

SIMON CHENGO MASHA

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Nationality: Kenyan
Date and place of birth: 15th October 1983, Nairobi, Kenya
Gender: Male

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, mixed methods health research, systematic reviews, public engagement in health, using research evidence in developmental and humanitarian programmes, rights of health for vulnerable populations.

SKILLS

Managerial: Lead investigator of a research team for the past 5 years involved in: stakeholder identification and engagement; internal and external communication with project staff and supervisors; mentorship and supervision of junior researchers (masters level); training of clinical research staff, field data collectors and students; conflict resolution and motivation of research teams

Technical disciplines: Epidemiology, reproductive health, sexually transmitted infections, human health research, molecular biology
Clinical laboratory research methods: bacteria & parasite culture, sequence analysis, GCP/GLP

Computer program competency: Computer assisted data collection platforms, Redcap, Microsoft office, Mega 7, data analysis software including STATA, R and NVIVO

Research:

Project management: conceptualization, proposal development, Budgeting and planning, SOP design and training, organization of fieldwork, training and checks for fieldworkers

Quantitative data collection: questionnaire design, validation and administration of questionnaires and structured interviews

Qualitative data collection : in depth interviews, focus group discussions and observations

Language	Fluent in written and spoken English and Kiswahili
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EDUCATION

Degree and awarding institution	Duration
Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences Ghent University, Belgium (Dissertation submitted)	October 2014 to Date
Master of Science (Molecular Biology-Human Health Option) Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium	2011 - 2013
Bachelor of Science (Medical Laboratory Science) Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya	2004 - 2008

RELEVANT RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Position title, brief description of responsibilities	Organisation	Duration
PhD Candidate and research officer Principal investigator studying sexually transmitted infections among pregnant women in Kilifi, Kenya. Key responsibilities include leading the research team, proposal development, grant application, study design, data collection and analysis, dissemination of results to relevant stakeholders, monitoring and supervision.	Ghent University, Belgium KEMRI Wellcome Trust, Kilifi, Kenya	2014 to Date
Tutorial fellow in the Department of Biological Sciences Curriculum development, tutorial preparation, scheduling and lecturing students on: introduction to epidemiology, HIV, medical virology, bacteriology, molecular biology, microbial genetics, molecular markers techniques and applications, medical microbiology and supervising bachelors and masters research theses.	Pwani University	September 2016 to Date
Assistant lecturer for a course on HIV & Drug Abuse	Mount Kenya University – Malindi Campus	May – August 2015

<p>Assistant lecturer for a course on Medical microbiology, HIV</p> <p>Key responsibilities: Delivering lectures, seminars and tutorials; designing, preparing and developing teaching materials; assessing students coursework; setting and marking examinations; supporting bachelors students through an advisory role</p>	<p>Technical University of Mombasa</p>	<p>Sep 2013 – Sep 2014</p>
<p>Laboratory Technologist</p> <p>Key responsibilities: sample reception and running of various analytic procedures for various studies, microscopy and other analytical tests, development of Laboratory Quality and safety Manual, SOPs, maintenance of equipment logs, reagent preparation files, method validation procedures, reagent and supplies receipt and handling, running of internal and external quality control panels and documentation, maintenance of a corrective action log and reporting temperature monitoring for stored samples and reagents in the fridges and freezers</p>	<p>International Center for Reproductive Health- Kenya</p>	<p>August 2010 - August 2011</p>

Research projects involved in

- KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Kilifi, Sexually transmitted infections among women attending antenatal care, November 2014 – April 2018 (PhD research).
 - Academy for Educational development-Pretesting of Dosing Instructions for Pyramax, March, 2010
 - Population Service International ‘Tunza’ Reproductive Health Program November 2009
 - MILDMAY International – HIV Basic Care Kit - September 2009
 - African Population Health Research Center- Early Childhood Education 15th-31st July, 2009
 - National Campaign Against Drug Abuse April - May, 2009
 - Population Services International- HIV Survey January-February, 2009
 - Family Health International, Orphans and Vulnerable Children needs assessment APHIA September-December, 2008
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Key short courses and training

Ghent University Doctoral School Courses

- Advanced Academic English: Writing Skills – Life Sciences & Medicine 2015/2016
- Advanced Academic English: Conference Skills 2015/2016
- Dealing with the media as a researcher 2015/2016
- Leadership Foundation Course 2015/2016
- Cochrane systematic review – (Chochrane Belgium) K.U.Leuven May 2017

Other trainings

- Teaching and Pedagogy (KWTRP/Oxford University) June, 2016
- Manuscript writing (KEMRI) July, 2015
- MSM Sensitivity Training Course (MARPs Africa) February, 2015
- Protection of Human Research Participants (NIH) February, 2014
- Research with Data/Laboratory Specimens(CITI) September, 2010
- Good Clinical Practice (CITI) September, 2010

Research and publications

1. **Masha, S. C.**, Wahome, E. Vaneechoutte, M., Cools, P., Crucitti, T., Sanders, E. J. High prevalence of curable sexually transmitted infections among pregnant women in a rural county hospital in Kilifi, Kenya. *PloS One*. 2017;12:e0175166.
 2. **Masha SC**, Cools P, Crucitti T, Sanders EJ, Vaneechoutte M: Molecular typing of *Trichomonas vaginalis* isolates by actin gene sequence analysis and carriage of *T. vaginalis* viruses. *Parasites & Vectors*. 2017;10(1):537.
 3. Loens, K., **S. C. Masha**, K. Lagrou, H. Goossens and M. Ieven. 2014 Application of real-time PCR for the detection of macrolide resistance in Belgian *M. pneumoniae*. European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Barcelona, Spain 10 – 13 May 2014.Oral
 4. **Masha, S. C.**, Ieven, G. Development validation of validation of a PCR for characterization of macrolide resistant *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* (Master thesis; 2013).
 5. Jespers, V, ... **Masha, SC**, ... Masesa, C. Prevalence and correlates of bacterial vaginosis in different sub-populations of women in sub-Saharan Africa: A cross-sectional study. *PloS one*. 2014; 9(10).
 6. Gautam, R, ... **Masha, SC**, ... Masesa, C 2015, Correlates of the molecular vaginal microbiota composition of African women. *BMC Infect Dis*. 2015:15:86.
 7. **Masha SC**, Piet Cools, Patrick Descheemaeker, Marijke Reynders, Eduard J. Sanders, Mario Vaneechoutte. Urogenital pathogen correlates of *Trichomonas vaginalis* among pregnant women in Kilifi, Kenya (In review; *BMC Infectious diseases*)
 8. **Masha SC**, Owuor C, Ngoi JM, Cools P, Sanders EJ, Vaneechoutte M, Crucitti T, De Villiers E P. Comparative analysis of the vaginal microbiome of pregnant women in relation to *Trichomonas vaginalis* and *Chlamydia trachomatis* (In review; *BMC Microbiome*)
 9. **Masha SC**, Cools P, Sanders EJ, Vaneechoutte M, Crucitti T. *Trichomonas vaginalis* and HIV infection acquisition. A systematic review and meta-analysis (In review *BMJ STI*)
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Presentations at conferences and scientific meetings

- The 17th International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections World Congress in Marrakech, Morocco. May 2016
- ION World Clinical Solutions 2016, Nairobi, Kenya. October, 2016
- University of Washington Annual STI Collaborators Meeting Mombasa, Kenya. January, 2017

Community dissemination activities

Sharing key findings with stakeholders at facility and county level through barazas (public meetings), health talks and feedback meetings

Affiliations/Community Participation

1. Member of Rotary Club of Kilifi
2. Friends of Kilifi District Hospital Trust
3. International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections

Referees available upon request
