



REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS FELLOWSHIP

**Mentorship and Capacity Strengthening for High Impact
Research and Career Growth**



Dates: 28th – 30th January 2026

Venue: University of Ghana

In partnership with



WORKSHOP SPEAKERS AND FACILITATORS



Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo
Vice Chair to the ARUA Board
and Vice Chancellor, University
of Ghana



Professor John O. Gyapong
Secretary General, ARUA



Dr. Folashade Soule
Mastercard Foundation



Prof. Gordon Awandare
Pro-Vice Chancellor,
Academic and Student
Affairs, University of Ghana



Prof. Jane Tanner
CoE for Energy
Rhodes University



Prof. Fred Bukachi
Director, CoE for Non-
Communicable Diseases,
University of Nairobi



Prof. Frans Swanepoel
Director, CoE for
Sustainable Food Systems,
University of Pretoria



Prof. Sunday Adebisi,
Director, CoE for
Unemployment & Skills
Development, University of Lagos



Prof. David Dodoo-Arhin
Director, Research and
Innovation Directorate,
University of Ghana



Emerita Prof. Takyiwa Manuh
Ghana Academy of Arts and
Sciences



Emerita Prof. Yaa Ntiamoa-Baidu
Board Chair, Millennium
Development Authority, Ghana



Prof. Margaret O. Gyapong
University of Health & Allied
Sciences, Ghana



Prof. Evelyn Korkor Ansah
University of Health
& Allied Sciences



Prof. Peter Quartey
Director LECIAD,
University of Ghana



Fidelis E. Y. Anunu
Research Manager
University of Health &
Allied Sciences, Ghana



Prof. Jane Ambuko
Director of Research
& Training, ARUA



Dr. Emmanuel Abbey
Consultant, ARUA
Secretariat



Dr. Emmanuel Adu-Danso
Consultant, ARUA
Secretariat



Mrs. Ewuraba Addo
Program Manager,
Research & Research
Management



Ms. Gladys Beryl Brew
Programme Manager
Research & Training



Dr. Blessed Ashmond
Executive Assistant to
the Secretary General

DAY ONE - 28TH JANUARY 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	
8.00 AM	Bus Departs Hotel for University of Ghana Campus	
8.30 – 9.00 AM	Registration (Facilitated by the ARUA Secretariat)	
9.00 – 10.00 AM	WORKSHOP OPENING SESSION	Opening/Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof John Gyapong (Secretary General ARUA) • Dr. Folashade Soule (Representative of the Mastercard Foundation) • Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo (Vice Chair to the ARUA Board and Vice Chancellor, University of Ghana) – Officially open the workshop
		Scene Setting (Prof. Jane Ambuko and Dr. Emmanuel Abbey) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop objectives • Expected outcomes • Participant expectations
GROUP PHOTO		

WORKSHOP/TRAINING SESSIONS

TIME	TOPIC	FACILITATOR
10.00– 10.30 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unpacking the African Union's Agenda 2063 and link to ARUA's Mission and Vision Research to drive socio-economic transformation in Africa • Brief about ARUA Centers of Excellence and Clusters of Research Excellence 	Prof. John Gyapong Dr. Emmanuel Abbey/Dr. Emmanuel Danso
10.30 – 11.00 AM	HEALTH BREAK	
11.00 – 12.00 N	Proposal Development (Theory) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the call for proposals • Defining the research problem and SMART objectives • Developing a theory of change and a conceptual framework 	Prof. Jane Tanner
12.00 – 1.00 PM	Introduction to active Calls for Proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual/small grants • (e.g. IFS, TWAS, Social Science Research Council) • Large multi-disciplinary grants • (e.g EU Horizon, Grand Challenge grants, Wellcome Trust, ANH Academy grants) 	

1.00 – 2.00 PM	LUNCH BREAK	
2.00 – 3.30 PM	Proposal Development (Practical: groupwork in practical in multi-disciplinary teams) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the call for proposals Defining the research problem and SMART objectives Developing a concept note for various calls Interdisciplinary-Transdisciplinary- Multidisciplinary Approach to Research 	All ECR in break-out sessions facilitated by CoE Directors and Mentors
3.30 – 4.00 PM	HEALTH BREAK	
4.00 – 6.00 PM	Moderated Panel Discussion Discussion topic: 'Scaling the Heights in Academia and Research – Lessons for Early Career Researchers' Subtopics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From PhD to Impact: Navigating the Early Career Maze Building a career, not just a CV Making your research count: from citation scores to visibility for impact 	Moderators: Prof. Evelyn Korkor Ansah and Prof. John Gyapong Panelists <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Emerita Prof. Yaa Ntiamoa-Baidu Emerita Prof. Takyiwaa Manuh Prof. Margaret Gyapong Prof. Peter Quartey
6.00 – 7.00 PM	NETWORKING COCKTAIL	
7.30 PM	Bus Departs University of Ghana Campus for Hotel	

DAY 2 - 29TH JANUARY 2026

8.30 AM	Bus Departs Hotel for University of Ghana Campus	
9.00 – 10.00 AM	Career Road Map for Early Career Researchers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying your research purpose • Advancing your career in line with your research purpose – what do I need to get to where I want to be? • What does success/progress look like – short term, medium term, long term 	Prof Jane Ambuko
10.00 – 11.00 AM	GROUP PRESENTATIONS – Group Concepts Notes	
11.00 – 11.30AM	HEALTH BREAK	
11.30 – 1.00 PM	Collaboration, Networking and partnership building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of building partnerships and collaboratives • Mapping key stakeholders and partners in research • Leveraging ARUA centers of excellence and CoREs in member universities • South-South versus South-North collaboration models and lessons 	Prof Frans Swanepoel
1.00 – 2.00 PM	LUNCH BREAK	
2.00 – 3.00 PM	Exploring Funding Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Categories of funding • Getting to know the funder – matching your research interests to the funder's objectives/goals • Strategizing for winning grants – what is the 'IT FACTOR' for the funder? • Common pitfalls in funding applications 	Mr. Fidelis Anumu
3.00 – 4.00 PM	Writing for Visibility & Career Advancement (Theory) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing for various target groups • Journal targeting • Non-academic writing for the public • Pitching your research ideas to different audiences 	Prof. Gordon Awandare
4.00 – 4.30 PM	HEALTH BREAK	
4.30 – 5.30 PM	Practical Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing for Visibility & Career Advancement • Pitching your research ideas to research funders/donors, private sector/investors 	All ECR in break-out sessions facilitated by CoE Directors and Mentors
6.00 PM	Bus Departs University of Ghana Campus for Hotel	

DAY 3 - 30TH JANUARY 2026

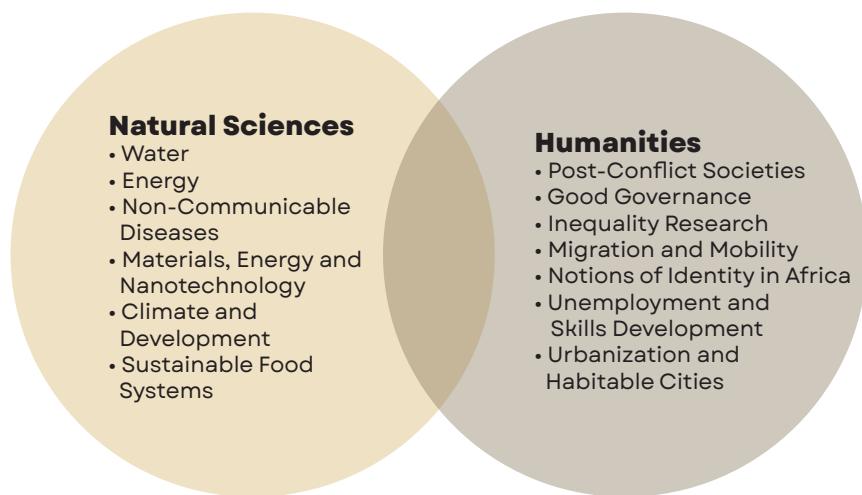
8.30 AM	Bus Departs Hotel for University of Ghana Campus	
9.00– 10.00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITCHING (Group Concept Notes) • Presentation of Purpose Road Maps 	Prof. Jane Ambuko
10.00 – 11.00AM	Gender responsive research approaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does gender responsive research mean? (Debanking the assumptions, myths and misconceptions) • Integrating gender aspects in research design and methodology • Gender responsive research translation 	Prof. Margaret Gyapong
11.00 – 11.30AM	HEALTH BREAK	
11.30 – 12.30PM	Research translation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding research translation and why it is important • Mapping the end users of your research • From research to policy and impact 	Prof. David Dodoo-Arhin
12.30 – 1.30 PM	Intellectual Property and Research commercialization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ABCs (fundamentals) of intellectual property • How can researchers protect their IP without slowing research and/or commercialization? • From the Lab to Market/End Users: Commercialization Pathways 	Prof. Sunday Adebiyi
1.30 – 2.00 PM	AWARD OF CERTIFICATES AND CLOSING	
2.00 – 3.00 PM	LUNCH	
3.30 PM	Bus Departs University of Ghana Campus for Hotel/Airport	

ARUA EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS - COHORT 1 (2025/2026)

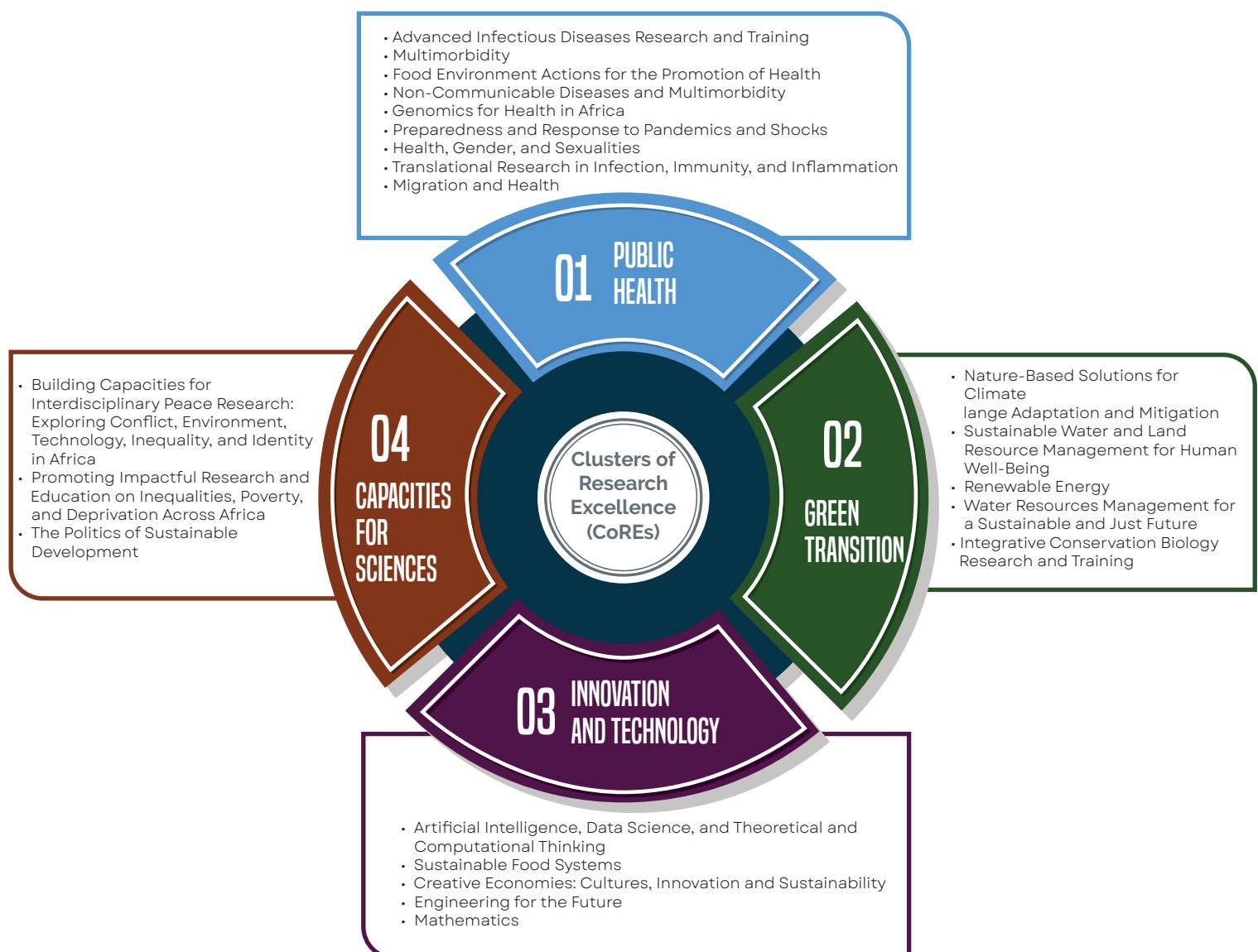
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE	NAME/TITLE	HOME UNIVERSITY	HOST UNIVERSITY
Water	1. Dr. Saeed Ibn Idris Kofi Yeboah	University of Energy and Natural Resources, Ghana	Rhodes University
Migration and Mobility	2. Dr. Belinda Chepchumba Rop	University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	University of Witswatersrand
Post-Conflict Societies	3. Dr. Darlington Tshuma	Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome, Italy	Addis Ababa University
	4. Dr. Alemayehu Erkikhun Engida	Wollo University, Ethiopia	Addis Ababa University
	5. Dr. Grace Oluwatoyin Oladunni	University of Ibadan, Nigeria	Addis Ababa University
Sustainable Food Systems	6. Dr. Adetoun Alaba Akitoye	University of Lagos, Nigeria	University of Pretoria
	7. Dr. Ruth Lorivi Moirana	Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Tanzania	University of Pretoria
	8. Dr. Francisca Adoma Acheampong	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana	University of Pretoria
	9. Dr. Fawziyah Oyefunke Olarinoye	University of Energy and Natural Resources, Ghana	University of Pretoria
	10. Dr. Elodie Dimon	Université de Parakou, Benin	University of Pretoria
	11. Dr. Qhelile Ntombikayise Bhebhe	University of the Western Cape, South Africa	University of Pretoria
Materials, Energy and Nanotechnology	12. Dr. Mwende Mbilo	University of Nairobi, Kenya	University of Witswatersrand
	13. Dr. Tunde Lewis Yusuf	University of Pretoria, South Africa	University of Lagos
	14. Dr. Denis Mutebi	Makerere University, Uganda	University of Nairobi
	15. Dr. Toleshi Teshome Ketema	Bonga University, Ethiopia	University of Witswatersrand
	16. Dr. Casiana Blasius Lwiwa	University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	University of Pretoria
Good Governance	17. Dr. Dedan Luvaga Limanye	Pan African University, Yaounde, Cameroon	Addis Ababa University
African Centre of Excellence for Inequality Research (ACEIR)	18. Dr. Annif' Akem Fiennasah	University of Dschang, Cameroon	University of Cape Town
	19. Dr. Susan Wambui Kamundia	University of Cape Town, South Africa	University of Nairobi

Unemployment and Skills Development	20. Dr. Emmanuel Ameyaw	University of Ghana, Ghana	University of Lagos
	21. Dr. Cynthia Mwende Mwau	University of Nairobi, Kenya	University of Lagos
Urbanization and Habitable Cities	22. Dr. Hervé Nenghem Takam	University of Dschang' Cameroon	University of Lagos
	23. Dr. Precious Joan Wapukha	Kibabii University, Kenya	University of Lagos
Notions of Identity	24. Dr. Kemi Rebecca Kehinde	Anchor University, Lagos	Makerere University
	25. Dr. Palesa Rose Nqambaza-Lebea	University of Witswatersrand	Makerere University
	26. Kgomotso Jackson Phillip Sebola	University of Pretoria	Makerere University
Non-Communicable Diseases	27. Dr. Onyekachi Ewa Ibe	Ebonyi State University, Nigeria	University of Nairobi
	28. Dr. Mujittapha Umar Sirajo	Federal University of Health Sciences, Nigeria	University of Nairobi
Climate and Development	29. Dr. Rapheal Wangalwa	Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda	University of Nairobi
	30. Dr. Janet Appiah Osei	Abdou Moumouni University, Niger	University of Ghana
	31. Dr. Osariemen Irabor Omoruyi Aigbovo	University of Benin, Nigeria	University of Cape Town
	32. Dr. Ntombifuthi Precious Nzimande	University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa	University of Nairobi
	33. Dr. Kundani Makakavhule	University of Pretoria, South Africa	University of Ghana
	34. Dr. Dorothy Khasisi Lukhabi	University of Cape Coast, Ghana	University of Ghana
	35. Dr. Ravaka Felandranja Andriatsitohanina	University of Toamasina, Madagascar	University of Ghana
Urbanization and Habitable Cities	36. Dr. Steve Ngoy Kabemba	University of Cape Town	University of Lagos
	37. Dr. Williams Appau Miller	University of Business and Integrated Development Studies, Ghana	University of Lagos
Energy	38. Dr. Cosmas Raymond Mutugi Kiruki	University of Nairobi, Kenya	Stellenbosch University
Materials, Energy and Habitable Cities	39. Dr. Mildred Awuor Airo	Maseno University, Kenya	University of Witswatersrand

ARUA CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE (13)



AFRICA-EUROPE CLUSTERS OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE (22)



ARUA Universities

Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
 University of Ghana, Ghana
 University of Cape Town, South Africa
 Makerere University, Uganda
 Rhodes University, South Africa
 Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Ghana

University of Cape Coast, Ghana
 University of Ibadan, Nigeria
 University of Nairobi, Kenya
 Stellenbosch University, South Africa
 University of Lagos, Nigeria
 University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
 Université Mohammed VI Polytechnique, Morocco

Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal
 University of Rwanda, Rwanda
 University of Pretoria, South Africa
 University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
 University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
 University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Nigeria
 Université de Kinshasa, D. R. Congo (Associate Member)
 University of Mauritius, Mauritius (Associate Member)
 Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique (Associate Member)