



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 Ntiemoa-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. Anumu
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

ARUA SECRETARIAT SUPPORT



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 objectivesExpected outcomesParticipant expectations |
| | GROUP PHOTO | |
| WORKSHOP/TRAINING SESSIONS | | |
| TIME | TOPIC | FACILITATOR |
| 10.00– 10.30 AM | Unpacking the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and link to ARUA’s Mission and Vision Research to drive socio-economic transformation in Africa | Prof. John Gyapong |
| | Brief about ARUA Centers of Excellence and Clusters of Research Excellence | Dr. Emmanuel Abbey/Dr. Emmanuel Danso |
| 10.30 – 11.00AM | HEALTH BREAK | |
| 11.00 – 12.00 N | Proposal Development (Theory) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Understanding the call for proposalsDefining the research problem and SMART objectivesDeveloping 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) | Prof. Fred Bukachi |

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| 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"> 1. Emerita Prof. Yaa Ntiamoa-Baidu 2. Emerita Prof. Takyiwaa Manuh 3. Prof. Margaret Gyapong 4. 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 – 11.30 AM | 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

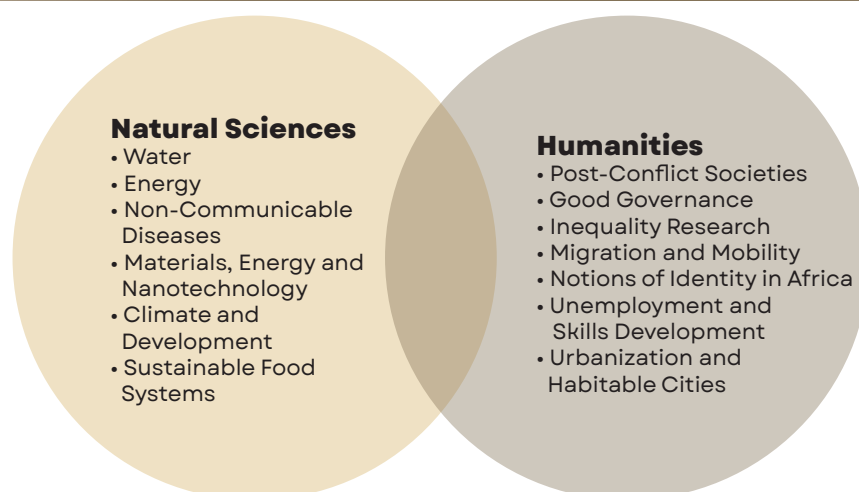
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|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 8.30 AM | Bus Departs Hotel for University of Ghana Campus | |
| 9.00– 10.00 AM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PITCHING (Group Concept Notes) • Presentation of Purpose Road Maps | Prof. 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 Adebisi |
| 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)

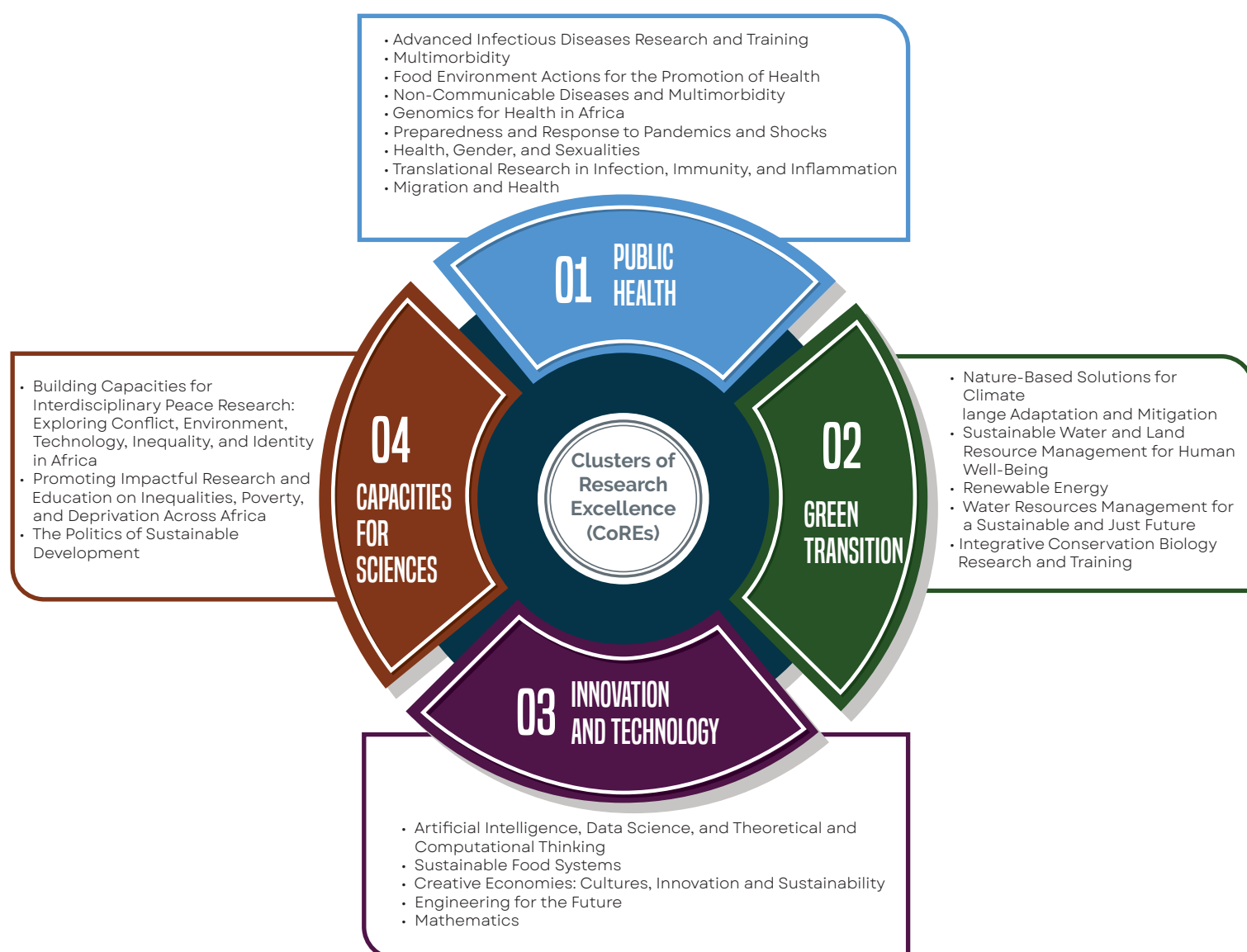
| CENTER OF EXCELLENCE | NAME/TITLE | HOME UNIVERSITY | HOST UNIVERSITY |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Water | 1. Dr. Saeed Ibn Idris Kofi Yeboah | University of Energy and Natural Resources, Ghana | Rhodes University |
| Migration and Mobility | 2. Dr. 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 Erkihun 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 |

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|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| 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)