



AFRICAN VOICES OF SCIENCE (AVoS)

AMPLIFYING AFRICAN HEALTH-RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

African Voices of Science (AvoS) is an initiative that aims to amplify the voices of African health research specialists to drive continental policy and financing goals for research, development and Innovation (RD&I) in Africa. Powered by Speak Up Africa, the initiative provides the visibility, credibility, and platforms needed for African expertise to shape global health priorities.

Established in 2020, AVoS brings together leading scientists, researchers, and policy advocates from across the continent to amplify African perspectives, influence policy, and drive investment in African-led health solutions. By elevating African expertise in global health discussions, AVoS seeks to improve health outcomes, bolster Africa's health security, and unlock the continent's vast economic potential in the health sector.

African health research leaders remain drastically underrepresented in discussions on health emergencies, technological innovations, and the need for more inclusive, locally relevant solutions, where outside Africa voices and other major global health organizations dominate these conversations.

African voices make up less than 5% of global health RD&I discussions in traditional and social media. Subsequently, voices from outside Africa dominate over 95% of the coverage.

If African scientists gain visibility —> then policymakers recognize local expertise —> which leads to stronger policy shifts and investments in RD&I —> resulting in improved health outcomes and innovation ecosystems.

To strategically re-position African voices in science for improved health systems for all, Speak Up Africa developed the AVoS initiative.

ABOUT THE AFRICAN VOICES OF SCIENCE INITIATIVE

THE PILOT PHASE

AVoS Phase I was implemented from 2020-2021 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on providing a platform for trusted African science leaders to share reliable information on research and development and health innovations, at a time when there was widespread misinformation that undermined public health responses and exposed structural gaps in Africa's science communication. Bringing together scientists from diverse countries AVoS amplified credible African voices that challenged myths, restored public trust, and positioned African expertise at the forefront of the pandemic response—demonstrating that when given platforms and support, African scientists can shape narratives, influence policy, and strengthen long-term trust in science.



Supported 18 key African scientists and public health specialists to provide important health information to the media ranging from the creation of COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and diagnostics, to developing new infectious disease research.



Secured 29 pieces of media including BBC Afrique, Jeune Afrique, the East African and TV5 Monde to top-tier national outlets like KTN News, The Nation, and SABC with a cumulative reach of over 500M per month.



Engage 4 countries: Senegal, South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya.



Reached 21,350 people with messages on social media via #AfricanVoicesofScience.

THE SECOND EDITION OF AFRICAN VOICES OF SCIENCE INITIATIVE (AVoS)

The second edition brings together leading African health research champions from Kenya, South Africa, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire to advocate for a more favorable policy environment and increased investment in African-led health RD&I solutions. By amplifying African perspectives in global health discussions, AVoS aims to improve the health outcomes of the continent whilst unlocking its significant economic potential in the health sector. AVoS supports the African Union's vision for health sovereignty and aligns with the SDGs by advocating for African-led research to inform continental and global health policies.

AVoS II CHAMPIONS





DR. RAYMONDE GOUDOU COFFIE *Minister, Governor of the Autonomous District of Lacs*



DR. DAVID TEA OKOU

Clinical Molecular Geneticist, Molecular Biologiste, Research Investigator
& Scientific Consultant, Founder of YTO



DR. CHRISTIAN RUSANGWA *Director of Technical Assistance at Muso*



DR. JAURÈS YAPIMedical microbiologist and Deputy Head of the National Salmonella Reference Center, Pasteur Institute



DR. SAFIATOU COULIBALY

Coordinator of the Genetics and Cancer Laboratory at the Pasteur Institute





PROF. THUMBI NDUNG'U

Director for Basic and Translational Science at AHRI, Provost's Visiting

Professor of HIV Virology and Immunology at Imperial College London



MR. JOHNPAUL OMOLLO
Public Health Professional and Health Policy Strategist



MRS. JULIE MURIUKI
Champion for Economic Empowerment, Gender Mainstreaming
Advocate, Adjunct Facilitator and Consultant at Nia Delta



DR. ROBERT KARANJAFounder and Executive Director, Biolinx Africa



DR. LISA MICHENISenior Lecturer Medical Microbiologist, Pwani University





DR. MOUSSA SARR

Principal Investigator and Head of the Cooperation Group at the Institute for Health Research, Epidemiological Surveillance and Training (IRESSEF)



PROF. COUMBA TOURÉ KANE

Researcher in microbiology and virology, specialized in infectious diseases (HIV, hepatitis, and COVID-19), Professor at Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar



MRS. MARIÈME GUEYE

Researcher in Biofabrication and Regenerative Medicine at the University Medical Center Utrecht



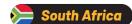
PR. ANTA TAL-DIA

Pediatrician, Full Professor of Public Health (ER)/FMPO/UCAD Full Member of the National Academy of Sciences and Techniques



DR. BABACAR GUEYE

Director of Planning, Research and Statistics, Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene





MRS. GLAUDINA LOOTS

Director for Health Innovation, Department of Science and Innovation



DR. NOTHANDO NGWENYA

Head of social science and research ethics, Africa Health Research Institute



PR. NTOBEKO NTUSI

President & CEO, South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)



DR. RUSSELL RENSBURG

Director of RHAP (Rural Health Advocacy project); Health activist working towards equitable access to quality health care for rural communities

ABOUT SPEAK UP AFRICA

We are an African-led, Africa-based organization working with leaders and change-makers in Africa and beyond to solve our continent's pressing sustainable development challenges.

We convene, enable and advocate. Focusing on strategic communications, policy and advocacy, we are dedicated to supporting African leaders and citizens to take an active role in identifying and developing solutions to tackle the challenges facing our continent including malaria, NTDs, immunization, sanitation, gender equality and global health research and development (R&D).