

# James Tuju

---

P.O. Box 230 Kilifi, Kenya

Mobile: +254711262325 Email: [jtuju@kemri-wellcome.org](mailto:jtuju@kemri-wellcome.org)

## PROFILE

I'm a skilled junior researcher with a strong background and keen interest in Molecular Biology, Immunology and Bioinformatics. I've recently completed my PhD and I am now seeking a new professional challenge.

## EXPERIENCE

### Undergraduate project

**University of Nairobi**

**1 April 2006 – 31 Oct 2006**

- Identification and characterization of ABC transporters from sequenced protozoan genomes

### Research Intern

**KEMRI/Wellcome Trust Research Programme** **1 Feb 2007 – 31 Jul 2007**

- Establishing a Real Time PCR assay for the simultaneous detection of *Plasmodium falciparum* and *Plasmodium malariae*
- Establishing a Real Time PCR assay to distinguish the asexual stages of *Plasmodium falciparum*

### Assistant Research Officer

**KEMRI/Wellcome Trust Research Programme** **1 August 07– October 2008**

- Isolating and expressing Recombinant DBL $\alpha$  tags from *Plasmodium falciparum* erythrocyte membrane protein 1 (PfEMP1)
- Contact person DNA sequencing unit
- Chairperson Malaria Journal Club

### PhD student

**KEMRI/Wellcome Trust Research Programme** **1 November 2008– 30 March 2013**

- Antigenic cartography of immune responses to Recombinant DBL $\alpha$  tags from *Plasmodium falciparum* erythrocyte membrane protein 1 (PfEMP1).
- Analysis using R statistical package

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

### Open University

Doctor of Philosophy 2013

### University of Nairobi

Bachelor of Science (Biochemistry) 2006 First Class Honors.

### Dagoretti High School

Kenya Certificate Secondary Education 2001 A- (minus).

### Ndurarua Primary School

Kenya Certificate Primary Education 1997 531/700 marks.

## KEY SKILLS

- Malaria parasite culture and microscopy
- DNA/RNA extraction and cDNA synthesis
- Design and optimization of conventional and Real time PCR assays
- DNA cloning, sequencing and analysis
- Recombinant protein expression and immunoprecipitation
- Design and optimization of ELISA assays
- Statistical analysis using R
- Antigenic Cartography

## PUBLICATIONS

1: Osier FH, Murungi LM, Fegan G, **Tuju J**, Tetteh KK, Bull PC, Conway DJ, Marsh K. Allele-specific antibodies to Plasmodium falciparum merozoite surface protein-2 and protection against clinical malaria. Parasite Immunol. 2010 Mar;32(3):193-201. PubMed PMID: 20398182.

2: Wildig J, Cossart Y, Peshu N, Gicheru N, **Tuju J**, Williams TN, Newton CR. Parvovirus B19 infection and severe anaemia in Kenyan children: a retrospective case control study. BMC Infect Dis. 2010 Apr 3;10:88. PubMed PMID: 20361872.

3: Gitau EN, **Tuju J**, Stevenson L, Kimani E, Karanja H, Marsh K, Bull PC, Urban BC. T-cell responses to the DBL $\alpha$ -tag, a short semi-conserved region of the Plasmodium falciparum membrane erythrocyte protein 1. PLoS One. 2012;7(1). PubMed PMID: 22272280.

4: **Tuju J**, Gitau EN, Kimani E, Karanja H, Marsh K, Mackinnon MJ, Bull PC, Urban BC. Antigenic cartography of immune responses to Recombinant DBL $\alpha$  tags from *Plasmodium falciparum* erythrocyte membrane protein 1 (PfEMP1). (**Manuscript in preparation**)

## REFEREES

1. Dr. Britta Urban  
Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow  
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine  
Pembroke Place  
Liverpool  
L3 5QA, United Kingdom.  
Tel: +44 (0) 151 7053380  
Email: [b.urban@liv.ac.uk](mailto:b.urban@liv.ac.uk)
2. Dr Peter Bull  
Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow  
KEMRI/Wellcome Trust Research Programme  
P.O. Box 230, Kilifi- Kenya.  
Tel: +254 41 7522154
3. Dr. Margaret Mackinnon  
Senior Scientist  
KEMRI/Wellcome Trust Research Programme  
P.O. Box 230, Kilifi- Kenya.  
+254 41 7522154  
Email: [mmackinnon@kemri-wellcome.org](mailto:mmackinnon@kemri-wellcome.org)