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September 2026 Newsletter

Supporting Research, Education and Global Partnerships at IGHW: Dr Opeyemi O. Babatunde, Deputy Director of the Institute for Global Health and Wellbeing

The IGHW is delighted to recognise the contributions of Dr Opeyemi O. Babatunde (Yemi), who has been serving as Deputy Director of the Institute over the past five months, working with me as the Institute's Director and colleagues across the University to advance Keele's global health agenda and strengthen international partnerships.

Yemi is a Senior Lecturer in Evidence Synthesis and Applied Health Research and Interim Programme Director for the Master of Public Health at Keele University. Prior to her appointment as Deputy Director, Yemi had already been actively involved in supporting a wide range of IGHW activities, including interdisciplinary research development, doctoral and early-career researcher support, knowledge mobilisation, and international partnership building. She has worked closely with colleagues across the University, the NHS, local government, and international partners to create opportunities for collaborative research, capacity strengthening, and real-world impact.

A particular focus of her work has been the development of partnerships that support public health education, doctoral training, research capacity strengthening, and evidence-informed decision-making. Through these activities, she continues to contribute to IGHW's mission of addressing complex health and wellbeing challenges through collaboration, innovation, and applied research.

Yemi's expertise spans global health, multimorbidity, knowledge mobilisation, implementation science and musculoskeletal health. Through her research and leadership, she works to strengthen the generation, translation and application of evidence to improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities locally and globally.

This aligns closely with Keele University's ambition to deliver research and education that generate meaningful societal impact and strengthen global engagement through partnership and collaboration. As one of the University's flagship interdisciplinary institutes, IGHW brings together researchers, educators, practitioners, communities and policymakers to address local and global health challenges and translate knowledge into action.

Reflecting on her role, Yemi said:

"IGHW provides a unique platform for researchers, educators, practitioners and partners to come together around shared challenges and opportunities. I am delighted to contribute to this work and to support colleagues and students whose research, scholarship and engagement activities are making a meaningful difference to communities, health systems and policy."

Looking ahead, Yemi will continue to support the development of interdisciplinary collaborations, strategic partnerships and innovative educational and research initiatives that extend the reach and influence of IGHW. Together with colleagues across Keele and partners worldwide, she is committed to strengthening the Institute's contribution to research excellence, global engagement and societal impact.

Professor Priya Paudyal Director, Institute for Global Health and Wellbeing

Sustained JIGSAW-A Impact in Nigeria: Pharmacists Lead Osteoarthritis Awareness Activities

*An update from **Opeyemi Babatunde**, Interim Program Director Master of Public Health, Deputy Director: Institute for Global Health and Wellbeing*

I wanted to share a wonderful example of the ongoing impact and sustainability of the JIGSAW-A pilot work in Nigeria.

Following completion of the JIGSAW-A pilot, 2 years on, local stakeholders and implementing partners have continued to champion osteoarthritis awareness and knowledge mobilisation activities independently. As part of the 2026 Oyo State Pharmacy Week celebrations, the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (Oyo State Branch) organised a "Walk Against Osteoarthritis" in Ibadan, with JIGSAW-A educational materials and pamphlets being distributed throughout the community.

Dr Oladapo Adetunji and colleagues have informed us that the JIGSAW-A flyers originally developed during the project have been adopted and used for public awareness activities across Ibadan, including distribution to residents along the Ring Road community route during the awareness walk. These activities were entirely led and supported locally, demonstrating continued ownership and commitment by our implementation partners following the conclusion of the pilot.

In addition, WAFERs recently organised a complementary osteoarthritis awareness day for older adults within the community. The event focused on supporting self-management, with JIGSAW-A leaflets being used as key educational resources. This further demonstrates how the project resources continue to be utilised to support community engagement, patient education and wider dissemination of evidence-based osteoarthritis care messages.

These activities are particularly encouraging examples of how the project has continued to generate community engagement and public awareness beyond the funded research period. They highlight the strength of the partnerships established through JIGSAW-A and the lasting contribution of the team's work.

I have now received and attached a few photographs footage from the Pharmacy Week activities. Given the clear demonstration of real-world impact and sustained use of JIGSAW-A resources, it may be worth exploring whether we could develop a short impact story or news feature for the Keele website and knowledge exchange channels.

The fact that these activities are continuing independently of the original research team, are being led by local partners, and are making use of JIGSAW-A educational resources several years after the pilot provides a tangible example of sustainability, reach and knowledge mobilisation beyond the funded study. Together with the WAFERs community engagement activities, these materials may contribute useful corroborating evidence for future impact case study development and scale-up funding.

Congratulations and sincere thanks to our Nigerian collaborators for continuing to promote osteoarthritis awareness and maintaining the momentum generated by JIGSAW-A.



**PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY
OF NIGERIA (PSN)
OYO STATE CHAPTER**

**WORLD PHARMACISTS DAY
& AWARD NIGHT 2026**

EVENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
FRIDAY 18-9-2026	JUMAH SERVICE	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	AJIMOBİ MOSQUE, OKE ADO
SATURDAY 19-9-2026	HEALTH WALK AGAINST OSTEOARTHRITIS	7:00 AM - 11:00 AM	PHARMACY HOUSE
	LOCAL + DIGITAL GAMES	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	
TUESDAY 22-9-2026	PRESS CONFERENCE	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	PHARMACY HOUSE
WEDNESDAY 23-9-2026	BUSINESS INVESTMENT SEMINAR	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	MALUVE 21 EVENT CENTRE, IBADAN
	PHARMACY WEEK OPENING CEREMONY	12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	
THURSDAY 24-9-2026	SECONDARY SCHOOL DEBATE	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	MALUVE 21 EVENT CENTRE, IBADAN
	GROUP DYNAMICS	11:30 AM - 4:00 PM	
FRIDAY 25-9-2026	MEDICAL OUTREACH	6:30 AM - 10:00 AM	OLUBADAN PALACE
	DINNER & AWARD NIGHT	2:00 PM - 8:00 PM	
SUNDAY 27-9-2026	THANKSGIVING SERVICE	10:00 AM	RCCG REGION 42 HQ, OKE BOLA

#PSNOYOWORLDPHARMACISTS DAY2026





AUTOMATE Project plays prominent role in the Tropical Institute for Community Health and Development (TICH) Annual Scientific Conference 2026, Kisumu, Kenya

Plenary session on 11th September 2026: Digital Transformation and Innovation for Health and Development for Measurable Change towards the 2030 Goals

As the world moves closer to the Health for All (HFA) 2028 milestone, the 50th anniversary of the Alma-Ata Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 deadline, there is a need for more practical, evidence-based, locally generated solutions. In this context, the 18th TICH Annual Scientific Conference (TASC) brought together Governments, Training Institutions, Faith-Based Organisations, the private sector, NGOs and development partners to reflect on and showcase innovative, community-led solutions and their potential to accelerate progress towards the 2030 goals. The Conference provided an important platform for stakeholders to take stock of progress, share evidence and experiences, identify practical gaps, and define transformative actions that can be implemented using the resources, knowledge and innovations already available within communities and institutions.



Among the total of six subthemes of the conference, one subtheme, *“Digital Transformation and Innovation for Health and Development for Measurable Change towards the 2030 Goals”* was specifically dedicated to the AUTOMATE project. The objectives of the project are to establish current capacity to use data and evidence for healthcare decisions, using COVID-19 and maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) as illustrations; develop intelligent data analytics and visualisation tools to facilitate data access, interpretation and use; and assess the

feasibility of digitalising healthcare data for timely MNCH decisions. Keynote speeches were delivered by two members of the AUTOMATE team, Professor Monica Magadi (Keele University), and Professor Yongqiang Cheng (University of Sunderland). These speeches focused on the feasibility and effectiveness of digital interventions to harness routinely collected health data for healthcare decision making and the development of a Maternal Analytics System to transform routine maternal health data into trusted analytical information for evidence-based healthcare management and decision-making. The keynote presentations highlighted that while digitalisation can support timely decision-making, critical factors affecting implementation and use of data need to be addressed early.





The paper presentations session showcased evidence from illustrative analysis and mixed methods research on assessing the capacity to digitise health facility data, analyse and use for decision-making.



Presentations were followed by round table discussions. These discussions addressed the need to digitise routinely collected data, especially organic data that can be used to plan interventions as well as the potential for this digital health data to be used to improve healthcare. In Kenya, many systems are currently manual or hybrid, however, there is a great opportunity to improve from manual to fully digitised data systems. The AUTOMATE project is building the capacities of Health records information officers to digitise analyze and generate evidence for timely decision making. AI has the potential to be used as a supportive tool by providing predictive analytics.



Questions from the audience around data security were also fielded during the round table discussions. These concluded that personal data can remain secure when digitisation is supported by strong data protection frameworks, ethical oversight, and robust governance mechanisms; data access and use should comply with approved ethical standards and national regulations; and working closely with government institutions helps to ensure privacy and security. In Kenya, robust data governance policies provide safeguards for responsible data management and use.

Furthermore, to safeguard privacy in digital health systems, unique identifiers can be used instead of personal information to enable anonymous data management. However, digitisation may pose risks such as loss of privacy, misinformation, and blurred distinctions between real and virtual environments. Strong authentication mechanisms, clear data security guidelines, and strict adherence to patient confidentiality are essential to ensure the safe and ethical use of digital health data.

Capacity building sessions on Better Decision-Making Using Routine Health Data.

Routine health systems generate large amounts of data every day, but collecting and reporting this data does not automatically translate into using it for decision-making.

In August and September 2026, the AUTOMATE Project team trained 25 data officers and managers in Siaya and Kisumu Counties on '*Applied Data Science for Integrated Decision Support*' prior to and during TASC. The aim of the training was to move data teams from reporting on what has happened, to using routine health data to anticipate what may happen next and support preparedness at the health facility, sub-county, and county levels.





Participants worked in Python using ANC and maternity datasets and learned how to prepare and check data, integrate multiple datasets, formulate a prediction problem, build and evaluate predictive models, and translate results, eventually creating decision-support information for management action.

Moving forward, the AUTOMATE project team will continue engaging the data teams for further capacity building on advanced visualizations being piloted in November 2026 using tools developed during the project.

Project partners and funding (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/global-health>)



Funding Acknowledgement:

This research was funded by the NIHR (NIHR157653) using UK international development funding from the UK Government to support global health research. The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NIHR or the UK Government

Key Dates!

*The first IGHW webinar "From Evidence to Action: Knowledge Mobilisation and Implementation in Global Health" will take place on **Wednesday 18 November 2026, 12:30-2:00pm** on Teams. An agenda and further details will be shared shortly. Please use the registration link to confirm your attendance [Institute for Global Health and Wellbeing webinar series – Fill out form](#)*

"Spotlight on"...Lena Acolatse

Lena is a public health nutrition researcher with over a decade of international experience conducting and leading research across the UK and low and middle-income countries. Her research interests are in child nutrition, food environments, food choice, health behaviours, and the development and evaluation of evidence-based interventions to improve health and nutrition outcomes. Lena joined Keele University in June 2026 as a research associate on the tizaa bini project (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/tizaa-bini/>) and teaching fellow in Public and Global Health.

Lena holds a PhD in Nutrition from Ulster University, where she was a Vice Chancellor's Research Scholar. Her doctoral research investigated portion-size behaviours among children using a combination of national dietary data analysis, experimental research, and survey methods. This work developed her expertise in quantitative research, experimental study design, data analysis, and the translation of research findings into practical implications for child nutrition.

Her subsequent research has spanned a range of interdisciplinary and international projects. At the University of Leeds, she contributed to research investigating food environments, food choice, and behavioural interventions, including a multi-phase mixed-methods study examining the school food environment in Lusaka, Zambia. She has also contributed to research exploring nutrition's impact on epigenetic expression, child cognitive development and health under the Medical Research Council at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in The Gambia.

Lena has extensive experience in qualitative and quantitative research, evidence synthesis, field research, and research project coordination. Her qualitative research experience includes conducting interviews and focus group discussions, developing and applying research tools, coding and analysing qualitative data, and engaging diverse stakeholders to understand the social, cultural, and contextual factors influencing health and nutrition behaviours.

A key feature of Lena's research is her commitment to interdisciplinary and participatory approaches. She has worked collaboratively with universities, government agencies, NGOs, international organisations, schools, community organisations, and other stakeholders across different cultural and socioeconomic settings. Her research has involved working directly with all players in the agri-nutrition nexus and school food provision including: farmers, caterers, children, teachers, health and education professionals, and community members, with an emphasis on ensuring that research is contextually relevant and capable of informing policy and practice.

Lena is also an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and teaches nutrition, food science, public health and related subjects at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She has mentored undergraduate and postgraduate students, supported international students undertaking research placements, and delivered training and seminars to researchers, field staff, teachers, and other stakeholders.

Lena has disseminated her research through peer-reviewed publications, international conferences, stakeholder meetings, presentations, and public engagement activities. She is particularly interested in translating research evidence into practical approaches that can inform public health policy, programme development, and community-centred interventions, with the goal of improving health and nutrition outcomes for children, families and communities as a whole.



Global Health Research equity and inclusion toolkit

[Global Health Research equity and inclusion toolkit | NIHR](#)

New IGHW website and call for publications

Our new website is now live! Please take a look [HERE](#)

We have seven key research themes for which we would like to invite you to share your publications underneath. The themes are:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Infectious Diseases
- Maternal, Child and Adolescence Health
- Climate and Health
- Non-communicable Diseases
- Primary Care
- Health Policy and Systems

Please forward your publications to: IGHW@keele.ac.uk

About the Institute for Global Health and Wellbeing

The Institute for Global Health and Wellbeing is one of Keele University's flagship institutes. Our aim is to address global health disparities and improve the health and well-being of the most vulnerable populations in resource poor settings. We conduct high quality interdisciplinary and innovative research in number of global health areas including mental health, infectious diseases, primary care, maternal child and adolescent health, non-communicable diseases, and climate and health. Our current research projects are supported by funding from GCRF, AHRC, MRC and NIHR. We are currently working on a number of global health projects with interdisciplinary teams in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Ethiopia, Malawi and India.

If you would like to stay connected with the IGHW community and activities, please complete this brief [FORM](#)

Please visit the Institute webpage [here](#) for further details.

Contact Us

Email us at: IGHW@keele.ac.uk

Visit us on the web at [HERE](#)

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