batch of the donated

equipment was delivered in May 2025 as a contribution to development of a Skills Laboratory for the Department of Nursing.

The equipment was handed over by Ms. Irene Atuhaire Country Director, Seed Global Health Uganda and received by Assoc. Prof. Richard Idro, Deputy Principal-MakCHS, Dr. Richard Muhindo, Dean School of Health Sciences, Assoc. Professor Tom Ngabirano, Head-Nursing witnessed by staff from the Department of Nursing.

MakCHS acknowledges and is very grateful for the support from Seed Global Health. Dr. Patience Muwanguzi, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Nursing is recognised for serving as lead for the initiatives. Seed Global is also supporting set up of a Skills labour for the College.



MakCHS Staff with Seed Global Health Country Director (2nd right) following handover of equipment



Centennial Run held

Celebrations of 100 years of existence for the Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS) continued with the Centennial Run held on 26th October 2025. Students, staff, alumni, friends, family and partners converged on Mulago Hill to take part in the run.

The day began with aerobics and stretch session for the runners at 6am before set-off by the Chief Runner, Assoc. Professor Bruce Kirenga – Principal, MakCHS.

Students took lead in organising the MakCHS Centennial Run which was made possible thanks to support from: Uganda Society for Health Sciences, Uganda Red Cross Society, Institute of Infectious Diseases Institute, XFM Radio and Pepsi Bottling Company.

Assoc. Professor David Meya, Chairperson of the MakCHSat100 Organising Committee thanked all participants and partners for the support in the various activities held so far to mark 100 years of Health Professionals Training in Uganda since 1924. He highlighted that celebrations

continue with the 19th Joint Annual Science Health Conference (JASH) to be held 3rd - 7th November, Unveiling of the Centennial Monument and Dinner on the 12th December. Prof. Meya explained that all resources raised will go towards refurbishing the Davies Lecture Theatre, calling on alumni to join the fundraising drive.



The forefathers who began the medical school which birthed the College of Health Sciences we have together built a leading institution recognised globally, we must therefore make contributions for the next generation'

Assoc. Professor Bruce Kirenga, Principal – MakCHS and Chief Runner thanked all participants for joining the College in celebrating 100 years. He thanked staff, students, and partners for the support encouraging all to remain committed till the celebrations conclude in March 2026.

The Principal underlined the importance of leaving a mark that those who will come after us will find just like those who came before us did. 'The forefathers who began the medical school which birthed the College of Health Sciences we have together built a leading institution recognised globally, we must therefore make contributions for the next generation', Prof. Kirenga said.

The MakCHS at 100 Celebrations organising Committee is calling for pledges from all well-wishers, all resources will be put towards refurbishment of the Davies Lecture Theatre.

For more information visit website: <http://chs.mak.ac.ug/100>



MakCHS Staff recognised for their contribution to health at 2025 HIHA Awards



The awardees with (2nd left) Dr. Dianah Atwine, Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Health and (3rd right) Hon. Ruth Aceng, Minister of Health

Professor Moses Kamy, Professor Nelson Sewankambo, Professor David Serwadda and Professor Moses Galukande, staff from the Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS) were recognised for their contribution to the health sector in Uganda and beyond. The recognition was at the 6th edition of the Heroes in Health Awards (HIHA) held on 14th November 2025 during the Africa Health Summit at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds, Kampala.

Professors Kamy, Sewankambo and Serwadda won the Excellence in Health Academia Award. The award is in recognition of their outstanding contribution to advancing health policy, practice and innovation through teaching, research and mentorship. HIHA organisers noted that the legacy of the three professors inspires the next generation of health leaders.

Strengthening Health Systems, Empowering Communities through Self-Care and Sustainable Solutions

In comments from staff at MakCHS the professors are summed up as, 'senior colleagues, teachers, and mentors for the lifelong dedication to strengthening health systems, advancing ground-breaking research shaping national policy, and training generations of public health leaders. Their work has elevated not only Makerere University, but the entire health sector in Uganda and beyond'.

Professor Moses Galukande received the Minister's Special Recognition Award for his outstanding service and dedication to advancing health outcomes and innovation.

HIHA is an annual public-private partnership initiative launched in 2019 by the Ministry of Health in Uganda with support from Xtraordinary Media. It is a public choice award where members of the public nominate and vote for individuals, organizations, and programs making outstanding contributions to the health sector. The awards aim to recognize and celebrate unsung heroes across Uganda, including frontline health workers, innovators, researchers, policymakers, students, and community health champions.

"Strengthening Health Systems, Empowering Communities through Self-Care and Sustainable Solutions," emphasizing the importance of community engagement, innovation, and resilience in healthcare delivery was the theme for HIHA 2025.

65 Graduate in Makerere– MoGLSD Parenting Intervention Programme, Advancing Uganda's Drive for Stronger Families

Uganda marked another milestone in strengthening family and community wellbeing on 24th October 2025 as 65 professionals graduated from the third cohort of the *Science of Designing Adaptation and Implementation of Evidence-Based Parenting Interventions* programme. The ceremony, held at Hotel Africana in Kampala, brings the total number of trained practitioners to 130 since the programme launched.

The training is a collaborative effort between the Child Health Development Centre (CHDC) at the Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS) and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD) under its national Parenting Agenda Initiative. The programme aims to standardise parenting interventions across the country and build a skilled workforce dedicated to strengthening families.

Dr. Godfrey Siu, Senior Lecturer at CHDC and programme lead, congratulated the graduates for completing the intensive course, calling the achievement a catalyst for nationwide transformation. He emphasised that the initiative is a key pillar in government efforts to enhance and standardise parenting support. Dr. Siu thanked partners including the ELMA Foundation, Global Parenting Initiative, and Uganda Muslim Supreme Council (UMSC), and appealed for continued investment in scaling the programme.

CHDC Director, Dr. Herbert Muyinda, praised the programme for shaping policy-relevant research and commended the participants for their dedication. He expressed hope that graduates would apply their skills to benefit communities across Uganda.

Representing the MakCHS administration, Deputy Principal Professor Richard Idro highlighted



Group photo of Participants of Parenting Course with Chief Guest and MakCHS staff

The programme aims to standardise parenting interventions across the country and build a skilled workforce dedicated to strengthening families.

the changing dynamics of parenting in modern society and the need for standardised approaches, especially as teachers and caregivers spend more time with children than before. He noted that the programme aligns with Makerere's strategy of extending its expertise directly to communities, and called for government budgetary support for long-term sustainability.

Speaking on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of MoGLSD, Commissioner for Women and Gender Affairs Dr. Angela Nakafeero urged the graduates to share knowledge widely to help build stronger families. She reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to the parenting agenda and applauded the enduring partnership with Makerere University.

Chief Guest Sheikh Ali Waiswa, Deputy Mufti of the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council, underscored the family as the foundation of society as taught in religious texts. He expressed concern over rising violence against children, citing alarming national statistics, and called for urgent action. Sheikh Waiswa praised the programme for bridging research and practice, saying it has the potential to transform parenting and strengthen communities.

The graduation marks an important step in Uganda's efforts to equip professionals with the skills needed to support parents, promote child wellbeing, and address the growing challenges facing families across the country.

Fresher's Orientation 2025: Students Advised to Set Goals and Keep Focused



MakCHS Freshers during orientation

Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS) has welcomed 2025/2026 freshers admitted to the College at an orientation meeting held today, 5th August 2024. At the meeting, the College leadership led by Prof. Bruce J. Kirenga, Principal - MakCHS was joined by Dr. Rose Byanyima, Executive Director of Mulago National Referral Hospital (MNRH) which is the largest clinical teaching site for MakCHS.

In his communication to the students, he welcomed them to MakCHS and congratulated them on joining the oldest medical school in Uganda and a leader in the region. 'Celebrate your being here because many weren't lucky even though they wanted to', he said. Professor Kirenga also congratulated the students for joining the noble profession of health care and advised the students to work hard. Sharing the history of the College, he explained that while only medical assistants were trained when the Medical School was established in the 1920s, the College has grown to include various medical specialities. 'We are currently working on creation of a borderless healthcare profession so that our products are accredited to work anywhere in the world', the Principal added.

Prof. Kirenga further advised students to know the various staff: academic, administrative and support who are all available to support them during their stay at Makerere University. 'Avoid retakes, make studying a lifestyle so

that you enjoy it and excel, don't waste time with side hustles, concentrate on your studies and trust in God', he added.

In his address to the freshers, Prof. Richard Idro, Deputy Principal – MakCHS welcomed them to the College. 'We are celebrating 100 years of existence, you are therefore our centenary class. We are one of the best medical schools on the continent and you should be proud to join us', Prof. Idro said.

He advised the students that they can be anything they dream to be, however it is not enough to dream but one must set goals and be willing to work hard to achieve them. Prof. Idro further encouraged students to upgrade their dreams to ground-breaking level which will lead to innovations to solve health challenges. The Deputy Principal highlighted the following issues as they prepare to join their chosen professions: soft skills like speaking and writing are important; create networks and friendships which you will find useful in the future; engage beyond medicine and academics; seek out mentors; present the best of yourself and don't procrastinate. He also underlined the following as dream killers: laziness, cheating, drugs, and betting.

Dr. Rose Byanyima, Executive Director – MNRH welcomed the students to the global profession of healthcare and advised them to find a balance between life and work balance. 'Work hard, be smart and rise through the

ladders and in years to come, you will serve in the offices we are today', she added. She noted that when Mulago Hospital opened in the 1920s, the major problem was sexually transmitted infections but the hospital has grown into a big institution handling various specialities including organ transplant that started with kidneys.

In his remarks to the students, Prof. Josephat Byamugisha, faculty at MakCHS and Director – Makerere University Hospital (MakHosp) explained that the hospital is available to serve students and staff as well as the public. He highlighted the various services available including medical examination, vaccination, surgery, emergency services, radiology and radiology and many more. He encouraged the students to have identification to be able to access services. 'Avoid alcohol, drugs, STIs and HIV which are bound to derail your academic journey and future', he advised.

Deans of Schools present, Dr. Annet Kutesa (School of Dentistry), Prof. Elisa Mwaka (representing Dean, School of Biomedical Sciences) and Dr. Richard Muhindo (School of Health Sciences) also addressed the students. They welcomed them to the College with encouragement to work hard, approach staff when help is required, remain steadfast in their studies and be kind in healthcare when you eventually get to serve. The Deans also advised them to avoid drugs, seek help when you have mental health challenges, and work with colleagues for best results. 'Further details about teaching and course content will be discussed at School and departmental levels' the Deans said.

Orientation will continue till Friday, 8th August 2025 with students expected to meet department heads, course coordinators, librarians and registrars for further guidance and tours around the college.

MakCHS offers study programmes including Medicine and Surgery, Dental Surgery, Nursing, Pharmacy, Biomedical Engineering, Optometry, Biomedical Sciences, Laboratory Technology, Speech and Language Therapy among others.



Commemoration of the 'Silent Teacher'

At a ceremony held on 30th May 2025, themed 'They taught us without saying a word', the Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS) commemorated the silent teacher which are the cadavers (bodies) used in anatomy classes for medical students. In addition to a commemoration service, the event was used to create awareness and sensitise the public about the the importance of whole body donation.

The chief guest at the commemoration was Professor Mukadasi Buyinza, Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic Affairs representing the Vice Chancellor, Professor Barnabas Nawangwe. The event attended by MakCHS students, staff and alumni was organised by students under Anatomy Society of MakCHS supported by Department of Anatomy and MakCHS leadership.

Welcoming guests to the event, Waziwu Mordecai -4th year student of medicine and surgery who serves as President of the Anatomy Society, MakCHS explained that the reason for the gathering is three-pronged: to commemorate the silent teachers who make a profound contribution to medical education; to instill knowledge, compassion, and professionalism in future healthcare providers; and call on the community to support this noble act through awareness, advocacy, or future donation. 'May the memory of our silent teachers live on in every life we will one day save', he said.



Students with Principal and HoD-Anatomy

The Anatomy society was founded in 2013 with aim of students providing peer mentorship to fellow students in lower years, such mentorship sessions help students appreciate better the anatomy of the human body. The society has supported: enhanced learning and mentorship; promoted academic participation including internal and external quizzes; and fostered connections including strengthen relationships between students across classes and with alumni.



Professor Mwaka, HoD-Anatomy

Professor Elisa Mwaka, Head – Department of Human Anatomy welcomed all present for attending the ceremony. He thanked the College management led by the Principal, Professor Bruce Kirenga for the support provided in organizing the ceremony. He also expressed utmost appreciation to the Vice Chancellor for attending despite the competing priorities requiring his attention.

Professor Mwaka highlighted that we are here today, to pay our respect to the individuals whose bodies have been used for medical examination and research at MakCHS through offering prayers as well as sensitize people about willful/consented whole body donation. He explained that globally, sources of whole bodies for medical education and research are got through willed whole-body donation, unclaimed bodies in hospitals, imported bodies, executed persons among other

means. In Uganda, unclaimed bodies in hospitals are used for medical as determined by the Uganda National Rules in the Penal Code Act of 1957.

In 2012 International Federation of Anatomy Associations (IFAA) recommended voluntary donation as the desirable and the only acceptable source for acquiring bodies. Almost all Africa countries and some European countries lack national body donation programs.

Speaking at the event, Professor Bruce Kirenga, Principal – MakCHS thanked Professor Mwaka for the insightful presentation. He welcomed Professor Buyinza to MakCHS and for accepting to attend despite the late invitation. He recognized the presence of the staff present and support towards the college activities.

Professor Kirenga underlined the importance of biomedical science under which human anatomy falls in medical education. 'Biomedical sciences play a key role, once someone is grounded in the area, then he will be a good doctor', he said.

The Principal also stressed that during his term of office operation efficiency will remain key ingredient for service delivery as well as rebuilding and rehabilitation of teaching and learning facilities. 'Works to make the Biochemistry laboratory a model lab has commenced with a contract awarded to service provider; the refurbishment will be in phases'.

Professor Buyinza Mukadasi thanked the College, Human Anatomy department and the students for organizing the commemoration. 'The amount of joy I have this morning, we should have done this a long time ago', he said. He expressed happiness at this commemoration for the silent teachers who unknowingly give so much to medical education and therefore mankind. He advised that community engagement to create awareness about the need for whole-body donation, regulatory compliance, and alignment to best practices.

He noted that disciplines like medicine is more like charity because medical practitioners give so much of themselves. 'The number of people attending this ceremony is show of love for the discipline and commitment to the calling' he said.



Professor Mukadasi Buyinza addresses the congregation

Professor Buyinza reiterated the commitment of Makerere University management to support MakCHS endeavours including this culture of commemorating the silent teacher. 'Well-trained and season doctors are a result of the process explained here and the absence of bodies affects the quality of education provided and therefore the doctors produced', he added.

Candles for the cadavers were lit and services representative of Anglican, Catholics and Muslims were conducted to remember the souls of the departed and wish them a peaceful rest. Ordinand Cosmas Ddembe for Anglican, Father Valentine Amuneke for Catholic and Dr. Haruna Kiryowa for Muslim preached the importance of respect for the dead and sacrifices of the dead for advancement of research and education in the medical field and health services.

Giving closing remarks, Professor Mwaka noted that setting up whole-body donation programs in Africa requires a holistic approach involving education, cultural sensitivity, legal structures, and partnerships with medical institutions.



Professor Kirenga giving remarks

Reasons why Africa has failed to establish body donation programs:

- Low awareness and willingness to donate bodies.
- Cultural and traditional beliefs
- Religious beliefs
- Fear of mishandling bodies
- Lack of legislation/ ambiguous regulations
- Lack of institutional policies and standard operating procedures
- Institutions should be encouraged to hold Services of thanksgiving or commemoration for those who have donated their bodies for medical education and research.

The following is required to change the current status:

- Cultural sensitivity and awareness
 - Community engagement and awareness creation
 - Educational campaigns
- Developing legal and ethical frameworks
- Building partnerships between hospitals and medical institutions
- Establishing local body donation systems i.e.,
 - donation registration process,
 - consent documentation,
 - Logistical infrastructure

necessary for the donation process.

- Effective communication, public trust, transparency.
- Training and professional development of healthcare providers.
- Global collaboration and funding: to share knowledge, best practices, and resources.
- Government support
 - Funding and incentives
 - Inclusion of body donation in national health strategies.



Students singing hymns during the service

Emorimor Calls for Makerere to Upgrade Parenting Course



“

We now see peace and love in homes where there was once conflict. Without good parenting, you risk raising animals instead of children.

The Iteso Cultural Leader, His Highness Emorimor Papa Paul Sande Emolot, has called on Makerere University to elevate the Science of Designing, Adaptation, and Implementation of Evidence-Based Parenting Interventions course into a fully-fledged programme. This, he argued, would strengthen the capacity of practitioners implementing parenting interventions across Uganda.

Speaking at a graduation ceremony held on 11th June 2025 at Makerere University where 35 practitioners

completed the 12-week course, Emorimor Papa Emolot emphasized the transformative power of effective parenting. He urged aspiring parents and advocates of the Parenting for Respectability model to enroll in the course.

Citing the impact in his own sub-county and village, the cultural leader revealed that over 800 families had already benefited from the programme.

“We now see peace and love in homes where there was once conflict. Without good parenting, you risk

raising animals instead of children,” he passionately stated.

He praised the course for equipping practitioners, policymakers, and researchers with the skills needed to design culturally sensitive, evidence-based parenting interventions tailored to Uganda’s context. Among the notable graduates was Her Royal Majesty Juliet Among Emolot Atomeileng Akaliat Toto, who reaffirmed her commitment to advancing family-strengthening initiatives using the skills and knowledge acquired.

Dr. Godfrey Siu, Senior Lecturer and Course Leader at Makerere University, described the course as a timely intervention. During this remarks, Dr. Siu described the event as a significant milestone in advancing the field of evidence based parenting intervention and family strengthening in Uganda.

“This course is meant to empower you as practitioners, policy makers and all those involved in development and implementation of parenting work. It provides both theoretical knowledge and practical tools essential for developing high quality interventions”, Dr. Siu noted. He urged the pioneer group to carry forward the expertise as champions of designing, adaptation and implementation of evidence parenting interventions.



L-R: Emorimor Papa Emolot, a participant of the Parenting Course and Her Royal Majesty Juliet Among Emolot Atomeileng Akaliat Toto who also completed the course





Dr. Godfrey Siu

Representing the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Dr. Aggrey David Kibenge, Juliana Naumo, Commissioner for Culture and Family Affairs, said the course supports the government's agenda to address negative social outcomes affecting families.

"By grounding parenting in research, harmonizing policy with practice, and advocating for equity, we will ensure no family is left behind," she said. "Cross-sectoral collaboration is key to unlocking transformative change."

Ms. Naumo highlighted the government's commitment—both technical and financial—to support outstanding student projects from the course. She stressed the importance of equipping professionals with the skills to bridge gaps between research and practice for consistent, high-quality parenting support across Uganda. While delivering the Vice chancellors speech by Dr. Helen Nambalirwa, Principal of the CHUSS, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe commended the graduates as a beacon of hope.

"At a time when parenting faces challenges like digital distractions, changing societal norms, and a rising mental health crisis, Makerere reaffirms its support for interventions that drive the societal transformation we desire," Nawangwe stated.



At a time when parenting faces challenges like digital distractions, changing societal norms, and a rising mental health crisis, Makerere reaffirms its support for interventions that drive the societal transformation we desire



Professor Hellen Nambalirwa Nkabala, Principal CHUSS delivering remarks from the Vice Chancellor

Prof. Richard Idro, Deputy Principal of the College of Health Sciences, acknowledged the growing parenting challenges in Uganda and the region, adding that the course was a major step towards standardizing parenting interventions nationwide.

He applauded the Child Health and Development Centre (CHDC) for leading this paramount and critical initiative.

Mr. Hosea Katende, Course Administrator at CHDC, emphasized the importance of integrating systematic methods, ethical principles, robust evidence, and collaboration to create lasting impact in parenting.

Dr. Aggrey Dhabangi, Lecturer at CHDC, representing Dr. Herbert Muyinda, Director of CHDC, acknowledged the contributions of partners such as the ELMA Foundation and Echidna Giving for their financial and capacity-building support. He also appreciated the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, among other stakeholders, for their technical guidance in the programme's successful implementation.

Dr. Dhabangi extended gratitude to cultural institutions, especially the Kingdom of Teso, and acknowledged growing collaborations with other cultural institutions such as the Kingdom of Acholi, in the shared mission of building strong families as the foundation of Uganda's future.

He extended his heartfelt gratitude to cultural institutions, especially the Kingdom of Teso, and others kingdoms such as the Kingdom of Acholi, in building Uganda's future through creating strong families.

Nuruh Mbalyowere, a Rehabilitation and Reintegration Officer with the Uganda Prisons Service, was honored for developing the best parenting intervention titled "Parenting Behind Prison Bars." She expressed her intention to apply the knowledge gained both at home and in her workplace.

STAFF AWARDS

PROFESSOR NAKIMULI AWARDED AT FIGO CONGRESS FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO WOMEN AND CHILD HEALTH



Assoc. Professor Annettee Nakimuli

Dr. Annettee Nakimuli, an Associate Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Dean – School of Medicine at Makerere University College of Health Sciences was awarded by the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) for her outstanding contribution to improving the health of Women and children as a researcher and practitioner.

She received the award on the 6th Oct 2025 at the FIGO General Assembly/FIGO Congress that is ongoing in Cape Town, South Africa.

Professor Nakimuli is a leading maternal health researcher focused primarily on investigating the aetiology, treatment, prevention and long term outcomes of pregnancy complications among women in Sub-Saharan Africa. She is committed to building maternal and new-born research capacity in Africa and her aim is, with East African and International colleagues, to establish a multidisciplinary centre for African maternal and neonatal health research located at Makerere University in Uganda.

TWAS RECOGNISES PROFESSOR ANGELINA MWESIGE KAKOOZA FOR HER RESEARCH



Assoc. Professor Angelina Kakooza

Dr. Angelina Mwesige Kakooza, Associate Professor of Paediatrics in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, School of Medicine, Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS) received the 2025 TWAS-Fayzah M. Al-Kharafi Award in Medical Sciences. She was recognised for her research on neurodevelopmental disorders – particularly epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and nodding syndrome – and for advancing policy and research, mentorship, as well as local community interventions to enhance children's health.

The award was given at the recent 17th General Conference of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil under the theme 'Building a Sustainable Future: The Role of Science, Technology, and Innovation for Global Development.' Organized in partnership with the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (BAS) and TWAS, the conference brought together leading scientists, policymakers, and institutional leaders from across the global South and beyond.

TWAS is a global merit-based science academy based in Trieste, Italy, and administered as a UNESCO Programme Unit. Read more here: <https://twas.org/>



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS)



Wishing you

*a Happy
and
Prosperous*

NEW YEAR 2026

A PRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNICATION OFFICE

P.O. Box7072 Kampala (U).
Tel: +256 414 530 020 Email: pr.chs@mak.ac.ug



<https://chs.mak.ac.ug>



@makererechs