



VIBRI

VICTORIA BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**ORGANIZATIONAL
PROFILE**

Organization Data Sheet

Registered Organization Name:

Victoria Biomedical Research Institute

Organization Physical Address:

Kisumu County Referral Hospital,
Off Ang'awa Road, Kisumu, Kenya

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Organization Reg. OP.218 / 051 / 19-266 / 11822

Tax PIN No. P052008303P



**A centre of excellence
in global health research**

We deliver high quality health research
that is relevant to Africa and the world

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The CHALLENGE

Africa faces a **double burden of infectious and chronic diseases**. While infectious diseases still account for the highest burden of morbidity and mortality on the continent, age specific mortality rates from chronic diseases as a whole are actually higher in sub Saharan Africa than in virtually all other regions of the world, in both men and women. Over the coming years, the continent is projected to experience the largest increase in disease and death rates from cardiovascular disease, cancer, respiratory disease and diabetes.

This high disease burden places a substantial strain on the limited health budgets, health systems and has a major impact on the economies. Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop drugs, vaccines and improved diagnostics. This will result in appropriate therapies; vaccines and immunotherapy for prevention and treatment; enhanced infection control; improved control of vector-borne diseases; and evidence-based policies that underpin health services.

The VIBRI SOLUTION

To tackle these global health challenges in Africa, we have established the **Victoria Biomedical Research Institute (VIBRI)**. VIBRI has been created to support epidemiological research and clinical development of innovative healthcare and medical technologies to improve healthcare at both the local and global levels.

VIBRI will take advantage of the robust research environment and expertise in Kenya which has been growing over the last 40 years through collaborations between the local research institutions and global research partners. We are well positioned to address the major health priorities affecting Kenya and the African continent.



Our team has many years of experience, strong relationships and a track record of working with partners in the global health research field including:

- Pharmaceutical companies and Contract Research Organizations (CROs)
- Multilateral Organizations including the World Health Organization (WHO)
- Academic Partners including Universities
- Research Institutions
- Government Institutions including Ministries, Counties, and Regulatory Authorities
- Research Funding Agencies
- Non-Profits and Philanthropic Organizations

We have access to patient and healthy populations (and pathways for drug and diagnostic evaluation and implementation) in Kenya and Africa.

We can help client products you move discovery research into an effective innovation pipeline

We undertake global health projects which address the whole product lifecycle, from basic science research, epidemiological and clinical research that impact changes in health policy.

This end-to-end approach positions us at the interface between academia, health services and the private sector, we can help to bring the most promising interventions to the populations that need it more quickly and ensure that our research is more directly relevant to patient needs in the African context.



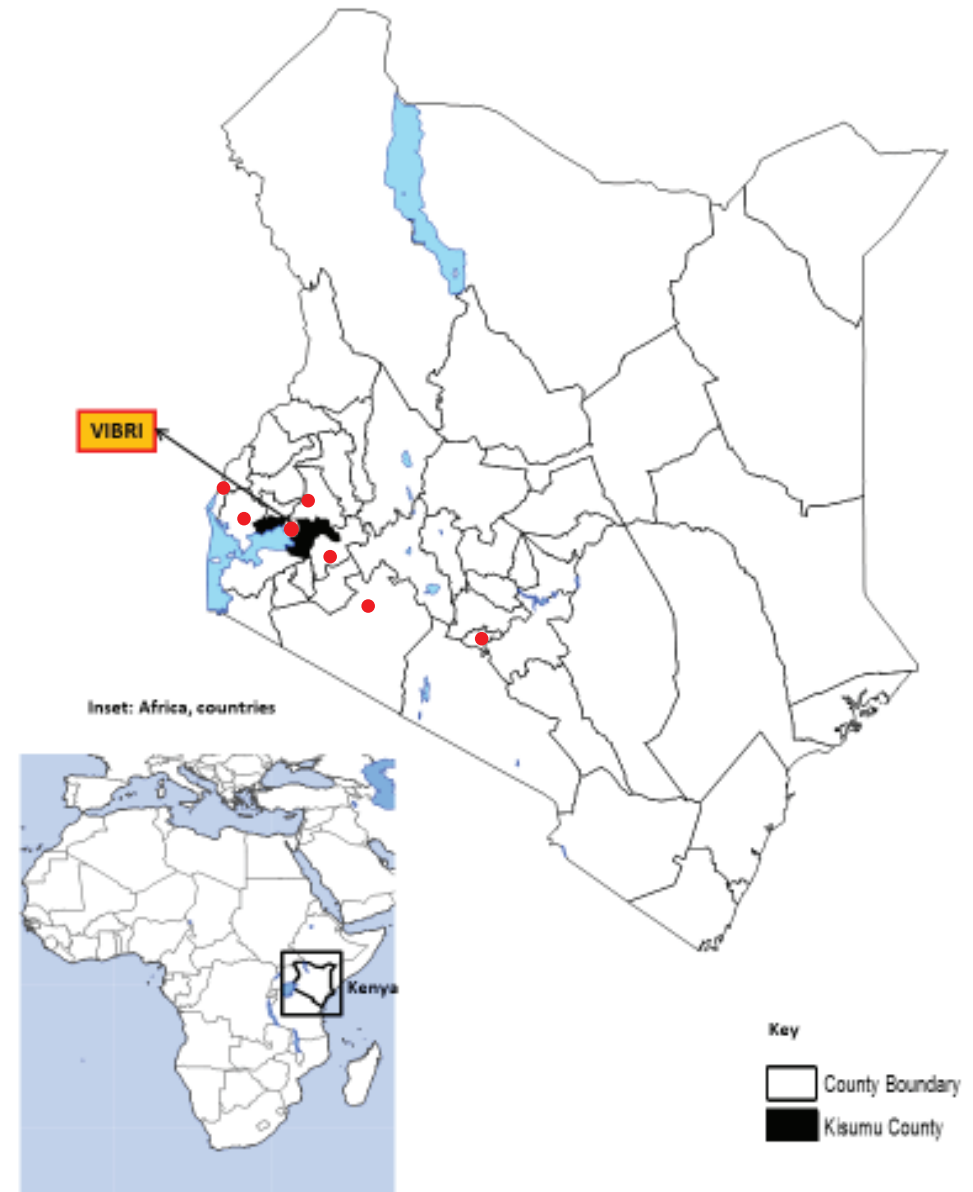
Our Institute

Formed in September 2020 in Kenya, VIBRI's goal is to accelerate the translation of promising innovations from the laboratory bench to the clinic in the community. The institute provides a dynamic platform for global health research, training and education by bringing together knowledge and resources to address the most important global health issues relevant to Africa.

Working in collaboration with global health partners, VIBRI is committed to the pursuit of knowledge, discovery and clinical development of public health interventions that have a major impact on global health in Africa.

VIBRI Clinical Research Sites:

1. Kisumu Site
2. Homabay Site in Rachuonyo
3. Kakamega Site in Butere
4. Nairobi Site
5. Busia Site
6. Kajiado Site
7. Siaya Site



Our Vision

Our vision is to be a center of excellence in global health research that promotes access to quality healthcare services, improves the health and wellbeing of populations in Africa and the world.

Our Mission

Our mission is to deliver high quality health research that is relevant to Africa and to build local capacity for undertaking research and health care.

We:

1. Aim to conduct clinical research to the highest international scientific and ethical standards on the major causes of morbidity and mortality in the Africa region.
2. Seek innovative solutions to Africa's most pressing global health challenges by conducting research that results in health policies based on evidence.
3. Aim to train and build capacity of African scientists and research leaders to the highest international standards.
4. Aim to establish strong networks and collaborations with local and international partners on projects that impact global health.



Our Values

At VIBRI, our values guide our actions and approach to biomedical research. Our vision, mission and values lay the foundation for our success as an organization, as individuals, and as a partner to our sponsors.

- Integrity and Ethics
- Excellence
- Innovativeness
- Efficiency and Cost-Effectiveness
- Respect
- Cultural Understanding
- Teamwork, Collaboration and Partnership
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Commitment to Global Health Impact



Advisory Board



Prof. Günther Fink
Advisory Board Member

Prof. Günther Fink is the Eckenstein-Geigy Professor of Epidemiology and Household Economics at the University of Basel, as well as the Head of the Household Economics and Health System Research Unit at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute.

He holds an MSc in International Economic Sciences and a PhD in

economics. Prior to joining the Swiss TPH, he researched and taught for 11 years at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. His work focuses on developing and evaluating new and innovative approaches to improving health and development in low resource settings, and on measuring the long-term economic benefits of health improvements, particularly during the early childhood period. He is principal investigator of ongoing cohort studies in Brazil, Laos, Peru, Tanzania and Zambia, and collaborating with on a range of global partners on intervention trials in Brazil, Congo DRC, Cote d'Ivoire, Pakistan, South Africa and Zambia.



Joyce Ollunga
Advisory Board Member

Joyce is passionate about fundraising for community development through healthcare and was part of the team that created the Lake Region Economic Bloc of Kenya, raising billions of dollars that have directly impacted the lives of 14 million people. Joyce is a Master of Finance graduate of the University of Cambridge, UK. To keep up to date, she has also taken the Harvard University post-graduate Certificate in Disruptive Strategy.

Joyce is a keen investor and avid philanthropist. She is an experienced global investment banking and African private-equity professional, having worked in the US, UK, and Africa. She is trained in Structured Finance and has founded two African private equity funds investing in diverse sectors including healthcare. She volunteers in several community initiatives and loves playing golf.

Her expertise also includes fundraising, strategy deal execution, and portfolio management for several funds, projects, and programs to help change the lives of people across Africa. To this end, she has worked with USAID, Red Cross Society – Kenya, Africa Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) in the USA, Student Assistance Services in New York, and Kagiso Trust in South Africa. She has sat on the Boards of organizations across several sectors including mining, telecommunication, real estate, investment funds, fintech, and healthcare.

Board of Directors

VIBRI is governed by a Board of Directors that approves the organization's strategic plan and sets policies governing research, financial management, ethics, integrity and partnership engagement. The Board consists of five members with the required skills, knowledge, or experience including:



Dr. Lucas Tina
Board Chairman

Dr. Tina completed his medical training at Moi University School of Medicine in Kenya and an MSc. Public Health in Developing Countries (PHDC) from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

Dr. Tina is an ADVAC Fellow (Vaccinology), Physician, and Principal Investigator at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).



Dr. Amos Ndhere
Board Member

Dr. Ndhere is a physician investigator with more than 15 years of experience in clinical research and public health practice in Africa

He is an alumnus of Northwestern University, Chicago, IL.

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Kevin Omondi - Member
Dr. Valentine Sing'oei - Member
Dr. John Owuoth - Member
Irene Omollo - Member

Management Team

The Senior Management at VIBRI is composed of a team of experienced scientific leaders, clinical researchers, and operational experts who have come together to pursue the singular goal of promoting access to quality healthcare services in Africa and the world through innovative clinical research.

The management team includes:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Chief Operating Officer
- Principal Investigators
- Clinical Research Scientists
- Head of Regulatory Affairs
- Clinical Team Lead
- Lead Nursing Officer
- Clinical Laboratory Manager
- Lead Pharmacist
- Data Manager
- Finance Manager
- Human Resource and Admin Manager



Dr. Diana Odhiambo
CEO and Principal Investigator

Dr. Odhiambo holds a Master of Public Health degree from the Institute of Tropical Medicine, University of Antwerp, Belgium, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Nairobi and a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) degree from the University of Nairobi.

Dr. Odhiambo has over 15 years' experience working in both the public and private health sectors in Kenya.



David Owino Ogolla
Chief Operating Officer

Mr. Ogolla holds a Master of Science in Clinical Research Administration from James Lind Institute, Switzerland and a Bachelor of Science in Statistics from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Nairobi.

Mr. Ogolla has over 9 years' experience working in Clinical Research in supportive functions in Statistics, Data Management and Project Management.

Research Thematic Areas

I. Clinical Trials-Adaptive Trial Design

We aim contribute to the clinical development, safety and efficacy evaluation of drugs, vaccines and diagnostics that improve global health. This will enable us to proactively help answer questions of immediate translational importance, focusing on both outpatient and inpatient healthcare settings. To achieve this, we will conduct clinical trials across all phases of clinical development from Phase Ib, Phase II, Phase III through Phase IV.

We will accelerate progression through early to late testing by undertaking clinical research studies, providing critical safety, pharmacokinetic, immunogenicity and efficacy data to support licensure and inform health policy decisions.

II. Bioequivalence Studies

Bioequivalence with reference drugs forms the basis for approval of generic drugs. While bioequivalence certification is a requirement for registration of medicines in Kenya and many African Countries, the lack of a local bioequivalence testing facilities has made enforcing bioequivalence difficult. Hence, locally made medicines are marketed without fulfilling the WHO-prequalification criteria for therapeutic interchangeability.

Generic drugs offer a cost-effective alternative to brand-name drugs to treat patients in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) in Africa and other parts of the world. However, due to a lack of bioequivalence testing, additional quality assurance tests are needed to build trust in cheaper generic drugs. We aim to promote patient centered access to quality medicines by testing bioequivalence of generic drugs to gold standard.



III. Epidemiology and Population Health

We aim to understand the epidemiology of communicable and non-communicable diseases in Kenya and Africa, understand the determinants of diseases in our population, and to promote the use of health data for policy making by country ministries of health and global health institutions. Through research in epidemiology, we aim to contribute to the discovery of factors that range from environmental, social and behavioral to biologic and genetic determinants of health. The Department of Epidemiology and Population Health will provide expertise and training on study design, data collection, analysis and proper interpretation of scientific evidence to improve human health in the clinic and in the field.

IV. Data Science and Statistics

The clinical research ecosystem now has access to data in a way that has not been the case before: from biological data to data on clinical trials to health outcomes data contained in electronic health records (EHRs) to hospital data among others. The use of data sciences in clinical research is a strategic initiative that can improve on the challenges faced during the conduct of clinical research. Putting this enormous repository of data into the right use through data driven analytics and insights has the potential to revolutionize clinical research. We aim to apply Data Science to add value to our work in the following areas:

1. Patient recruitment and retention which results in cost reduction.
2. Identification and enrolment of eligible patients to reach enrolment goals on time.
3. Optimization of the patient and site monitoring cost through data driven insights.
4. Clinical Trials Data Management and Statistics
5. Move from traditional Randomized Clinical Trials to Adaptive Trial designs.
6. Improve trial operations, proactively identify and track indicative study performance 'markers' during the course of a trial.



V. Implementation Science and Programs

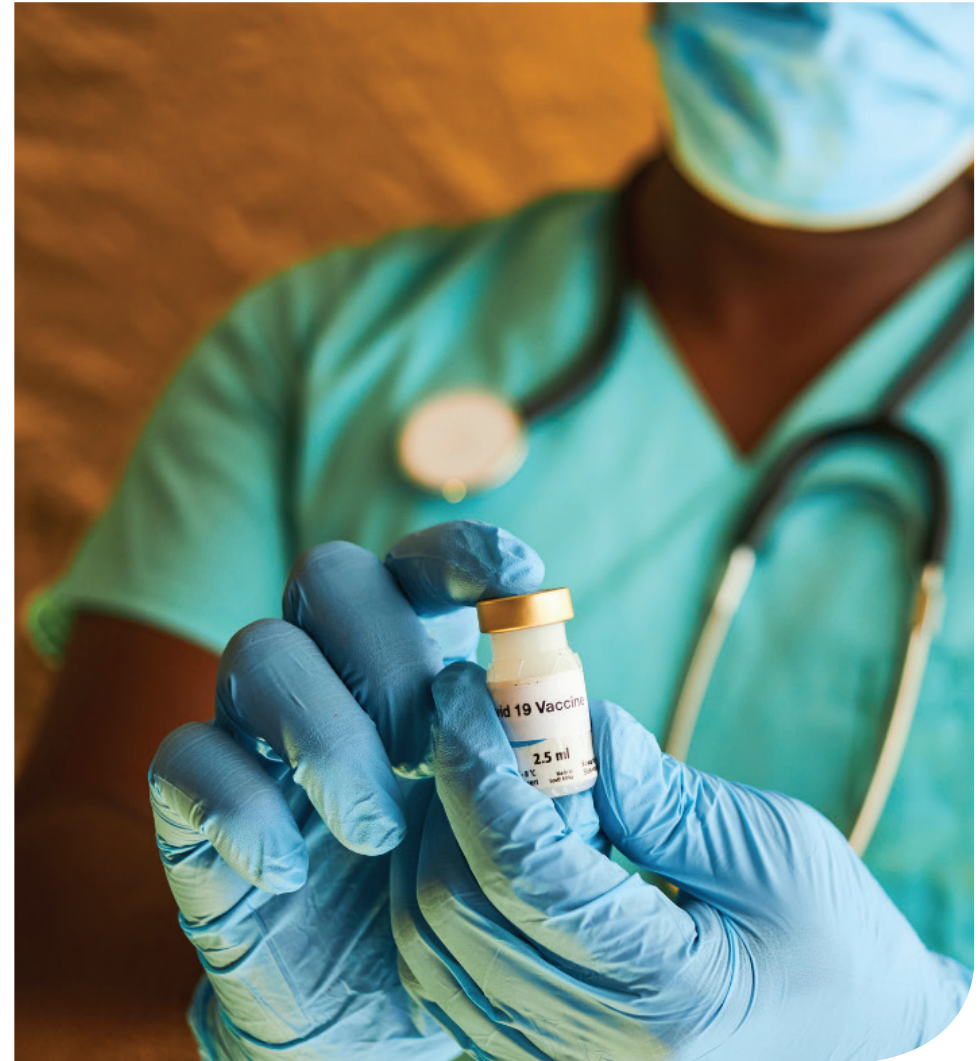
Our implementation science strategy is aimed at addressing bottlenecks, testing interventions, and evaluating the real impact of programs to help inform global health practice. Our approach will focus on studying and developing different methods to improve the uptake, implementation, and translation of research findings into routine and common practices

We aim to improve program effectiveness and optimize efficiency, including the effective transfer of interventions from one setting to another. The key components include:

- Monitoring and evaluation
- Operations research
- Impact evaluation

VI. Training and Capacity Building

Our training strategy is to emphasize the full career path for clinical research scientists with a long term plan of developing African research leadership. We aim to build a critical mass of African researchers who are technically competent, able to work independently and lead applications for internationally competitive science grants, engage with funders and policy makers and act as supervisors and mentors for the next generation of scientists.



Therapeutic Areas

I. Communicable Diseases

- Malaria
- HIV
- Tuberculosis
- Pneumonia
- Diarrheal diseases
- Emerging Infectious Diseases-Ebola, COVID-19, Rift Valley Fever

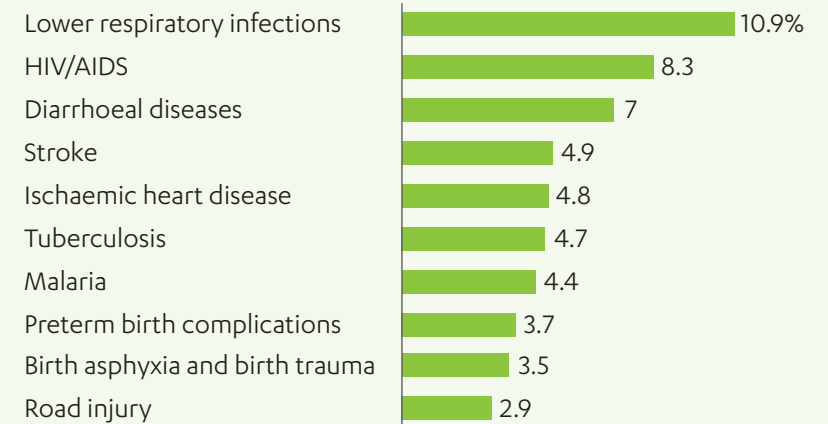
II. Non-Communicable Diseases

- Sickle Cell Disease
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Cardiovascular diseases e.g. Hypertension
- Oncology

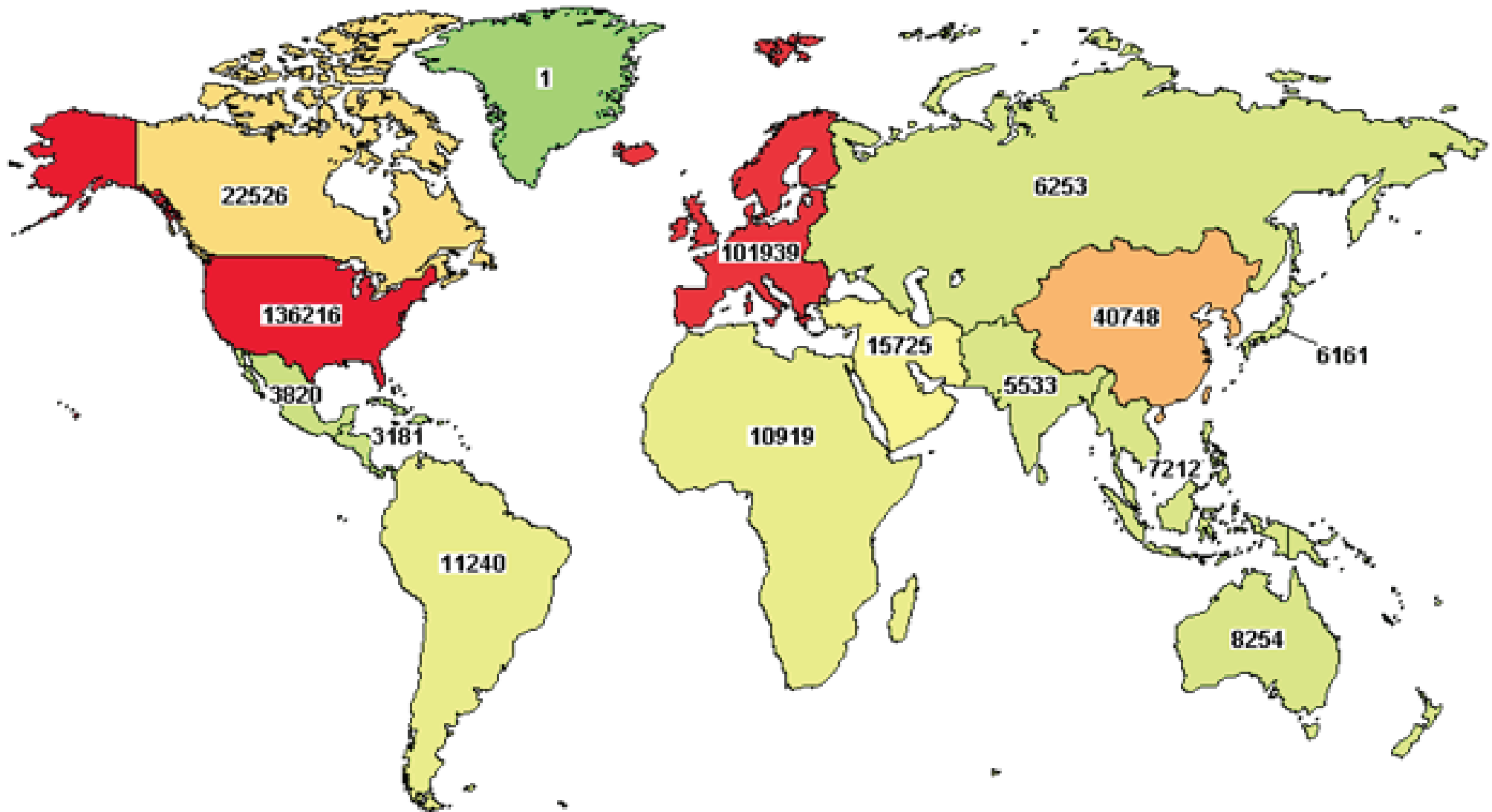


Top 10 Leading Causes of Death in Africa (theatlaser.com)

PERCENTAGE



Map Showing Registered Clinical Trials by Region as of 2020



Colors indicate the number of studies with locations in that region.

Least  Most

Labels give the exact number of studies.

Source: <https://ClinicalTrials.gov>

Our Partners and Collaborators



- Pharmaceutical companies and Contract Research Organizations (CROs)
- Multilateral Organizations including the WHO
- Universities and other Academic Partners
- Research Institutions
- Government Institutions including Ministries, Counties, and Regulatory Authorities
- Non-Profits and Philanthropic Organizations



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