



**10th African
Conference on One
Health and Biosecurity**

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**Theme: From Ebola to COVID-19 and Beyond: Strengthening Africa's
Capacity to Address Emerging Global Health Security Threats**

**Lagos, Nigeria
6th- 8th November 2024**

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The 10th African Conference on One Health and Biosecurity is coming up from 6th-8th November 2024. The conference is organized by the Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment Consortium (GET) in collaboration with the Lagos State Ministry of Health.

Africa has witnessed increased spate of infectious outbreaks that threaten its peace, security and economic stability in the last decade. Africa Centre for Disease Control reports nearly 140 infectious diseases outbreak each year. West Africa experienced the deadliest EBOLA outbreak since it was discovered in 1976. Within a year the disease has spread between six countries, causing 11,000 death, 28,600 confirmed cases and economic burden of over \$53 billion. The rapid spread of the outbreaks demonstrated the vulnerability and lack of epidemic preparedness in the region. These devastating experience of EBOLA and other emerging infectious disease outbreaks in African underscore the imminent need for African based scholars, researchers, scientists, experts, and policy makers to come together and devise strategies that will address biosecurity challenges on the continent.

The health security landscape on the continent has witnessed an improvement in last few years. As at March 2020, the first African SARS-CoV-2 genome was sequenced in Nigeria, at the African Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases (ACEGID) in Ede, and heavily mutated Omicron variant was spotted in genome-sequencing data from Botswana and identified by researchers in South Africa. The inequitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccine during COVID-19 outbreak stimulated the development of Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) Framework for Action, which sets the goal of manufacturing 60 percent of Africa's routine immunization needs on the continent by 2040. There is an increased investment in African vaccine manufacturing capacity in recent years as Africa works to safeguard itself against future pandemics and disease outbreaks. Lagos State government with the support of global emerging pathogens treatment consortium (GET) equally made an excellent contribution in prompt surveillance, and real-time evaluation of the situation.

Finally, this year GET Annual biosecurity conference is particularly significant, because it marks the organization's 10 years of continuous support to community, local, national and regional government to achieve improved resources to combat outbreaks and other public health emergencies. The theme of this year conference, "**From Ebola to COVID-19 and Beyond: Strengthening Africa's Capacity to Address Emerging Global Health Security Threats**", is not just gathering of academic discussion and policy round table deliberation but also a reflection of how Africa has been able to navigate public health challenges over the years: lesson learnt and unlearnt, successes and failures. The conference is yet another platform to raise National, Regional and Continental awareness of emerging biosecurity threats and create opportunities to strengthen Health security in Africa.

The conference thematic areas are as follows:

(1) Mitigating biological threats in Africa: with the following sub-themes:

- a. Biosecurity and biosafety in Africa
- b. Bioethics in Africa
- c. Biosecurity and biosafety in Africa: Lessons from COVID-19 and EBOLA
- d. Bioterrorism reduction
- e. Ethical/Regulatory Issues specifically for Africa in relation to biosecurity
- f. Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA)
- g. Economics of biosecurity
- h. Public health crisis management in megacities

(2) Emerging Infectious Diseases as an accelerating phenomenon: with the following sub-themes:

- a. One Health
- b. Infectious disease outbreak preparedness in Africa
- c. Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR).
- d. Clinical trials
- e. Infectious disease burden and trends across Africa (Ebola, Lassa, MERS, Yellow Fever, Pandemic Influenza)
- f. Role of AI in biosecurity threat in Africa

(3) The importance of genomics research in addressing biosecurity threats in Africa: with following sub- theme:

- a. genomics for the management of infectious diseases and epidemics
- b. Precision medicine
- c. Addressing genomics and bioinformatics research gap in Africa
- d. Ethics of genomics

(4) Importance of data in enhancing health security: with following sub-themes:

- a. Data generation and use during health emergencies
- b. Understanding the fifth industrial revolution
- c. Data ethics and governance

(5) Biobanking infrastructure: with the following sub-themes:

- a. Lagos biobank project
- b. Minimum characteristics to establish a Biobanking for EID (Emerging Infectious Disease) specimens in Africa
- c. The economics of biobanking
- d. Biobanking Networks (H3Africa, etc.) and societies (ISBER, ESBB, BBMRI, etc.).

(6) The need for a vaccine strategy for emerging infectious diseases in Africa, with the following sub-themes:

- a. Role of African governments and indigenous vaccine manufacturers in vaccine R&D
- b. Challenges and prospects of vaccine R&D for emerging infectious diseases
- c. Significance of private sector in vaccine production in Africa

(7) The Cultural, Anthropological, Social and Economic Impact of emerging infectious diseases (CASE), with the following sub-themes:

- a. African cultural practices and management of biosecurity threats
- b. Community engagement in the fight against emerging infectious diseases
- c. Ethics and the management of EIDs in Africa
- d. Contextualizing policy approaches and intervention strategies to fit local responses to biosecurity threats in Africa

(8) Other emerging issues with the following sub-themes:

- a. Climate change and biosecurity threats in Africa
- b. Harnessing the digital revolution and digital platforms to advance biosecurity in Africa.
- c. Role of AI and other machine languages in Biosecurity

Guidelines for Abstract Submission

- A 200–300-word electronic abstract must be submitted latest by May 30, 2024.
- Kindly submit your abstract to bobadoyed@getafrica.org
- Specify platform or poster presentation preference. You will be notified of the fate of your submission by June 15, 2024.

Important Dates to note:

- Abstract submission due: May 30, 2024.
- Abstract acceptance notifications: June 15, 2024.

Conference Registration Fees:

The fees cover conference materials, coffee breaks and a lunch buffet.

In-person participants

- **\$50** (Students)
- **\$150** (African delegates)
- **\$250** (Non-African delegates)
- Delegates with accepted abstracts will have a **25%** reduction in their registration fee.

Virtual participants

- **\$100** (African delegates)
- **\$150** (Non-African delegates)