



Equitable International Research Partnerships Summit

15 – 19 April 2024

Sir James Matthews building (b135) room 2063/2065



The summit is a partnership event between the **University of Southampton** and the **University of Ghana** funded by a **Global Partnerships Award**, and with invited guests from:

- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) - Ghana
 - Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) - Kenya
 - Nelson Mandela University – South Africa
 - University of Cape Town – South Africa
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The increase in research involving a range of people, disciplines and countries, particularly to address global challenges, requires us to consider more thoughtfully how this kind of research is undertaken in every respect. International research relationships enable us to reflect on how we work in diverse teams, how we communicate, manage, support and lead such research endeavours, and, critically, in ways that are fair and just for all involved. Even though there is widespread agreement that these research projects must be equitable, what does this mean in practice and for everyone involved? What are equitable international research partnerships?

As the UK Collaborative on Development Research say: ‘Whilst there is no agreed universal definition for equitable partnerships, equitable partnerships are frequently defined as:’

Partnerships in which there is mutual participation, mutual trust and respect, mutual benefit and equal value placed on each partners contribution at all stages of the research process. ([Equity in research partnerships](#) – accessed 07 April 2024)

The summit brings together academic, research and professional service staff from the Universities of Ghana, Cape Town, Nelson Mandela, KNUST , MMUST and Southampton, who have an interest in strengthening international relationships and exploring how we can build and maintain these relationships, as well as in developing new research projects.

The summit aims to:

Facilitate dialogue – encourage the exchange of ideas – invite fresh thinking and provocative ideas – discover different perspectives – create shared solutions on how we build, create and sustain equitable research partnerships.

We aim, also, to explore potential research projects and improve support processes, enable networking and the establishment of new relationships.

Together we can reach great heights and view new terrain!

Thank you to the following for their participation and support for the event (in order of appearance):

- **Professor Mark Spearing** – Vice President Research and Enterprise, University of Southampton
- **Professor Felix Asante** – Pro-Vice Chancellor, Research Innovation and Development, University of Ghana
- **Mrs Cynthia Adu** – Deputy Registrar, Office of Research Innovation and Development, University of Ghana
- **Professor Peter Wisiuba Bukhala** - Director of the Privately Sponsored Students Programme and Advancement Office, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST), Kenya
- **Dr Palesa Nathasha Mothapo** - Director of Research Support and Management and acting Senior Director, Mandela International Office, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa
- **Mrs Elizabeth Maqhubu** – Research Development Office, Nelson Mandela University, South Africa
- **Professor Francois du Toit** - Head of Department of Private Law, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- **Dr Kwame Obeng** – Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
- **Dr Maggy Heintz** - Executive Director, UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR)
- **Mrs Clare Viney** - Chief Executive CRAC-Vitae
- **Mr George Lakey** - Programme Manager, Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)
- **Ms Silke Blohm** - Founder and Director 4Sciences Group Ltd
- **Dr Ying Chen** - Head of Research Funding Development, RIS, University of Southampton
- **Dr Steven Vidovic** - Head of Open Research & Publication, Library, University of Southampton
- **Professor Chris Howls** - Director of the Doctoral College, University of Southampton
- **Professor Jim Wright** - Professor in GIS & International Development, University of Southampton
- **Dr Dawn Duke** – Head of Researcher Development, Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF)
- **Dr Michael Head** – Senior Research Fellow, University of Southampton
- **Ms Mylene Ployaert** - Director of Research Strategy and Funding, Research & Innovation Services (RIS), University of Southampton
- **Ms Maria Norton** - International Research Partnership Funding Manager, RIS, University of Southampton
- **Professor Ruihua Hou** – Associate Dean International, Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton

Welcome, especially, to **Naa Dedei Tetteh** and **Dr Grace Boakye-Dankwa** from the Ghana High Commission in London; **Martha Garrett** and **Roshni Abedin** from UKRI; and colleagues from NIHR and NETSCC Global Health.

With Special thanks to:

Mrs Cynthia Adu | Professor Felix Asante | Professor Sue Colley | Dr Lorna Colquhoun
Dr Haris Psarras | Ms Maria Norton | Dr Julie Reeves | Professor Werner Scholtz
Professor Justin Sheffield | Professor Bryony Whitmarsh

&

The University of Southampton Global Partnership Award panel.

Doug Akins, Director of Research Contracts and Compliance; and Melissa Gibson, Ada Kelechi-Ahuiche, Nadia Gabr and the International recruitment and partnerships team.

Programme at a glance

Monday 15 – Strategy & context Morning session (10:00 – 13:00)	09:30 10:00 10:10 10:30 10:50 11:00 11:20 11:40 12:00 12:20 13:00	Registration & refreshments Housekeeping Professor Mark Spearing – Welcome and the view from Southampton Professor Felix Asante – Welcome and the view from Ghana Q&A Dr Maggy Heintz - UKCDR Clare Viney - Vitae BREAK George Lakey - ACU Silke Blohm - 4Sciences Ltd LUNCH
Monday 15 Afternoon session	14:00 16:30	Small group discussions – Ketso Close
Tuesday 16 – Process Morning session	09:30 10:00 10:10 10:40 11:00 11:20 11:40 12:00	Registration & refreshments Welcome back The view from Ghana with Mrs Cynthia Adu: Deputy Registrar Office for Research, Innovation and Development (ORID) University of Ghana Prof. Peter Bukhala: MMUST. <i>Optimizing the role of Research management and administration in Kenyan universities.</i> BREAK Dr Ying Chen: Head of Research Funding, Research and Innovations Services (RIS), UoS Dr Steven Vidovic: Head of Open Research & Publication Practice, Library, UoS Small group discussion until 13:00
Tuesday 16 - afternoon		Private side conversations on process with guests and stakeholders
Evening		Winchester visit for guests with Maria Norton
Wednesday 17 – People Morning session	09:30 10:00 10:10 10:25 10:40 11:00 11:20 11:40 12:00	Registration & refreshments Welcome back The view from Ghana with Dr Kwame Obeng: KNUST The view from Kenya with Prof. Peter Bukhala: MMUST Prof Chris Howls: Doctoral College, UoS BREAK Dr Palesa Mothapo – The view from Nelson Mandela University and on Postdocs Prof Jim Wright: Doctoral Supervisors via video Small group discussion until 13:00
Wednesday 17 – Afternoon session	14:00 14:20 14:45 15:00 15:20	The view South Africa with Professor Francois du Toit: Cape Town University Dr Dawn Duke – AREF leadership programme Dr Michael Head - <i>Doing equity better: how can we improve as individuals and institutions?</i> BREAK Small group discussion until 16:30
Thursday 18 – Research Morning session	09:30 10:00 10:10 10:30 10:50 11:30 11:45	Registration & refreshments Welcome back Mylene Ployaert, Director of Research Strategy and Funding Maria Norton, What funding might be available? Associate Deans International Roundtable BREAK Additional strategic insights from Ghana, Kenya and South Africa Small group discussions until 13:00
Thursday 18 – Afternoon session	14:00	Small group discussions continued until 15:00
Evening		Guests farewell meal
Friday 19 – Review Morning session	09:30 10:00	Registration & refreshments Welcome back and reporting back



Day 1 – Strategy & Context

9:30 am – registration & networking

10am – Launch & Welcomes: including guests from the Ghana High Commission

Professor Justin Sheffield facilitating & Dr Julie Reeves housekeeping

- University of Southampton - Vice President Research and Enterprise, **Professor Mark Spearing**
- University of Ghana – Pro-Vice Chancellor Research, Innovation and Development, **Professor Felix Asante**
- Welcome to guests from the Ghana High Commission

11:00 - **Dr Maggy Heintz**: Executive Director - [UKCDR](#)

11:20 - **Clare Viney**: Chief Executive CRAC-Vitae

11:40 - BREAK

12:00 - **George Lakey**: Programme Manager – ACU [ACU Equitable Research Partners Toolkit](#) (via link)

12:20 - **Silke Blohm**: Founder and Director [4Sciences group ltd](#)

12:40 – Q&A

13:00 to 14:00 – Lunch with students and Ghana High Commission staff

14:00 – 16:30 – Group discussions facilitated by Professor Bryony Whitmarsh and Professor Sue Colley with Ketso.

Day 2 – Process



9:30 am – registration & networking

10am – Welcome back

10:10 - The view from Ghana with **Mrs Cynthia Adu: Deputy Registrar Office for Research, Innovation and Development (ORID) University of Ghana**

10:40 - The view from Kenya with **Prof. Peter Bukhala: MMUST. *Optimizing the role of Research management and administration in Kenyan universities.***

11:00 - BREAK

11:20 - Dr Ying Chen: Head of Research Funding, Research and Innovations Services (RIS), UoS

11:40 - Dr Steven Vidovic: Head of Open Research & Publication Practice, Library, UoS

Small group discussion until 13:00



Day 3 – People

9:30 am – registration & networking

10am – Welcome back. How do we strengthen relationships through PGRs and ECRs?

10:10 - The view from Ghana with **Dr Kwame Obeng: KNUST**

10:25 - The view from Kenya with **Prof. Peter Bukhala: MMUST**

10:40 - **Prof Chris Howls: Doctoral College, UoS**

11:00 - Break

11:20 - **Dr Palesa Mothapo** – The view from Nelson Mandela University and on Postdocs

11:40 - **Prof Jim Wright:** Doctoral Supervisors via video

12:00 – 13:00 **small group discussions**

13:00 – 14:00 – Lunch

14:00 - How do we strengthen relationships through research leadership?

14:05 - The view from South Africa with Professor Francois du Toit: Cape Town University

14:20 - **Dr Dawn Duke** – [AREF](#) leadership programme

14:45 – **Dr Michael Head** - *Doing equity better: how can we improve as individuals and institutions?*

15:00 – Break

15:30 – 16:30 small group discussions



Day 4 – Research

9:30 am – registration & networking

10am – Welcome back

10:10 - Mylene Ployaert, Director of Research Strategy and Funding

10:30 – Maria Norton, *What funding might be available?*

10:50 - Associate Deans International panel

11:30 – Break

11:45 – Additional strategic insights from Ghana, Kenya and South Africa

Small group discussions:

- What does Sustainability/Health/AI (other research areas) mean to different institutions?
- How do universities play a role in Sustainability/Health/AI-technology and innovation?
- What could we do together...?

13:00 – 14:00 – Lunch

Continue discussions until 15:00



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Day 5 – Review

9:30 am – registration & networking, photos

10am – Welcome back – the view from the summit!

Reporting back to Professor Mark Spearing, Professor Felix Asante, and Dr Lorna Colquhoun – Executive Director RIS. Q&A

Discussions and capturing key points until 12:30

Thank you and close at 13:00