



SOCIETY FOR AIDS IN AFRICA
Organizer of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA)

NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER | MAY 2021 | FIFTH EDITION | WWW.SAAFRICA.ORG

Are we winning the HIV/AIDS race?

- Prof. John Idoko- SAA President



COVID-19 PREVENTION



USE DISINFECTANT



WEAR A MASK WHEN YOU GO OUTSIDE



FREQUENTLY WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE

IN THIS ISSUE

- Uganda loses hosting rights
- Scorecard – HIV Domestic Funding in Africa
- ICASA 2021 Host Country Announced
- Highlights on Achievements of SAA Board Executives

HISTORY OF ICASA



ICASA 2021 REGISTRATION

Early Registration

OPENS 1st March 2021 - 17th May 2021, 24.00 GMT

Regular Registration

OPENS 18th May 2021 - 31st August 2021, 24.00 GMT

Late Registration

OPENS 1st September 2021 - 31st October 2021, 24.00 GMT



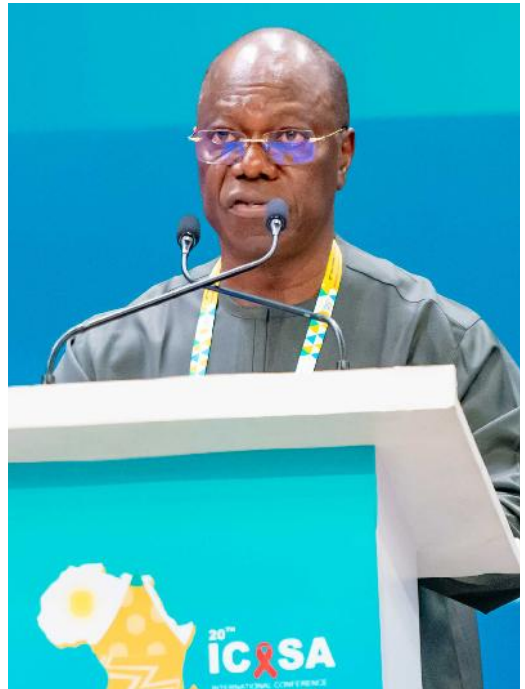
**ICASA
2021**
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

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From the Desk of the President

It was a pleasure and honor to have served as chair and president of the Executive board of SAA over the past four years despite the challenges we face in our settings. 2017 marked the end of the previous tenure of the SAA Executive board that had overseen the organization of ICASA 2015 Zimbabwe and ICASA 2017 Cote D'Ivoire and several important regional symposiums and drove a strong advocacy platform. We took office from 2018, and reflecting on SAA and how far we have come as an organization, we are grateful to our partners for their unwavering support to ICASA over the years and especially ICASA 2019 Rwanda which was attended by 8,522 in person delegates. We hereby acknowledge the support of our esteemed partners, UNAIDS Geneva, WHO AFRO, UNFPA, UNICEF and the Ghana AIDS Commission, many others especially our community people that worked tirelessly with us to strengthen Africa's commitment to ending AIDS by 2030.



Prof. John Idoko - SAA President

We also acknowledge the relentless efforts of our council members, the International community, our cherished delegates, SAA members, and SAA Coordinator/ ICASA Director and his team, we could not have come this far without you. We say kudos, well done!

As part of the post ICASA year events, the secretariat collaborated with number of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to organize various meetings to further strengthen the health system in Africa. Notable amongst these included providing technical support to the Ghana AIDS Commission in organizing the National HIV Research Conference, NHARCON at the Accra International Conference Centre (AICC). SAA also teamed up the Peer Review Forum in Nigeria to organize and provide technical support in organizing their CSO forum meeting in Abuja, Nigeria.

The theme of ICASA 2019; “AIDS FREE AFRICA, Innovation, Community and Political Leadership” was aimed at addressing the current trends of HIV/AIDS focusing on the global

push towards a generation free of the pandemic as well as strengthen the health system on our continent to enable it handle the current health challenges. The conference (ICASA 2019) was successfully organized in Kigali, Rwanda. H. E Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda and Mr. Filipe Nyusi, President of Mozambique as well as various dignitaries and invited guests from Africa and the diaspora graced the opening ceremony of the conference.

The upcoming conference, ICASA 2021 was scheduled to take place in Uganda but in line with SAA's values and due to circumstances beyond our control, the conference hosting rights were revoked.

Let us highlight some of our key achievements since we took office between 2018-2021

- Successful management and organization of the 20th ICASA in Kigali-Rwanda
- Acquisition of two plots of land for SAA ultramodern headquarters project. Plans were set in motion to develop an ultra-modern and a multi-purpose structure to serve as the new SAA headquarters as stipulated in the SAA strategic plan (2017-2021).
- Development of Scorecard with Accountability International, AVAC and NHVMAS to strengthen the health systems in Africa. This project is a first of its kind with the aim of identifying the financial gaps needed to strengthen health systems across Africa
- SAA was one of the first organization (Press release on 12th February, 2020) to call on all governments in Africa to invest in the health system to mitigate against the impact of the pandemic. SAA secretariat was refurbished to adapt to the new normal(COVID-Pandemic public health safety protocols) to combat the pandemic at its premises
- SAA partnered with UNFPA Ghana and the Canadian Government through the Canadian High Commission in Ghana to organize an outreach to provide dignity kits to the less privileged and vulnerable in society and also marginalized populations such as Adolescent Orphans living with HIV.
- The occurrence of COVID-19 reduced the number of blood donations occurring and as part of SAA's civic social responsibility, the Secretariat teamed up with the 37 Military Hospital Serology Unit to embark on a blood donation exercise. To boost donor participation, a raffle draw was organized, and two donors won full scholarships to attend ICASA 2021.
- We partnered with Accountability International once again to develop COVID-19 Scorecard and to monitor the inclusiveness of all key population and PLHIV in country's COVID-19 protocol management.
- Implementation of a pilot project with VOICE and other CSO partners such as ARCAD

Sante PLUS (Mali), Peer Review Forum (Nigeria), Accountability International (South Africa) to secure € 200,000 to empower young persons on national budget monitoring, LGBTIQ persons and persons living with disabilities (Marginalised communities) in Ghana, Nigeria and Mali with the skills to improve accountability around fiscal issues, most especially taxes and budgets as a means to improve access to social services, health and education for marginalized community.

- We expanded the scope of SAA by serving as an implementing partner (IP) to UNFPA Ghana in 2018. This collaboration is still growing strong till date.
- In order to promote the activities of SAA, a newsletter was published in 2019 and 2021 both electronic version and hard copy.

ICASA 2021 DURBAN SOUTH AFRICA

ICASA 2021 is slated for 6th to 11th December in Kwazulu-Nata-Durban, South Africa. The theme of **ICASA 2021: AFRICA'S AIDS RESPONSE: The Race to 2030 – Evidence. Scale Up. Accelerate.** This is a call for all stakeholders to unite to win the race of achieving the 2030 goals of ending the pandemic.

It is the first time in the history of organizing ICASA Conferences that the Hybrid approach which is having a limited number of in-person delegates and a majority of virtual depending on the trend of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are certain that ICASA 2021 will be a reality. The 1st International Steering Committee (ISC) meeting was held virtually for the first time with more than 52 participants in attendance. The meeting chaired by the ICASA President, Prof. John Idoko and ICASA Director, Mr. Luc Armand Bodea came to a successful end as the targets for the meeting, Validating the ICASA 2021 Theme and Objectives of the Conference as well as Validating the ICASA 2021 Plenary topics were achieved despite the challenges associated with COVID-19.

On behalf of the outgoing Executive Board and myself, the Society for AIDS in Africa would like to take this opportunity to thank all its partners and well-wishers for their unflinching support over these past few years. It has been a privilege to serve you and even as our tenure ends, we wish to encourage all and sundry to fully participate in the 21st International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA 2021) which will be held from 6th to 11th December 2021 in Durban, South Africa to spearhead once again the fight against COVID-19 towards strengthening our health systems in Africa.

We look forward to welcoming you!!

Mission

An African-led and owned organization that collaborates with other national, sub-regional, regional, continental and international organizations and partners, to promote and institute policies and promote research to support governments' national responses and approaches to fight HIV and HIV co-morbidities as well as emerging viral infections across the continent.

Vision

SAA envisions an African continent free of AIDS, TB, Malaria and emerging infections, where the communities are empowered, with no stigma and discrimination against PLHIV, key populations and their families and where there is social justice, and equity to accessing treatment, care and support.

Our Goal

To contribute towards the UNAIDS goal and the AU catalytic framework of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 and achieving the 90-90-90 targets by 2020 in Africa, contribute to the African Union's Agenda 2063 and also serve as the platform to strengthen the Health Systems in Africa towards an Universal Coverage.

Objectives of SAA

- To contribute to the control and management of HIV infection/AIDS, TB and Malaria throughout Africa and to serve as a forum for the exchange of information on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the UNAIDS, International AIDS Society, and other International and national organizations on AIDS.
- To serve as an African focus and coordinator of AIDS activities in Africa.
- To promote research and training on HIV and AIDS prevention and care in Africa.
- To work with African States to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria on the African Continent.
- To organize International Conferences on HIV/AIDS, STIs, TB and Malaria in Africa and collaborate with other organizations in organizing specific workshops on HIV and emerging infections.
- To solicit, receive, manage and account for funds for supporting SAA activities against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa.
- To serve as a central registry of individuals and organizations, professionally involved in AIDS research and activities to prevent the spread of AIDS and care for people

living with HIV, TB and Malaria in Africa.

- To represent the African Scientific community as a voice of reason in AIDS controversies, speak and act against discrimination/stigmatization, and ensure the observance of ethical norms in all aspect of research and trials relating to HIV and AIDS in Africa.
- To promote the total wellbeing of those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS as well as create awareness on other emerging diseases threatening public health in Africa

UGANDA loses hosting rights to 21st Edition of ICASA

Uganda alongside four other African countries (Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, and Tunisia) submitted bids to host the 21st edition of the International conference on AIDS & STI's in Africa, of which Uganda was shortlisted and later declared host of ICASA 2021.

However, after careful considerations, the hosting rights of Uganda was revoked due to circumstances beyond our control. The Society for AIDS in Africa acknowledged that without peace, security and a conducive environment for all, the objectives of ICASA could not be met hence the revocation.

“Uganda in the eighties, was among the worst hit by HIV epidemic and the government under President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni played a globally acclaimed role of leading the fight against the scourge, reducing the HIV prevalence from 18% to 6% by 2005.” We are strongly convinced that in the near future Uganda will have the opportunity to host ICASA.



ICASA 2021 Venue (Kwazulu Nata-Durban, South Africa)

Following the recent update on the host and venue of ICASA 2021, South Africa has been nominated as the next host country for ICASA 2021. In view of this, the Society for AIDS in Africa, the organizers of the ICASA conference, wish to state that ICASA 2021 will either be virtual, in-person or hybrid depending on the trend of the COVID-19 pandemic in Durban, South Africa. To seal this, an MoU has been signed between the SAA and the government of South Africa.

ICASA 2021 Logo/Thematic

The 1st International Steering Committee was successfully organized virtually on 25th February and 5th March, 2021 with 52 members in attendance



Theme: AFRICA'S AIDS RESPONSE: The Race to 2030 – Evidence. Scale Up. Accelerate

ICASA 2021 Objectives:

1. To strengthen health systems to integrate high impact interventions on comorbidities, emerging infections and NCDs.
2. To build, strengthen and invest in Africa's scientific capacity and manufacturing of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics.
3. To Identify in Africa, resource tailored interventions for populations most affected including women, children, adolescents, men and Key Populations.
4. To evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on the HIV/AIDS response and share lessons learned in overcoming barriers in maintaining continuity of care for people living with and at risk for HIV infection.
5. To amplify national, regional, continental and global integration to reach epidemic control in Africa: Contributions from Africans in the Diaspora.

As ICASA remains dear to the African continent and its people, we will continually honor each stakeholder as the winner of the 20th ICASA logo was Mr. Komlanvi APEVINYEKOU

Plenary topics, key dates and road map, abstract titles and sub-titles were validated during the meeting under the leadership of ICASA 2021 president, Prof. John Idoko and ICASA Director, Luc Armand H. Bodea.

Community Committee Plenary Topics - ICASA 2021:

- Implementing person centered key population programming at scale
- Health System Strengthening: The funding Landscape: health financing and Domestic Resource Mobilization.
- Addressing the needs of People who Use Drugs to achieve epidemic control.
- Impact of COVID 19 on HIV Services
- Epidemic Control in Africa: Response from the Diaspora

Leadership Committee Plenary Topics - ICASA 2021:

- African leadership in ending AIDS in Africa: Abuja Declaration: where are we?
- Sustaining gains during COVID-19
- The new Global strategy to end AIDS by 2030: what do we need to do differently in Africa.
- HIV prevention is everyone's Business: The pathway to stemming new infections in Africa.
- Adolescent girls, young women & men: Key to achieving the end of AIDS in Africa in 2030.

Scientific Committee Plenary Topics - ICASA 2021:

- Political leadership and partnerships to promote and accelerate access to innovation prevention & care.
- To build, strengthen and invest in Africa's scientific capacity and manufacturing of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics.
- Management of COVID 19 in Africa: Impact & Way forward.
- HIV, TB & other co-infections: The journey ahead.
- HIV Pediatrics: how far did we relieve the burden on children and what is the perspective towards 2030?

The 2nd ISC meeting is scheduled for 11th – 15th May, 2021.

Highlights of ICASA 2019
Reports & Special Sessions

ICASA 2019

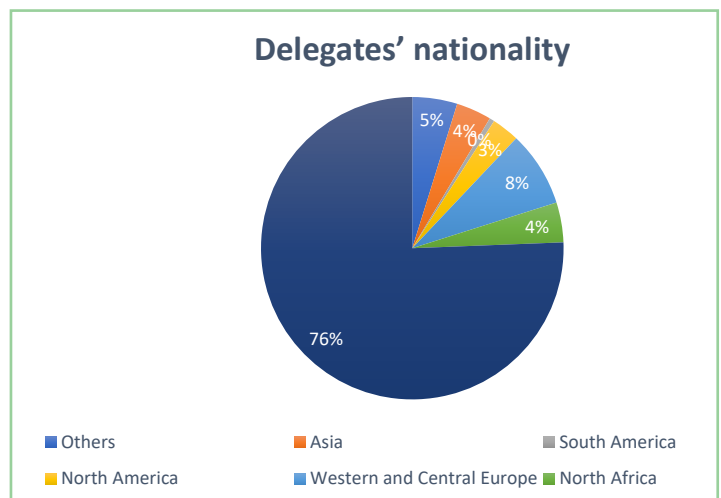
The 20th International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA 2019) was held in Kigali, Rwanda at the Kigali Convention Center from 2nd to 7th December 2019 under the theme “AIDS FREE AFRICA-Innovation, Community, and Political leadership.



The Conference

ICASA 2019 was organized by the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA), and the Government of Rwanda represented by the Ministry of Health.

The Conference Programme, including the abstract and non-abstract driven sessions was designed under three main pillars: The Scientific programme committee, the Leadership programme committee and the Community programme committee.



The conference was attended by 8,522 delegates. Delegates include scholarship recipients, media representatives, exhibitors and visitors to the Community Village. Paying delegates were from 98 nationalities residing in 113 of countries. The majority of delegates were from sub-Saharan Africa (76%). 220 media / press representatives were registered.

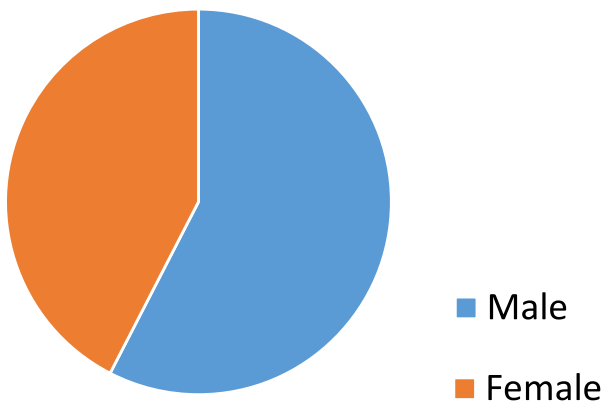
ICASA 2019 Secretariat and the Rwandese government provided scholarship.

The scholarships awarded are listed below:

A total of **1054** scholarships were awarded.

- **754** scholarships were awarded through the ICASA Conference Organizers.
- The Government of Rwanda provided **300**.
- A total of **243** fully funded Scholarships (Air ticket, registration, accommodation and per diem) were awarded.

Gender of Fully Funded Scholarship Recipients



Opening Ceremony

The ICASA conference is usually graced by the presence of high-profile guests of honor and presidents of countries in Africa and beyond. ICASA 2019 was graced by the following dignitaries:



President of Mozambique,
Filipe Nyusi– ICASA 2019,
Rwanda



President of Rwanda, Paul
Kagame. – ICASA 2019,
Rwanda



Tedros Adhanom
Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-
General
ICASA 2019, Rwanda



Dr. Donald Kaberuka, Chair
Global Fund HTM(HiV ,TB &
Malaria),Special Envoy of the African
Union, ICASA 2019, Rwanda



Winnie Byanyima, UNAIDS
Executive Director
ICASA 2019, Rwanda



ICASA 2019 First Ladies Special Session.



Dignitaries At the Opening Ceremony Of ICASA 2019

Workshop on how to write and publish an abstract

The Society for AIDS in Africa once again seized opportunity at ICASA 2019 to deliver a workshop on the theme: How to write and publish an abstract. Developing and publishing an abstract is very essential skill which is key in research development. The workshop was hosted by Professor Seni Kouanda and Dr. Enoch Omonge, members of SAA. Below are the key points from the workshop:



Cross section of delegates attending the Workshop on how to write and publish an abstract

Scientific communication is an imperative for junior researchers, health professionals and community stakeholders who want to share their research results with the scientific community. However, many do not succeed in getting their articles accepted by international journals.

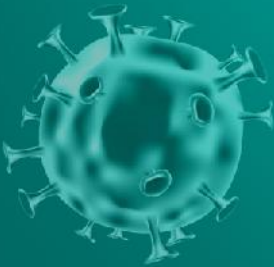
The purpose of this training was to provide participants with knowledge and skills so that they can write a clear and concise article that attracts interest and is accepted in an international journal and critically appraise a scientific article.

At the end of this training, participants were able to:

- Understand the challenges related to scientific communication.
- Identify the main characteristics of a scientific article.
- Avoid mistakes in writing a scientific article.
- Critically appraise a scientific article
- The teaching methods are an interactive course and illustrated by case studies.

Certificates were issued to participants after the workshop.

WE CAN FIGHT CORONAVIRUS TOGETHER



VIRUS PREVENTION IS IN OUR HAND!



Wear a Mask



Wash Your Hand



Contactless



Avoid Crowds

Reflection on the Abuja Declaration

In 2001, African Heads of State and Government committed to allocating a minimum of 15% of their annual budgets to developing their health sectors, while also asking that official development assistance (ODA) funders allocate 0.7% of their gross national product (GNP) to developing countries. The Abuja Declaration of 2001 affirmed the AIDS epidemic as a state of emergency. In 2006 action by African Union Member States against the three diseases was reinforced by the Abuja Call for Accelerated Action towards Universal Access to HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services in Africa. The Abuja Call was intended to translate political declarations into concrete action. These commitments have become well known as an indicator for health investment in Africa.

As we draw near the twentieth anniversary of the Abuja Declaration, a number of frameworks, declarations and roadmaps have been developed at continental and regional levels. This Abuja Declaration adopted by all member states has been the yardstick used to measure government commitment to financing healthcare and complementing donor support as well as ensuring accountability and transparency in resource allocation at national level. However, despite this adoption by member states, very few African countries have come close to fulfilling this obligation and domestic financing remains depressed in several countries with the majority of resources still coming from donor partners including the Global Fund.

During ICASA 2019 in Rwanda, the session on Abuja was a platform to evaluate the impact of various declarations on domestic funding and their implementation in Africa.

This high-level Session was expected to move all stakeholders beyond the acknowledgement

**The Abuja
declaration made
20 years ago asked
for 15% of the
national budget
to be invested in
health. Only two
countries on the
continent have met
this...**

of having a Declaration to guide resource allocation for health in Africa to what has actually been achieved in the last 20 years as well as key actions required to turn frameworks into measurable actions to ensure a sustained and adequately resourced health and HIV sector on the continent.

The session brought together representatives from AU Member States, donors, the United Nations System, academia, private sector, youth-led groups, PLHIV and other civil society communities engaged in the field of health and HIV. Featuring high level speakers from policy level, advocacy, key population and communities as panellists, the dialogue aimed to contribute towards the following objectives:

- Improving understanding of health and HIV financing frameworks, declarations and commitments in Africa, by enabling open exchange and candid dialogue on bridging the systemic gaps and challenges of providing a broader engagement process towards their implementation.
- Facilitating dialogue and suggestions, to intentionally call out for creation of policies and health strategies that improve implementation of frameworks and commitments to improve domestic resource mobilization, as well as promote transformative change for increased accountability.
- Generating commitment and action, through concrete recommendations that will feed into processes and concrete actions to re-vitalize efforts to increase domestic resource mobilization and allocation to health and HIV.



Cross section of panelists, Rosemary Mburu, Kevin Fisher and Yvette Raphael at the special session on 20 years after the Abuja Declaration, What Next?

High Level session on Viral Hepatitis

The High-Level Hepatitis session titled Scaling up Testing and Access to treatment for Viral Hepatitis in Africa. This session was organized by the WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO), the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) and the Ministry of Health of Rwanda on viral hepatitis during ICASA 2019 to bring together Ministers of Health from member states, political decision makers and health-care experts to strengthen collaboration to accelerate efforts to establish hepatitis testing and treatment as a public health measure towards the elimination of hepatitis in Africa by 2030 and it is in line with the WHO Africa Regional Framework for Hepatitis Control (2016-2020), the AU Commission recommendation (AWA 2018) to provide a future continental direction for viral hepatitis elimination and the draft AU Hepatitis Declaration endorsed by African Ministers of Health at the AU meeting in Cairo August 2019 (ahead of Presidential endorsement in Feb 2020).. The regional Hepatitis Programme is expected to promote strategic collaborations with major communicable and non- communicable disease programmes in Africa. This will enhance cross- cutting programmatic efficiencies and synergies in line with the 2030 SDG targets and the African Regional framework for hepatitis which was adopted by member states during the 66th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa.

The image is a promotional banner for the ICASA 2021 exhibition. On the left, there is a photograph of an exhibition booth. A large poster features a smiling woman with red hair. A red counter in the foreground has the text "WE ARE HERE UNTIL THE DAY WE BEAT HIV" and the ViV logo. In the background, other booths are visible with signs for "gsk", "ViV", "CRAQVICK", and "Diagnostique". On the right side of the banner, the text "ICASA 2021" is written in large green letters, with a rainbow ribbon logo integrated into the letter 'A'. Below this, "DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA" is written in white on a red rectangular background. Underneath, the words "EXHIBITION BOOKING" are written in very large, bold, green capital letters. At the bottom right, the dates "9th March 2021 - 31st August 2021" are listed in green, followed by the text "For more information, please visit" in red and the website "icasa2021.saafrica.org" in red.

ICASA 2021
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

EXHIBITION BOOKING

9th March 2021 - 31st August 2021

For more information, please visit icasa2021.saafrica.org

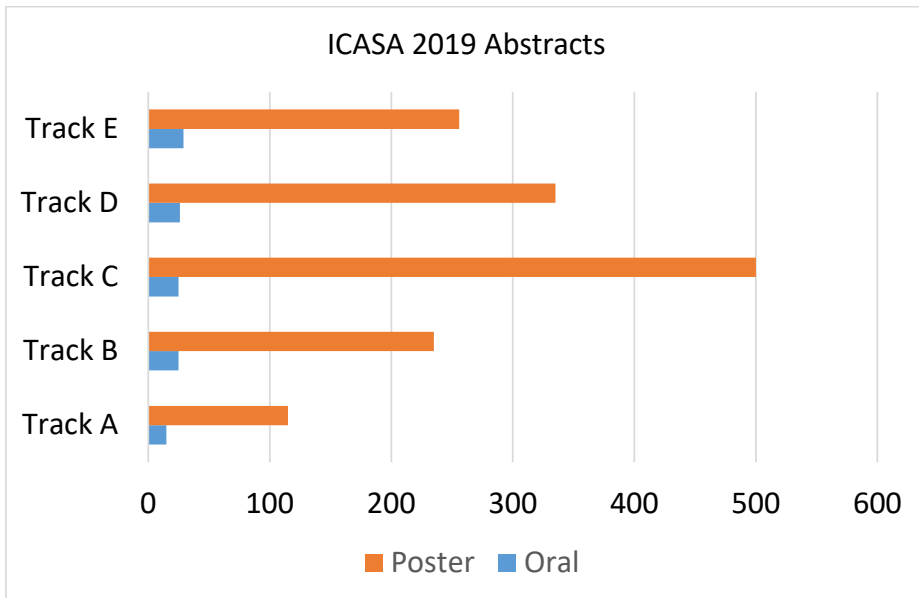
ICASA 2019 Best Abstract winners

The best abstract of ICASA 2019 per track was awarded with \$2000

A total of 3107 abstracts were submitted to ICASA 2019 for review of which 1561 were selected for presentation at the Conference. 120 oral abstract sessions and 1441 were selected for poster presentation. Each abstract was scored through a blind peer-review process.

Total Number of abstracts submitted	3107
Total Number of abstracts selected after review	1561
Total Number of Oral abstracts	120
Total Number of Poster abstracts	1441

Also see below breakdown of Abstracts presented at ICASA 2019 Rwanda per Track;



Breakdown of Abstracts by Track



ABSTRACT PRESENTER: Michael Kennedy Ngowi

TRACK B: Clinical Science, Treatment & Care

TITLE OF ABSTRACT: FRAB1605 - Real Time Medication Monitoring Improves Virological Outcome among People Living with HIV on Antiretroviral Treatment in Moshi, Tanzania



ABSTRACT PRESENTER: MZivai Mupambireyi

TRACK C: Epidemiology & Prevention Science

TITLE OF ABSTRACT: WEAC0903 - A Mixed-method Study Exploring the Clinical and Social Status of Young Mothers Living with HIV and their Children in Zimbabwe



ABSTRACT PRESENTER: Merrill Katherine

TRACK D: Law, Human rights, Social science & Political Science

TITLE OF ABSTRACT: WEAD0806 - Violence victimization and viral load failure among HIV-positive adolescents and young adults in Ndola, Zambia: A mixed methods study



ABSTRACT PRESENTER: Karen Webb

TRACK E: Health systems, Economics & Implementation Science

TITLE OF ABSTRACT: THAE1201 - Is It OK to Not Be OK in HIV Care? Mental Health Resources and Screening in HIV Care Environments in 24 Districts of Zimbabwe



Track B Abstract Winner
Michael Kennedy Ngowi
receiving the Award from
Dr. Namwinga Chintu
(SAA Treasurer)

Track C Abstract Winner
Zivai Mupambireyi
Receiving her Award from
Prof. Sheila Tlou (Board of
Trustees -SAA)



Track D Abstract Winner
Merrill Katherine Receiving
her award from Dr. Sabin
Nsanzimana(ICASA 2019
ICC Member)

Track E Abstract
Winner Karen Webb
being presented the
award by Luc Armand
H. Bodea
(ICASA Director)



ICASA 2019 Logo winner



The ICASA organizers desirous to get an identity to brand the upcoming 20th ICASA which will be held in Kigali, Rwanda 2nd - 7th December 2019, launched a contest for a creative logo for the conference. The ICASA organizers, offered \$1000 for the best designer of the logo. The contest was open to all African countries. However, artistes mainly PLHIV and Key populations were the most encouraged to participate in this contest. 51 logo submissions sent across. The SAA permanent Secretariat/ ICASA International secretariat shortlisted 10 best

proposals of ICASA logo and presented them at the ICASA 2019 1st International Steering Committee meeting held on 7th - 8th June, 2018 at Serena Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda after which the final selection was made.

The winner was Mr. Apevinyekou Komlanvi from the Republic of Togo.



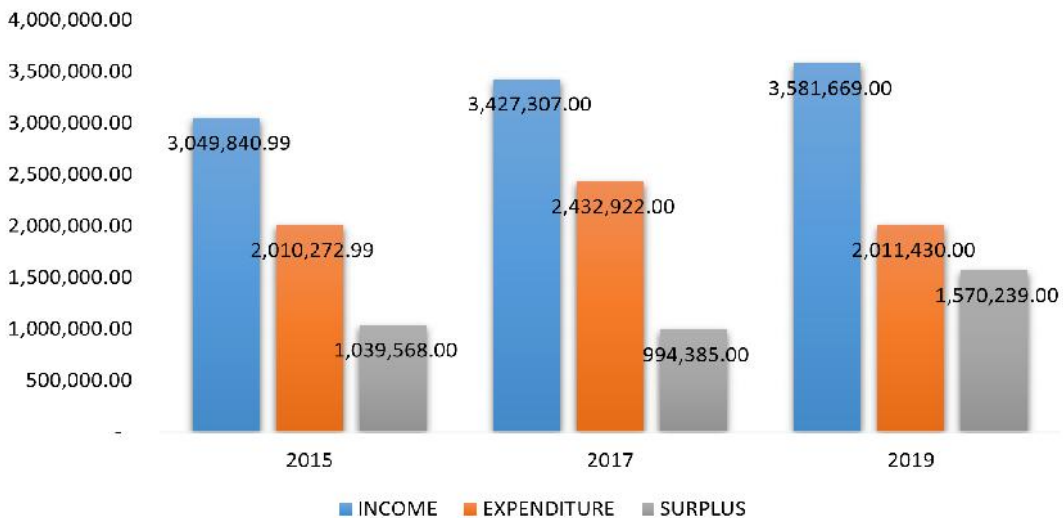
20TH
ICASA
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON AIDS AND STIs IN AFRICA
KIGALI 2019

ICASA 2019 Official logo

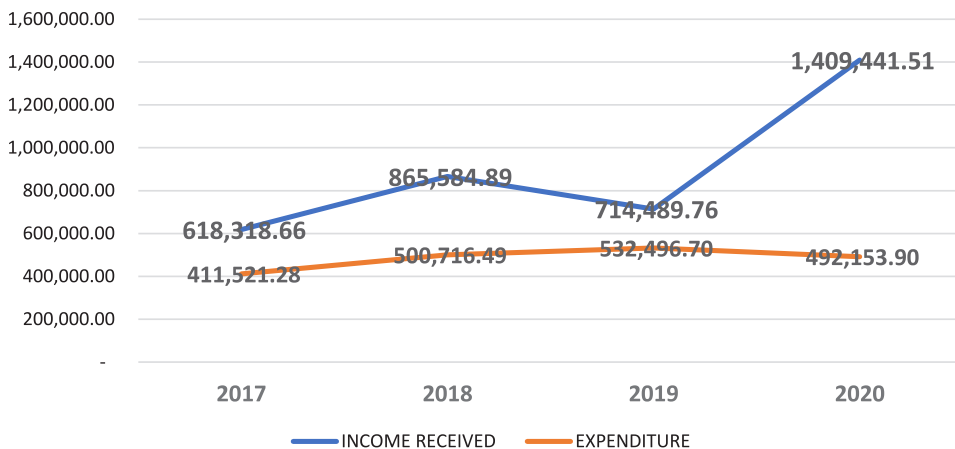
ICASA 2019 Audit Report / SAA Financial Report 2017-2019

Accountability is one of our guiding principles. We at SAA ensures that we remain accountbale to our donors, partners and all stakeholders. The graph below throws light on our income from donors, partners and members thus income generated as well as expenditure from our overall income.

ICASA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE THREE PERIODS :2015; 2017 AND 2019



SAA Financial Status



Strengthening SAA Membership / Service Delivery

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) draws its membership from persons and organizations engaged in Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS-related activities. They may be recommended by the executive committee as honorary members on account of their special contribution to the fight against AIDS.

Benefits of SAA Membership

- **Prestige and career boost:** SAA is a prestigious organization, becoming a member is an added advantage in the professional world both in the African and International community.
- **Research:** The Society is developing a research database for Africa. On completion, members of SAA will readily have access to the database and their research will be included.
- **Special registration fee and conference participation:** The society holds a major conference biennially (ICASA) and a regional conference in the intermediate year. As a member of SAA, your registration fees to conferences organized by the Society will be slightly reduced compared to other rates from ICASA 2011. You will also have the opportunity to attend, participate/collaborate in the conference(s) as appropriate.
- **Visibility and Publications:** Being a SAA member will give visibility to your activities at the pan African level and you can have the opportunity to publish your work(s) in the SAA Newsletters.
- **Membership of SAA professional registry:** SAA is compiling a register of African professionals in various Health fields; you will automatically be listed as a professional in your field and SAA can facilitate collaboration with eminent scientists who are also members, on request and as appropriate. This could facilitate global networking with colleagues across continents.

Membership of the society is open to scientists/health researchers on HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health related issues.

Societies, (national, international) organizations, corporate bodies, having similar objectives, vision, and purpose as above can apply to be affiliated members of the SAA.

Register as a member with this link: <http://saafrica.org/new/online-registration/>

Scorecard – HIV Domestic Funding in Africa

In the past 20 years, governments, donor partners and civil society groups have made significant progress in expanding access to life saving antiretroviral treatment and prevention options in the fight against HIV.

Almost sixty percent (60%) of people living with HIV are now accessing antiretroviral treatment, and new infections have been reduced by almost 50% since 1996. Though great progress has been made, contributions by international donors have flat lined despite a US\$5 billion gap in the resources needed to achieve the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 90–90–90 targets. These targets which are to diagnose 90% of all HIV-positive persons, provide antiretroviral therapy for 90% of those diagnosed, and achieve viral suppression for 90% of those on treatment by

2020, need to be achieved if we are to control the HIV epidemic. Currently, low- and middle-



Philippa Tucker, Accountability International delivering her presentation at the Scorecard for HIV Financing meeting in Accra, Ghana



Cross section of stakeholders and participants at the Scorecard for HIV Financing Meeting in Accra, Ghana

income countries contribute approximately 56% of the global resources for HIV, but the investment by countries varies and a significant 20% global funding gap remains, which leaves the HIV response in a precarious position.

As a result of this situation, in 2019 the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) began an evidence-based advocacy campaign that focuses on the existence of this resource gap, with the aim of meeting the UNAIDS 2020 and 2030 targets in Sub-Saharan Africa.

As part of this campaign, a group of African and global HIV advocacy organizations and activists have developed a strategy for creating and implementing such an advocacy campaign. The campaign has developed an African HIV Financing Scorecard in partnership with Accountability International (previously AIDS Accountability International) as a means to analyze the existing funding mechanisms, interrogate the gaps which require funding, and provide evidence-based advocacy messaging for action by the various stakeholders involved. The Scorecard tracks current country investments in HIV treatment and prevention in order to shed more transparency on the topic. It also examines existing frameworks and funding in general, as well as looks at the current use of innovative financing and what sources for funds might exist.

Currently, low and middle-income countries contribute approximately 56% of the global resources for HIV



Mr. Luc Bodea, ICASA director and Prof. Morenike Ukpong, Peer Review Forum, in a discussion at the Scorecard for HIV Financing Meeting in Accra, Ghana

ICASA 2021

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA | 6-11 DEC. 2021



IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL SESSION

SATELLITE-SYMPOSIUM BOOKING

Room Capacity (Seat) Available

3000, 600, 500, 250, and 175

Please visit icasa2021.saafrica.org for more information

NB: Allocation of slots will be based on first-come-first serve

Society for AIDS in Africa as UNFPA GHANA's Implementing Partner

In 2018, Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) served as the Implementing Partners (IP) to UNFPA Ghana. SAA has since facilitated several activities to the UNFPA in terms of technical, grammatical and logistical needs. During the first half of the year 2020, SAA was able to facilitate the following activities to UNFPA as IP:

- Management of stipends for Young Leaders (Yole) Fellows of the UNFPA. The objective of this stipend is to facilitate the transportation to and fro of UNFPA Yole Fellows and interns. This has been accomplished successfully within the first half of year 2020 as stipulated.
- Provision of Dignity Kits for Women/Girls or Men/Boys: This activity was implemented through an Accra based NGO called Centre for World Outreach. In their quest to reach out to the vulnerable during this COVID-19 pandemic era, they requested for packs of dignity support from UNFPA to support 3000 vulnerable women, girls, men and boys at some suburbs of Accra metropolis. UNFPA was able to provide 1000 Dignity Kits – 600 to women/girls and 400 to men /boys, SAA supported UNFPA in the implementation of this project.
- Outreach with Yole Fellows on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) during COVID-19 Lockdown: The Yole Fellows as part of their Programme of the year undertook a door-to-door outreach to empower women, girls and boys with info and knowledge to prevent SGBV and unplanned pregnancies during the COVID-19 pandemic, partners who are in lockdown in Teshie, Chorkor, Budumburam and Kasoa in the Awutu Senya municipalities.

SAA Embarks On An Exercise To Mitigate The Impact Of Covid-19 On PLHIV

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) embarked on an exercise to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on People Living with HIV (PLHIV). The outreach Programme was particularly aimed at adolescents who are HIV positive and children orphaned by HIV in Accra. The intervention involves the distribution of 600 'dignity' kits containing hygiene and sanitary items to aid in the prevention of COVID-19. SAA with the interest of people living with HIV and the marginalized foresaw the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the vulnerable such as people living with HIV, adolescent girls and women could not be overlooked, hence the need for the Programme.



Alhaji Muntaro Goro, UNFPA representative with Mr. Bodea, ICASA Director/ SAA Coordinator

Mother and child in picture with officials for the Outreach



SAA Marks The World AIDS Day With Blood Donation Exercise

As part of the world AIDS Day Celebration, The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) on 28th November, 2020 embarked on a blood donation exercise at the 37 Military Hospital in Accra, Ghana. The import of this all important exercise was to strengthen the health system in Ghana. To crown this maiden event, donors were drawn into a raffle to potentially win full scholarships to attend ICASA 2021. Two winners emerged would be attending ICASA 2021.

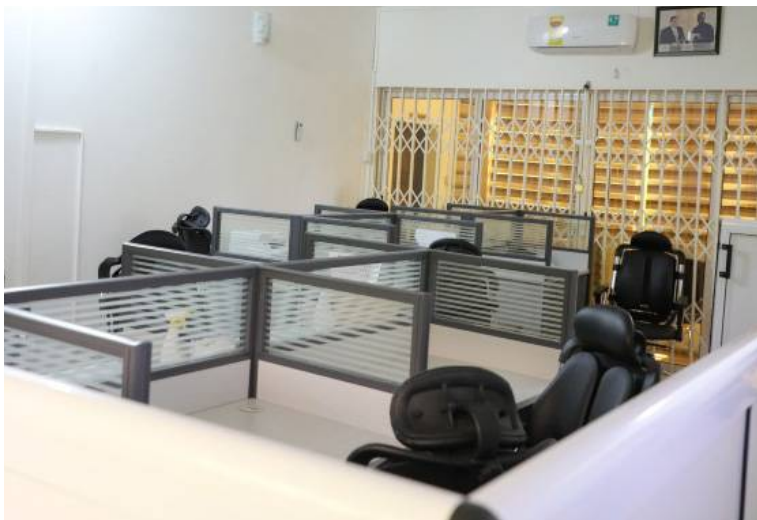


From left: Mr. Cosmos Ohene-Adjei (Ghana AIDS Commission), Mr. Charles Adjetey Otinkorang (Award Winner), Mr. Mohammed Abdul (Award Winner), Major Kwasi Boaheng (Head of Department of Blood Bank/Serology) and Mr. Luc Armand Bodea (ICASA Director/SAA Coordinator)



SAA Permanent Headquarters Adapts to the New Normal

The SAA in its quest to fight the global pandemic COVID-19, in 2020 went on lockdown for three months for employees to work from home. To adhere to the protocols of COVID-19, the Society provided the office with automated handwashing machine, sanitizers, hand towels and many more and a shift system was introduced to check overcrowding and then furnished the office with new workstations to ensure social distancing. Though 2021 marks ICASA year, with the recent increase in the infection rate in Ghana, employees have been asked to work from home in line with international standards to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 whilst they stay safe



ICASA 2021 Key Dates

ICASA 2021 Durban- South Africa

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA), the organizers of ICASA would like to inform our cherished delegates and distinguished key stakeholders that ICASA 2021 will likely be organized, virtually, in-person or hybrid and all adequate dispositions will be taken to once again give the opportunity to our continent to address challenges to end HIV and strengthen our health systems in the era where the COVID-19 pandemic is setting back the gains made by Africa.

KEY DATE	OPEN	CLOSE
Call for Abstract	1st March 2021	27th July 2021
Early Registration	1st March 2021	17th May 2021, 24.00 GMT
Regular Registration	18th May 2021	31st August 2021, 24.00 GMT
Exhibition Booking	9th March 2021	31st August 2021
Satellite Session	1st February 2021	31st August 2021
Late Registration	1st September 2021	31st October 2021, 24.00 GMT
Scholarship Application	1st July 2021	30th July 2021
Marathon Meeting	18th August 2021	21st August 2021
Notice of Acceptance Abstract	26th August 2021	6th September 2021
Announcement of Recipient Scholarship	30th August 2021	2nd September 2021
ICASA 2021 Online Program	16th September 2021	
ICASA 2021 Conference Date	6th December 2021	11th December 2021

Invitational bid to host ICASA 2023

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) represented by its President; Prof. John Idoko, hereby invites African countries wishing to host the 22nd edition of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa in 2023 (ICASA 2023) to send in their applications to the SAA Secretariat in Accra- Ghana. Closing date for submission of Application is 30th July, 2021.

Interested countries should submit a bid document of intent to the SAA Secretariat backed up with detailed proof of evidence of the following information:

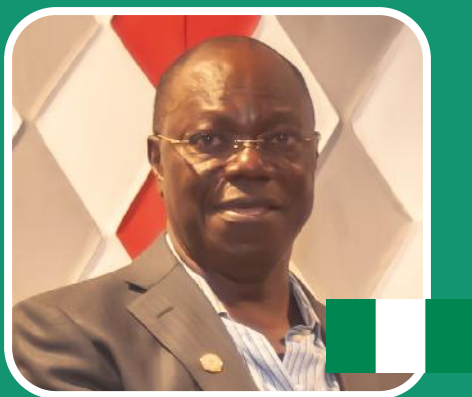
1. Strong Government support: financial commitment and political will to host the conference.
 - Provide and financially support the Conference venue: Capacity of Plenary rooms: 5000 seats with at least 7 break way rooms with capacity from 150 to 1500 seats.
 - Provide financial support for the local Secretariat that will be working with the International secretariat.
 - Provide Scholarship for at least 500 local Participants.
2. Availability of standard hotels to accommodate up to 10,000 participants as well as conference venue(s) with standard conference facilities.
3. Good transportation network within the country.
4. Good telecommunication network within host country with links to other African countries and international communities.
5. Presence of cohorts of scientific, leadership, civil societies, organized groups of PLHIV, private sector, youth organizations oriented towards HIV/AIDS related activities.
6. Easy access by air and by road where needed.
7. Recognizable presence of Government organ/body responsible for HIV/AIDS coordination in the country.
8. Good security network to guarantee participants' safety.
9. Guarantee easy visa facilities and assistance to conference participants and no restriction to entry for PLHIV, MSM and other minorities group.
10. Political stability.
11. No discriminatory government policies based on gender, HIV status and religion.

The detailed bid document of intent backed up with evidence should reach the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA)

For further information kindly visit, www.saafrica.org

End Of Tenure Of Office For SAA Executive Board

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA), custodian of the International Conference on HIV/AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) in 2018 elected new executive board of the governing council members for a term of four-years. The elections were conducted electronically and transparently with all active members of SAA, casting their vote for a candidate within their regions. The SAA electorate is grouped into five regions across the African continent: Northern Region, Southern Region, Eastern Region, Western Region and Central Region. The outcome of the elections saw the following as Executive Board members of SAA to serve for the term of four years 2018-2021:



Prof. John Idoko, President



Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese
Parenyatwa, Vice President



Prof. Tandakha Ndiaye Dieye,
Secretary General



Mrs. Sahra Guleid, Deputy
Secretary General



Dr. Namwinga Chintu -
Treasurer



Prof. Samuel E. Kalluvya,
Deputy Treasurer



Professor James Hakim, Member
(Of blessed memory)

We appreciate the Executive members of SAA for their unflinching support and dedication. We are grateful and thankful as your tenure of office comes to an end.

Highlights On The Achievements Of Out Going SAA Executive Board

After taking over office between 2018-2021, these were some of their remarkable achievements.

- Successful management and organization of the 20th ICASA in Kigali-Rwanda
- Acquisition of two plots of land for SAA ultramodern headquarters project
- Development of Scorecard with Accountability International to strengthen the health systems in Africa
- Refurbishment of SAA secretariat
- SAA becoming an Implementing Partner for UNFPA -Ghana
- Development of COVID-19 scorecard with Accountability International
- Implementation of the tax and budget monitoring project for marginalized people (Nigeria, Ghana and Mali)
- Management and Organization of ICASA 2021
- Engage with the government of Ghana for the Headquarters country agreement.

Call For Nomination And Election Of SAA Board Members For 2022-2025

The Society for AIDS in Africa represented by its governing council invites SAA members across the five (5) regions; Northern Region, Southern Region, Eastern Region, Western Region and Central Region to nominate representatives to constitute the administrative council to SAA for a term of four years.

The call for nomination will run from the **25th April 2021** to **15th May 2021** and the election will run from **24th May 2021** to **30th June 2021**

SAA Ultramodern Headquarters Project

In line with the vision of SAA, plans are set in motion to develop an ultra-modern and a multi-purpose in accordance with the Strategic plan (2017-2021).

A parcel of land has been acquired, and plans are currently in place to build this new headquarters.

Projections of the Ultramodern Secretariat

- International Radio and TV stations which will aid broadcast activities of SAA, advocate and host programs which will strengthen the health system in Africa,
- A conference facility to host five hundred (500) people.
- Apartments for guests and staff
- A dialysis center for people with nephrological conditions.
- Offices for renting





ICASA 2021

DURBAN

SOUTH AFRICA

Theme:

Africa's AIDS response:

The race to 2030 – Evidence. Scale Up. Accelerate

6 - 11 DEC. 2021



Designed & Printed by

SOCIETY FOR AIDS IN AFRICA

Organizer of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA)

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