



Issue No. 8 | July 2020

## TUM.Africa Newsletter

### Latest news on TUM.Africa

#### New contact for Africa relations at TUM

Katharina Deichsel is the most recent team member of the TUM Global & Alumni Office. In her role as Senior International Strategist TUM.Africa, her portfolio focuses on TUM activities in Africa, especially the strategic partnership with KNUST in Ghana. Please feel free to contact her directly should you have any enquiries.

Contact: Katharina Deichsel, [deichsel@zv.tum.de](mailto:deichsel@zv.tum.de)



*Katharina Deichsel, new TUM Senior International Strategist at the TUM G&A Office, is looking forward to hearing from you regarding all things Africa.*  
Photo: TUM

#### New Vice-Chancellor at KNUST

Professor Rita Akosua Dickson has been appointed as the new Vice-Chancellor of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. Until her appointment, Professor Dickson, a professor of Pharmacognosy, was the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the university. She is the first female Vice-Chancellor of KNUST. [Read more on the KNUST website](#)



*Congratulations to Professor Rita Akosua Dickson.*  
Photo: KNUST

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## First digital TUM.Africa Round Table

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Due to the current situation, TUM.Africa held its first digital Round Table ever, addressing 20 ongoing and future partnership projects with KNUST in Ghana. With more than 40 TUM participants from various disciplines, the online event successfully promoted interfaculty networking and information exchange at TUM. The TUM Global & Alumni Office will continue to offer the digital Round Table format in the future. Interested parties are most welcome to contribute.

Contact: Katharina Deichsel, [deichsel@zv.tum.de](mailto:deichsel@zv.tum.de)

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## Erasmus+ funding continued

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TUM has been successful again in the application for Erasmus+ funding and therefore will be able to fund student and staff mobility between KNUST and TUM throughout 2021.

The next application round will start in fall 2020. Please check the G&A Office's websites for further information on [teaching opportunities](#) as well as [training mobility opportunities](#) for TUM staff in Africa.



*Visit KNUST in the framework of a staff mobility funded through the Erasmus+ program.*

Photo: Dominik Beisser / TUM

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## Start of TUM.SEED Center

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The DAAD project entitled Center for Sustainable Energies and Entrepreneurship in the Global South has started in January 2020 and will involve multiple chairs and departments of TUM and a network of several universities in Asia, Latin America – and Africa, including KNUST. It has currently evolved into the [TUM SEED Center](#), which coordinates multiple cross-disciplinary activities and scholarships. The Center is currently seeking seven excellent students from the Global South, who will receive DAAD doctoral scholarships for conducting research.

Contact: Prof. Dr. Frank-Martin Belz, [frank.belz@tum.de](mailto:frank.belz@tum.de)

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## TUM Brussels webinar on EU-Africa cooperation in October 2020

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With its new EU-Africa strategy, the European Commission paved the way for a stronger and more ambitious partnership with the African continent in March 2020.

In an 1.5-hour webinar on **October 26, 2020** from 10 to 11:30 a.m., TUM Brussels liaison officer Valerie Schegk will give insights on what the strategy includes, what it means for research collaborations with African partners, and how international cooperation looks like in the current and future European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

[Please register here](#)



*You are most welcome to join the webinar of TUM Brussels liaison officer Valerie Schegk.*

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## New TUM.Africa brochure

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Learn about recent KNUST-TUM activities in our new partnership brochure and get a colorful picture of the successful cooperation between the two leading research institutions.

[Read the brochure online at the TUM Global & Alumni Office website](#)



*Our new brochure highlights the wide variety of KNUST-TUM cooperations.*

## Recent TUM activities in Africa

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### Research networks for health innovation in sub-Saharan Africa

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The research networks for health innovation in sub-Saharan Africa represent one of the four funding pillars of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research's (BMBF) Global Health research aim (2016-2021) and brings together the expertise of five large health networks that operate in 14 sub-Saharan African countries from grassroots to ministerial level, spanning 38 African and German institutions. The Global Health (GH) topics include emerging infectious diseases, neglected tropical diseases, tuberculosis, and non-communicable disease with the overarching topics of One Health, digital health, and policy generation.



*Prof. Winkler addressing the audience during the session for Networking the Networks for the Future of Global Health. Photo: Marrium Habib / TUM*

### Networking the Networks for the Future of Global Health

At the BMBF mid-term meeting in Ghana in January 2020, the overarching initiative Networking the Networks for the Future of Global Health was introduced to a wider audience. The aim was to bring the five research networks together – not only for their own capacity building but also to influence the GH agenda at large and strengthen Germany's role as a leader in GH research.



*Logo of Cystinet-Africa*

The initiative was led jointly by TUM and LMU researchers of the following two networks: CYSTINET-Africa, focusing on neglected tropical diseases with an emphasis on One Health (Prof. Andrea Winkler, Center for Global Health and Department of Neurology at TUM) and CEBHA+, researching non-communicable diseases and integrated knowledge translation (Prof. Eva Refuess, Chair of Public Health at LMU).

### Women's health in sub-Saharan Africa

Prof. Clarissa Prazeres da Costa, Center for Global Health and Dept. of Med. Microbiology, Immunology and Hygiene and Ms. Marrium Habib, Scientific Coordinator HelmVit, took up the

banner of Women's Health activities at TUM. Prof. da Costa presented an overview of women's health in sub-Saharan Africa in the context of three significant conditions of Female Genital Schistosomiasis (FGS), Cesarean Section, and Cervical Cancer that affect women throughout the life-course.

### **Outcomes of the WH workshop in Gabon**

Marrium Habib followed up with a presentation on the outcomes of the WH workshop *Challenges for Women's Health in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)* undertaken in Lambaréné, Gabon in January 2020. A WH plenary, co-chaired by Prof. da Costa was conducted with the aim to raise awareness and sensitize the SSA-network researchers to this topic.

The session helped to identify existing knowledge about WH within the five research networks and instigate a discussion on present and future challenges. The session closed with a brief proposal in writing and an exploratory questionnaire for the various network participants to join in forming a Women's Health Working Group aimed at escalating German-African cooperation specifically in the realm of WH in the SSA region.

### **Workshop: Exchange of Experiences: Wet lab/Sample Handling in Research Field**

Dr. Fabien Prodjinotho from TUM also organized a workshop entitled *Exchange of Experiences: Wet lab/Sample Handling in Research Field*. The main aim of the workshop was to exchange experiences on prerequisites and good practices for sample acquisition, handling, transportation and storage and encountered challenges in the BMBF-funded project research fields.

The workshop covered fundamental and state-of-the-art aspects in the process from sampling strategies, equipment and needs, as well as the adequate choice of techniques and methods and how these could be integrated for maximum efficiency. Most importantly, the workshop provided a forum for fruitful exchange on practical tips and information through shared experience of participants and representatives of all BMBF networks. Dr. Prodjinotho co-chaired the workshop with Prof. Marietjie Venter from the University of Pretoria, South Africa.



Prof. da Costa during her presentation on women's health in sub-Saharan Africa.  
Photo: Marrium Habib / TUM



Dr. Prodjinotho (left) and Prof. Winkler (right) with Prof. Adegnika from Gabon.  
Photo: Marrium Habib / TUM

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## **Master study at the Chair of Urban Water Systems Engineering**

Mr. Jannik Lutz completed his master thesis (Master Environmental Engineering) in Ethiopia on the topic *Groundwater Quality Assessment within the Catchment Area of Wolaita Sodo, Ethiopia* in the period from August 2019 to January 2020 in cooperation with Wolaita Sodo University. For this work, he received a PROMOS partial scholarship from the DAAD.

Contact: Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jörg E. Drewes, [sww@tum.de](mailto:sww@tum.de)

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## Responsible Artificial Intelligence in Africa Research Network (RAIN-Africa)

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The [RAIN-Africa Research Network](#) was officially launched in February 2020 between the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana and the Institute for Ethics in Artificial Intelligence (IEAI) of TUM. The aim is to build a network of experts working on the responsible development and use of AI in Africa.

The network will bring together aspiring researchers, along with interested industry partners, to discuss and build joint projects on the ethical and social challenges arising at the interface of technology and human values, specifically as it relates to sustainable development. Through a series of virtual and in-person workshops, the network will provide a platform to promote cross regional and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Contact: Prof. Dr. Christoph Lütge, [ResponsibleAI-Africa@mcts.tum.de](mailto:ResponsibleAI-Africa@mcts.tum.de)



Logo of the RAIN-Africa Research Network

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## Project on women's health and cervical cancer prevention in Ghana

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From February 2 to 8, 2020, a delegation of German health experts visited the partner university KNUST for a workshop on the project *Women's health and cervical cancer prevention* in Kumasi, Ghana. The delegates were Prof. Stefanie Klug from the TUM Chair of Epidemiology, Prof. Dr. Dr. Andrea Winkler from the Center for Global Health, Prof. Dr. Marion Kiechle from the MRI women's hospital, Dr. Andreas Ullrich from the Charité Berlin, and Prof. Dr. Matthias Richter-Turtur.

During the two-day workshop entitled *Cervical Cancer in Ghana: Vaccination, Screening and Treatment*, clinicians, researchers, health care workers, and students explored the question of how to improve cervical cancer prevention and treatment in Ghana. The goal was to assess the current situation and ongoing research projects on these issues. The participants discussed especially availability and affordability of HPV vaccination and screening. As a result, collaborative research and capacity building strategies will be developed to support efforts to improve cervical cancer prevention and treatment in Ghana.



Organizing team: Dr. Edward Dassah (KNUST), Prof. Dr. Dr. Andrea Winkler (TUM), Prof. Dr. Stefanie Klug (TUM), Dr. John Amuasi (KNUST)  
Photo: S. Weinmann / TUM

## Encouraging student exchange between KNUST and TUM

The stay in Ghana was completed by field site visits to cervical cancer screening units at the Kumasi South Hospital and the Cervical Cancer Prevention and Training Center in Battor. Moreover, this project supports the exchange of students between KNUST and TUM. Two TUM representatives gave lectures for the master students at the KNUST School of Public Health: Prof. Dr. Stefanie Klug spoke about *Global Cancer with a focus on cervical cancer* and Prof. Dr. Dr. Andrea Winkler gave a talk on *Milestones of Global Health*.

The project *Women's health and cervical cancer prevention* was funded by the [TUM Global Incentive Fund](#).

## Recent TUM publications on Africa

- ▶ Crepaz, K., Becker, U., & Wacker, E. (Eds.): *Health in Diversity – Diversity in Health. (Forced) Migration, Social Diversification, and Health in a Changing World* (Springer, 2020).
- ▶ Maduekwe, Ebelechukwu Obioma Dometilla: *Examining the economic impact of human recognition for women farmers in Malawi* (Dissertation, 2020).
- ▶ de Vries, W. T., J. T. Bugri, and F. Mandhu: *Responsible and Smart Land Management Interventions. An African Context* (CRC Press, 2020).

## Current funding opportunities

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### Visiting Professors Program

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The Visiting Professors Program, funded by the Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts, will continue to be available in 2020! The program's objectives are internationalization of the curricula through new and innovative teaching activities (in English) as well as joint research and teaching activities. We expressly point out that virtual teaching can also be funded.

Applications can be submitted all year round, but at least four weeks before the intended start of the guest stay. The funding period ends on March 31, 2021. All professors at TUM are eligible to apply. [Please find further information on the Visiting Professors Program website](#)

Contact: Sarah Huber, [sarah.huber@tum.de](mailto:sarah.huber@tum.de)

### Contact

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please [send an e-mail to Prof. de Vries](#).  
Deadline for the next issue: July 31, 2020