



 **africa health
collaborative**

In partnership with

**mastercard
foundation**

FemSTEM Africa 2026

PROGRAM OUTLINE

THEME

**From Vision to Venture:
Women Leading Health Innovation**

DATE

**1st-2nd
June, 2026**

VENUE

**KNUST
Kumasi, Ghana**

TIME

**9am - 3pm
GMT**



DAY ONE

MONDAY, 1ST JUNE 2026

GREAT HALL
KNUST, KUMASI

MODERATORS MS. PORTIA ADJELEY OSEKRE, DR. AKUA ASARE-ANKOMAH AND MS. RHODA PHILIP

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR(S)
08:00am - 9:00am	Snack/Teatime/Registration	Organising Team
09:00am - 09:45am	Seating/Impact stories/ Documentaries	Media team
09:45am - 09:50am	Opening prayer	
09:50am - 09:55am	Introduction of dignitaries and personnel present <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Representative, Queen Mother of Ayeduase• Dr. Matilda Owusu Bio• Professor Chrissie Abaidoo	Ms. Portia Adjeley Osekre
09:55am - 10:05am	Welcome address and launch	Prof. Ellis Owusu-Dabo
10:05am - 10:10am	Remarks from the Mastercard Foundation	Caleb Aromeh
10:10am - 10:15am	Cultural display	KNUST cultural troupe
10:15am - 10:30am	Keynote address	Prof. Mrs. Ibok Oduro
10:30am - 10:35am	Cultural display	KNUST cultural troupe

10:35am - 11:35am	<p>Panel Discussion and Q&A (Twist And Turns of Entrepreneurship)</p>	<p>Panel Members: Ms. Mary Asante-Asamoah Mrs. Joyce Owusu-Dabo Dr. Bhavana Singh</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Rhoda Philip (Health Entrepreneurship Lead, AHC Secretariat)</p>
11:35am - 11:45am	Photography/Interlude/ Breakout (Official end of opening ceremony)	Organizing team
11:45am - 1:35pm	<p>Mentorship circle for ventures and students (Breakout Session)</p> <p>Themes:</p> <p>SHS Group: From SHS to the World: Planning Your Journey into Health Innovation</p> <p>NURSES Group: Frontline to Founder: How Nurses and Midwives Can Drive Health Innovation</p> <p>VENTURE Group: From Idea to Impact: Validating Your Health Innovation for African Markets</p>	<p>SHS Group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Mary Asante-Asamoah Prof. Felicity Asiedu-Appiah Dr. Marie Therese Ndiaye Ms. Rhoda Philip <p>Nursing & Midwifery Group: Dr. Bhavana Singh</p> <p>Venture Group: Francisca Taylor (CEO - Perfect Health Ghana), Ms. Fraidianie Sevigne</p>
1:35pm - 1:40pm	Closing remarks	
1:40pm - 2:00pm	Lunch and networking	Organising team
2:00pm- 3:00pm	Campus tour	

DAY TWO

TUESDAY, 2ND JUNE 2026

IMPACT BUILDING
KNUST, KUMASI

MODERATORS MS PORTIA OSEKRE, DR AKUA ASARE-ANKOMAH, AND MS. LUELLA CHOW

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR(S)
8:00am - 8:45am	Registration	Organising team
8:55am - 9:00am	Opening prayer	
9:00am - 9:10 am	Introduction of dignitaries and personnel present	Ms. Portia Adjeley Osekre
9:10am - 9:15am	Welcome address	Prof. Wilberforce Owusu Ansah
9:15am - 9:25am	Remarks from the key Invited Guest at Africa Health Collaborative Secretariat	Dr. Penina Lam
9:25am - 10:45am	Masterclass session	<p>Ideation: Pitch to gain (must know about pitching) – Prof. Paul Santerre, Health Innovation Hub (H2i) Lead Mentor, University of Toronto</p> <p>Prototype: Branding – Ms. Leila Khalid, Communications Officer, Africa Office of the Vice President International, University of Toronto</p> <p>Scale Up: Navigating regulatory agencies as an Entrepreneur – Ms. Fraidianie Sevigne, Vice President of Operations, Ripple Therapeutics</p>

10:45am - 11:10am	Snack break	Organising team
11:10am – 11:25am	FemSTEM Africa Ambassador: Autoease Wheelchair	Prof. Paul Santerre and Dr. Princess Ruhama Acheampong
11:25am - 12:30pm	Pitching Inzozu Glasses Stecie Niyonzima StainSmart Innovations Auma Eunice Daka PearlOxy Uganda Agasha Faith Anne Maria Grow with Me Protheses Hana Birhanehiwot OneClick-Med Faith Oluwabusayomi Taiwo Haki Labs Diana Mulinge	Panel of Judges: Prof. Ibok Oduro Dr. Bhavanah Singh Dr. Isaac Tweneboah-Koduah Dr. Ernest Asamoah Moderated by Ms. Fraidianie Sevigne
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Breakout session with Finalists Social networking session: Participants engage with 6 finalists to share the technology behind their venture	All
1:30pm - 1:40pm	Cultural display	
1:40pm - 2:00pm	Awards ceremony (Dr Penina Lam and Caleb Aromeh)	Dr. Princess R. Acheampong and Ms. Fraidianie Sevigne
2:00pm - 2:10pm	Closing remarks	Prof. Wilberforce Owusu Ansah and Prof. Paul Santerre
2:10pm - 3:00pm	Lunch and networking	



MEET THE PITCH COMPETITION FINALISTS



Hana Birhanehiwot
Grow With Me Prostheses (Founder & CEO)
Ethiopia

Grow With Me Prostheses develops adjustable, child-centered prosthetic solutions that adapt with the growing needs of the user. Our venture is committed to creating affordable, functional devices for children in low-resource settings worldwide, improving mobility, independence, and quality of life.



Stecie Niyonzima
Inzozu Glasses (Co-founder & CEO) Rwanda

Inzozu Glasses is an assistive technology venture developing smart glasses that use facial and surroundings recognition to support blind and visually impaired people with safe navigation, independence, and meaningful social interaction using local languages and dialects. Our solution enhances inclusion, accessibility, and daily mobility using affordable AI-powered wearable technology.



Diana Mulinge
Haki Labs (Co-founder and CEO) Kenya

Haki Labs is building East Africa's first climate-optimized sexual assault evidence collection kit, solving the forensic evidence gap that denies survivors justice: DNA degrades within 48 hours in tropical heat, breaking cases in court. We do this through climate-proof kits and offline digital chain-of-custody tracking generating instant court-admissible PDF reports.



Agasha Faith Anne Maria
PearlOxy (Co-founder and Compliance Lead) Uganda

Founded in 2023, PearlOxy is a medical oxygen startup dedicated to solving the critical shortage of reliable oxygen supply in Sub-Saharan Africa. We are developing the Medium- Pressure Oxygen Storage System, an automatic backup solution that ensures uninterrupted oxygen delivery during power outages for critically ill patients in low-resource hospitals.



Faith Oluwabusayomi Taiwo
OneClick-Med (Co-founder) Nigeria

OneClick-Med is a digital health platform improving healthcare access through interoperable electronic medical records and patient-centered care tools. We connect patients, hospitals, and providers to reduce delays, prevent medical errors, and ensure continuity of care across Africa.



StainSmart Innovations
Auma Eunice Daka (CEO) Uganda

StainSmart Innovations focuses on building affordable diagnostic solutions for underserved healthcare systems. Our flagship device, LASS, automates slide staining for 30+ samples per cycle, reducing turnaround times and workload. With multi-protocol capability and AI-powered image analysis, LASS improves the speed and accuracy of disease diagnosis in resource-limited settings.



EVENT SPEAKERS





Professor Ibok Oduro **Food Scientist at the Dept. of** **Food Science and Technology KNUST**

Ibok Oduro is a professor of Postharvest Technology and a renowned food scientist at the Department of Food Science and Technology, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, Ghana.

She had her Bachelor and Master's degree in Chemistry at the University of Ibadan, in Ibadan, Nigeria. She later pursued a Doctorate in Postharvest Technology at the University of Cranfield in the United Kingdom. Prof Oduro has also participated in several professional workshops and trainings. These include; Executive Programme in Entrepreneurial University Transformation at Maastricht University, Netherlands; African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Women's Leadership and Management Course in Nairobi, Kenya; Association of African University Management Development Training in Gaborone, Botswana and Novartis Scientific Exchange Fellowship Program by the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research and Seeding Labs, USA.

Prof Oduro has over 20 years of practical and theoretical experiences in food processing, postharvest management, value addition, product development and sensory analysis. She has been lecturing and supervising both undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Departments of Food Science & Technology as well as Biochemistry & Biotechnology, KNUST since June 1996.



Dr. Penina Lam **Senior Director, International Relations,** **University of Toronto & Head of AHC Secretariat**

Dr. Penina Lam leads strategic engagement and partnerships at the University of Toronto, with a focus on Africa. She oversees the university's Africa strategy and the launch of the Africa Health Collaborative (AHC), a multi-stakeholder initiative advancing Africa's healthcare systems, talent development, and youth entrepreneurship.

With over 20 years of experience as an academic and practitioner, she is committed to expanding equitable access to education, health, and employment. Previously, she worked as a professor and an Organizational Development consultant at the World Bank. Dr. Lam holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Organizational Development/HRD.



Professor J. Paul Santerre **Co-founder and former director of** **the Health Innovation Hub (H2i) at UofT**

Professor J. Paul Santerre has published >245 peer reviewed publications and is a listed inventor on >70 patents in the area of medical polymers. He has trained over 85 graduate students and generated over \$63M in grant funding. He is co-founder and former director of the Health Innovation Hub (H2i) at the University of Toronto. He is also the lead for the H2i-Health Entrepreneurship program for the African Higher Education Health Collaborative supported by the Mastercard Foundation.

He is a co-founder of Interface Biologics, along with having spun-out five other start-up companies from his lab and has won multiple national awards for his achievements in enabling entrepreneurship, included Canada's Governor General award for Innovation, and the Professional Engineers of Ontario Entrepreneurship Award in 2017, among others.

He has received multiple awards for his community activity including the 2018 President's Impact Award from the University of Toronto, and in 2018 and 2020 he was recognized respectively by the US Society for Biomaterials and the Canadian Biomaterials Society for lifetime contributions to the scientific literature.



Mrs. Owusu-Dabo **Chief Executive Officer, Sinapi Aba**

Mrs. Owusu-Dabo is a graduate from the University of Sunderland, UK and University of Ghana with MBA and B.Sc. Administration (Marketing Management) respectively. She has worked with Sinapi Aba since 2001 starting as credit officer, and rising through the ranks to her current position as the Chief Executive Officer. Joyce has been very dynamic and instrumental in the successful transformation of Sinapi Aba Trust into a Savings and Loans Company.

Mrs. Owusu-Dabo has rich experience in microfinance with emphasis on product development, clients' service, branding and marketing, market research and business development. She has great expertise in grant and project management, international and corporate relations and client transformation. She has the know-how and has participated in numerous international fund raising programmes and facilitated several trainings. She is passionate about financial inclusion, development of young people and empowering low income entrepreneurs, particularly women to make a positive change in their lives.



Dr. Bhavana Singh **Clinician-level Chief Medical Officer**

Clinician-level Chief Medical Officer, Clinical Microbiologist, Academician, and Public Health Expert with specialized expertise in Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence. She is actively advancing the integration of digital health, AI, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) solutions within public health systems.

She holds qualifications including a PhD, PGPN, MSc, and an Advanced Certificate in Digital Health. Dr. Singh also serves as an Adjunct Professor and Facilitator for the KNUST E-Learning/Mastercard AHC initiative. In addition, she is an FLMF Mentor, a member of ASM and ASTMH, a Trustee of IEcoAfrica, and an Associate Member of RCPCH



Mrs Fraidanie Sevigne **Chemical Engineer and Vice President of Operations at Ripple Therapeutics**

Fraidanie Sevigne, a Chemical Engineer and Vice President of Operations at Ripple Therapeutics, is an accomplished leader in the pharmaceutical and medical device industry, with experience spanning regulatory strategy, quality operations, manufacturing, and new product launch. She has contributed to the development and oversight of complex therapeutic programs, bringing a strong understanding of compliance, quality systems, and product-lifecycle execution.

As a mentor with H2i (Health Innovation Hub), she supports Africa-based health ventures by guiding founders through market readiness, and evidence-generation strategies. Her mentorship extends to help innovators navigating regulatory constraints, strengthening their operational models, and preparing them for sustainable scale. She also serves as a mentor for Catalyst+, a Canadian economic-development organization empowering women through missions in West Africa. Fraidanie is additionally the founder of a non-profit organization dedicated to sustainable empowerment and health equity, where she leads initiatives that strengthen community resilience in Haiti, expand access to essential medicines, and mobilize multifunctional teams toward impactful development.

Her career reflects a deep commitment to advancing health innovation while creating pathways for communities, women leaders, and emerging founders to thrive.



Dr. Isaac Tweneboah Koduah **Lecturer and Consultant**

Dr. Isaac Tweneboah Koduah, MBA, Chartered Marketer (CIM-UK, GH), and esteemed member of the Association of Accredited Small Business Consultants (AASBCUSA), is a distinguished academic and preeminent executive leadership trainer & SME growth strategist. Renowned for his profound expertise in entrepreneurship, business development, and marketing, he has accrued over 18 years of extensive corporate experience, thereby furnishing unparalleled insight to propel businesses toward sustainable excellence.

As Lead Consultant and Chief Executive Officer of HiPAG Services, Dr. Tweneboah Koduah has guided myriad enterprises, entrepreneurs, and skilled professionals in Ghana to forge impactful, investment-ready ventures that transform communities. He has forged strategic partnerships with elite Club 100 companies across FMCG, financial institutions, health facilities, and educational institutions, spearheading strategy formulation, leadership development, and teambuilding initiatives that ensure business sustainability and accelerated growth. His leadership expertise has empowered executives and teams to attain exceptional performance and enduring success.

In his academic capacity as a Lecturer at Garden City University, he inspires the next generation of business leaders, imparting his rich experiential knowledge and visionary industry insights. Notably, he serves as Lead Facilitator and curriculum architect for the Mastercard Foundation Health Collaborative and the Mastercard Foundation Nkabom Collaborative, having directed comprehensive training programs for over 2,000 health and agribusiness professionals in the past three years, enabling them to initiate, manage, and expand thriving health and agribusiness enterprises. Beyond his consulting and academic engagements, Dr. Tweneboah Koduah serves on multiple boards, providing advisory and strategic direction across diverse sectors. His board memberships span education, health, telecommunications, and financial institutions, where his expertise in business development, strategy, and organizational transformation continues to shape sustainable growth and innovation.

Driven by a passionate conviction to simplify complex business and strategic concepts into practical, implementable tools, he empowers entrepreneurs to effect transformative, positive change in their ventures and communities





Dr. Ernest Asamoah
Program Officer for West Africa, Office of the Vice President International, University of Toronto

Ernest coordinates University of Toronto's projects and programs in the West Africa subregion. Ernest previously worked with KPMG as Manager where he managed the Firm's business development Unit in Ghana and contributed significantly to increasing the service lines and revenue of the Firm. Prior to that, Ernest was Program Officer with World Vision International, Ghana where he was responsible for the planning and implementation of youth trainee sponsorship, child protection, and donor relations.

He led and improved donor retention and deepened donor relations. Ernest joined the U of T from Regent University College of Science and Technology, a private University College affiliated to KNUST as the Dean, School of Business, Leadership and Legal Studies. He developed industry relevant and demand – driven postgraduate programmes and short courses to beef up the academic programmes of the College, strengthened industry -academic relations. Ernest chairs the Ghana Research – Industry Collaborative Steering Committee.



Rhoda Akuol Philip
Health Entrepreneurship Lead, AHC Secretariat

Rhoda Akuol Philip currently serves as a Africa Regional Lead Research Officer, supporting partnership engagement, and research collaboration, as well as monitoring, evaluation, learning and adaptation. She is a central liaison for the Health Entrepreneurship (HENT) Pillar of the Africa Health Collaborative. HENT seeks to co-create and sustain entrepreneurial ecosystems, and launch scalable, impactful, and contextually relevant health start-ups that offer sustainable healthcare solutions.

Rhoda Akuol has previously held various research, entrepreneurship, and business analyst roles within different work environments and cultures, including at start-up companies, non-profit organizations, and academic departments. She is a serial social entrepreneur with a strong passion for community advocacy and serves on several advisory boards, including the Pan Canadian Voice for Women's Housing (PCVWH).

Rhoda Akuol received the African Scholars' Social Innovation Award 2021, and the EYOB G. NAIZGHI Female Refugee Leadership Award 2019.



Leila Serwaah Khalid
Communications Officer, Africa at the
University of Toronto

Leila Serwaah Khalid is a strategic communications leader and PMP®-certified project manager with years of experience across Africa's health, technology, agriculture, and international development sectors. She currently serves as Communications Officer, Africa, at the University of Toronto, where she leads communications for multi-country partnerships across Africa and Canada.

Leila has led high-impact multi-country brand, media, and partnership initiatives for organisations including MEST Africa and Farmerline, securing international media visibility on platforms such as CNN, BBC, Reuters, and Time Magazine. Her work focuses on strategic storytelling, reputation management, partnerships, and building communication systems that drive business growth and influence for organisations of all sizes.



MEET THE PITCH COMPETITION JUDGES





Professor Ibok Oduro
Food Scientist at the Dept. of
Food Science and Technology
KNUST



Dr. Isaac Tweneboah Koduah
Lecturer and Consultant



Dr. Bhavana Singh
Clinician-level
Chief Medical Officer



Dr. Ernest Asamoah
Program Officer for West Africa,
Office of the Vice President
International, University of Toronto



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