

# 3RD SAA SYMPOSIUM 2016 REPORT



World Health  
Organization



NOGUCHI MEMORIAL INSTITUTE  
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH  
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON



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**AFRICA'S PREPAREDNESS FOR EMERGING VIRAL INFECTIONS: LESSONS FROM HIV/EBOLA AND THE OUTLOOK FOR ZIKA & LASSA**

**ETAT D'ALERTE DE L'AFRIQUE FACE A L'EMERGENCE DES INFECTIONS VIRALES: LEÇONS APPRISSES DU VIH/EBOLA ET PERSPECTIVES EN CAS DE ZIKA & DE LASSA**



**SCIENTIFIC REPORT OF THE SAA 3RD SYMPOSIUM ON EBOLA, LASSA FEVER AND ZIKA "AFRICA'S PREPAREDNESS FOR EMERGING VIRAL INFECTIONS: LESSONS FROM HIV/EBOLA AND THE OUTLOOK FOR ZIKA & LASSA"**

SOCIETY FOR AIDS IN AFRICA-ICASA, PERMANENT SECRETARIAT.

**ACCRA  
GHANA  
4 - 5 AUG 2016**

## INTRODUCTION

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Society for AIDS in Africa Symposium 2016 on Ebola, Lassa Fever and Zika “Africa’s Preparedness for Emerging Viral infections: Lessons from HIV/Ebola and the Outlook for Zika & Lassa” was held in Accra, Ghana from 4 to 5 August 2016. The Scientific Program was divided into four themes with Abstracts Oral and Poster presentations as well as Special sessions.

The recommendations from the Symposium are meant to highlight advanced scientific knowledge, to show how this knowledge could influence practice guidelines, health policy and IHR in Africa and to guide further research.

This report essentially focused on the Scientific program, particularly the practical recommendations retrieved from all presentations. These include recommendations from the Opening and Closing ceremony speeches, Special talks, abstracts oral presentations, posters, discussions and debates following these presentations. However, as this Symposium topic is focused on public health emergencies in Africa, relevant statements by political and health leaderships during the opening and closing ceremony are also reported in this report.



## I-METHODS OF REPORTING

### 1- Rapporteur Team



Rapporteurs debriefing after sessions

A team of Rapporteurs was set up in the first week of July with email exchanges to share tools and reporting activities management. Each Rapporteur was allocated a session to cover but it would have been ideal to have at least two (02) Rapporteurs covering the same session. Forms to be filled were provided to Rapporteurs for retrieval of most valuable information. After each theme, Rapporteurs covering the sessions had discussion and main ideas were put together. A matrix of global report was defined according to the content of each theme.

The form filled were submitted to the Technical Secretary of the Rapporteur team at the end of each day. This included a special tool designed to capture speeches of Opening and Closing ceremonies in addition to the recordings of the proceedings for further details of discussions and debates. Members of the rapporteur team are below.

- ✚ Alain AZONDEKON, [alainazon@yahoo.fr](mailto:alainazon@yahoo.fr), Lead Rapporteur
- ✚ Raymond YEKEYE, [ryekeye@nac.org.zw](mailto:ryekeye@nac.org.zw)
- ✚ Elizabeth AGYARE, [amaesiwa@yahoo.com](mailto:amaesiwa@yahoo.com)
- ✚ Eugene TETTEH-WAYOE, [ttwayoe@hotmail.com](mailto:ttwayoe@hotmail.com)
- ✚ Tanguy BOGNON, [bogtang11@yahoo.com](mailto:bogtang11@yahoo.com), Technical Secretary

## 2- Reporting activities

During two days of deliberations many critical presentations and comments were made by various experts. For the report the Rapporteurs reviewed daily reports of each presentation made by each Rapporteur using the agreed tool and format and adopted by the team. Power point presentations, audio records, notes of Opening and Closing ceremonies as well as data sheets were also used to triangulate the information.

The four themes of the scientific program and number of presentations are outlined below:

1. Broadening the Scientific and Epidemiological Evidence in Humans, Animals and the Environment (One Health Concept).
2. Resource Mobilization and Systems Strengthening
3. Africa Preparedness for Emerging Viral Infections: Lessons from HIV and AIDS and Ebola and Outlook for Zika Lassa and Yellow Fever.
4. Research, Monitoring and Evaluation.

**Table I:** Basics statistics of Presentations, Special talks and Speeches during the Symposium

	Number of Presentations - Special talk or Speeches	
	Expected	Done
Opening ceremony	05	06
Theme 1	06	06
Theme 2	13	10
Theme 3	08	08
Theme 4	03	03
Closing ceremony	04	06
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>39</b>

## 1- Recommendations and key points

The main recommendations and key points of the report focus on speeches of the Opening and Closing ceremonies, presentations, special talks and discussions and structured as follow.

## A- OPENING CEREMONY

- Promised to reinforce the Regional and continental efforts against emerging epidemics (Technical support, Laboratory diagnosis capacity enhancement and Surveillance): **MOH Ghana**.
- Called for strengthened collaboration between Clinicians and Veterinarians (**MOH Ghana**).
- Ghana has tasked the Ministry of Health to be on full alert to enhance surveillance on Lassa, Zika and Microcephaly. Many measures (sending case alert for Lassa and Zika, refresher training, harmonizing standard protocols, Laboratory capacity enhancing) are ongoing (**MOH Ghana**).
- “We can’t prevent emerging diseases if we don’t involve and educate the community on emerging infectious diseases” (**SAA President and MOH Zimbabwe**).
- Strategies and decisions from this meeting should be carried forward and published at higher levels: WHO, UN, AU, World Health Assembly (**MOH Zimbabwe**).
- Health Systems in Africa is very weak (poor infrastructure, poor disease surveillance, poor laboratory capacity, poor transport systems). “So we need more political will for health system strengthening” (**MOH of Zimbabwe**).
- Despite measures and responses during Ebola outbreaks, it’s spreading in West Africa showed that countries were not prepared for the response to such EID. “Our health systems are weak and need to be reinforced” (**MOH of Benin and MOH of Côte d’Ivoire**).
- Ownership for emerging infectious diseases (EID) control (stronger public health, infrastructure, health systems strengthening, timely and relevant information sharing and committing domestic resources to strength health systems (**WHO representative to Ghana**))



## **B- THEME 1: BROADENING THE SCIENTIFIC AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE IN HUMANS, ANIMALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (ONE HEALTH CONCEPT)**

### **a- Key points from presentations**

- Community is the center piece for the successful roll out of One Health Concept (OHC).
- OHC requires a multidisciplinary approach for effective service delivery.
- Governments, national and international organizations have to support holistic prevention and treatment as part of OHC
- Robust surveillance systems is a key element for detection and control of epidemics and health emergencies in Africa.
- World class infrastructures is very important to prevent, detect and respond to EID outbreaks.
- National and international organizations are actively called to work collectively and having a singular approach for all emergencies for coordination, planning and implementation for EID.
- Contact tracing is an important activity for outbreaks control but requires early community engagement and establishment of approach mechanisms for selection of contact tracers while at the same time providing them with adequate training.
- Operational and fundamental research are needed for adequate science-based assessment
- Research capacity to develop evidence-based plan to control EID has to be reinforced in each country.
- Multi-sectorial approach and good communication are very important for EID management.
- Vector control for Zika is quiet weak in Cape Verde and need more investment and a multidisciplinary approach.
- Laboratory capacities are quiet low in Africa and need strengthening and inter-country collaboration for EID control.

### **b- Key points from discussion and debates**

- WHO is committed to work with and support governments and partners in responding to world health emergencies.
- It will be useful to start OHC in schools and engage governments on supporting the initiative.
- Ensure health systems for the effective efficient roll-out of OHC.
- Native intelligence systems have to be considered for engagement of the community.

- It is critical to invest in laboratory infrastructure if the OHC succeeds.
- Using community leaders in building the capacity and educating community is a worthy investment.
- Formulate localized by-laws to facilitate rapid implementation of animal health clubs.
- Invest in a well-structured contact tracing system as a part of outbreaks management.
- Community plays an important role in establishing a functional contact tracing system
- Need for an efficient supplies management system as well as a managed and complete database for contact tracing.



## **C- THEME 2: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING**

### **a- Key points from presentations**

- Strengthening health systems is critical to ensure countries mitigate EID.
- Anti-Microbial Resistance is an urgent, global, and societal threat that requires whole-of-society engagement with clear strategies and appropriate solutions.
- Building and retaining local laboratory capacity during outbreaks is an integral part of effective surveillance.
- Effective laboratory management is required as part of a combination of context specific interventions.
- Active Flu surveillance system thus enables Ghana (respective member states) to participate in this international instrument and implement IHR.
- Using the SPP and linking with WHO's network of over 100 donors contacts, the investments made by donor initiatives can be better aligned to contribute to a country's real needs and gaps.
- Opportunities to strengthen AMR control exist in existing and new initiatives such as Joint External Evaluation and OHC.
- The process for the JEE mission requires that a country completes its baseline survey by using self-reported data for the various indicators on the JEE Tool.
- The deficiency in baseline epidemiological data on the occurrence of zoonotic diseases in humans and animals in West Africa poses a challenge in identifying zoonotic infections of primary importance.
- The end of AIDS in Africa has become a reality « yes we can by 2021/30 » because the last 15 years have inspired local, national and global confidence that this target can be achieved but there are still some gaps however the end of the AIDS pandemic is within our reach.

### **b- Key points from discussion and debates**

- It's important to invest in training for all levels of health care workers and surveillance systems.
- Build capacity communities to utilize services.
- Ghana has to collaborate with neighboring countries for EID control in the sub region.
- Need to strengthen the regulatory framework to stem Anti-Microbial Resistance.
- Member States are encouraged to develop National Action Plans for AMR in line with the WHO Global Plan.



- Need to scientific and technical research on *Mastomys* present in Benin in order to establish the geographic distribution map of the species.
- Important to invest in surveillance system to preempt spreading of EID.
- Around 75% of all emerging diseases are from animal origin so we need to invest in environmental and zoonotic health to control EID.
- Need for inter-sectoral approach to fight Anti-Microbial Resistance.
- Laboratory should be fully involved in the surveillance system.



## **D- THEME 3: AFRICA PREPAREDNESS FOR EMERGING VIRAL INFECTIONS : LESSON FROM HIV/AIDS AND EBOLA AND OUTLOOK FOR ZIKA LASSA AND YELLOW FEVER**

### **a- Key points from presentations**

- Despite immunization, Yellow Fever outbreak is still being reported in WHO Afro Region.
- Benin faced the first two outbreaks of Lassa Fever quickly controlled it because of high alert of the EBV but it can cause high rates of mortality in the community as well as in health workers.
- To estimate the prevalence of post Ebola syndrome among EVD survivors in Montserrado County in Liberia it is important to improve and maintain health services as well as further research.
- Risk factor associated with EVD infection among health workers are high, health authorities at all levels must ensure heightened vigilance and improve occupational safety measures especially in health facilities to prevent spreading of EVD among care workers.
- It's important to communicate well with communities to get them to comply with regulations.
- Health care workers preparedness to face any epidemics in Africa need extensive training and more logistics.
- Countries experiences (Ghana, Liberia, Cape Verde, Guinea) should be used to handle any emerging epidemics.
- A wake up call to revitalize implementation of the international health regulation.

### **b- Key points from discussion and debates**

- Strengthening of surveillance and early detection, intensive immunizations, strengthening interventions as well as prioritizing research in terms of diagnosis and vaccines are key strategies in countries or regions affected by Yellow Fever outbreaks.
- Border control for vaccines in Africa is very important for Yellow Fever control.
- Basic hospital hygiene and sharing information with health workers norms should be maintained, PPE are quite low and need to be reinforced.
- Before, during and after outbreaks, communication should be focused on the virus and actions by both professionals and communities.
- We have to use our knowledge and experiences of what happened during the Ebola outbreak to review the challenges of International Health Regulations.

## **E- THEME 4 : RESEARCH MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

### **a- Key points from presentations**

- Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) well placed to contribute to ongoing efforts: national & sub-regional Post-Ebola research, technical support, capacity building and collaboration for the enhancement of preparedness in the management of emerging & re-emerging viral infections.
- Research on Arboviruses: Recent study on samples of suspected Ebola case for possible Dengue and Chikungunya showed that four had positive serological evidence, which led to a proposal draft for a study into Dengue and Chikungunya as possible causes of febrile illnesses currently not detectable due to lack of diagnostic capacity at the facility level.

### **b- Key points from discussion and debates**

- Yellow fever, Ebola, Lassa and Zika Vector study for source reduction is the most important strategy to control these diseases and needs entomology technician training, education and awareness creation and inter country or regional collaborative research.

## **F- CLOSING CEREMONY**

### **1- WHO representative to Ghana**

- Thanked the organizers of this very rich symposium because various experiences have been shared about lessons on HIV and AIDS and EVD and how we can apply strategies to pre-empt Lassa fever, Zika and Yellow fever in the sub region.
- WHO encourages countries to undertake JEE to identify gaps and use PPI to mobilize resources for technical and financial support.
- Only resilience, systems capacity and good preparedness can ensure that we will respond timely and effectively to minimize the impact on human health as well as development of EID by prevention, early detection and management.

### **2- Representative of MOH of Ghana**

- Humans and animals are created to live in harmony on the same globe, so the OHC is important to regulate interaction and conditions that disturb this stability.
- IHR and other health systems are weak and we have to work together to support each other to ensure our countries respond effectively to outbreaks. Ghana will continue to play a strategic role in the sub-region by working very closely with neighboring countries in laboratory support, surveillance and detection of EID as well as technical support.
- Urged member states to strengthen in IHR to provide requisite support in terms of logistics, funding for national preparedness for response and research.

### **3- SAA President**

- Very glad and excited about discussions, presentations, rapporteur summary and that this kind of symposium has been organized by the Society for AIDS in Africa.
- It is unfortunate because such a symposium had not been organized earlier and the various interesting and useful recommendations will be followed up.
- Encouraged the SAA Secretariat to open a discussion forum on website in order to have an opportunity for continuous discussions and experience sharing.

## **G- TAKE HOME MESSAGES**

- ONE HEALTH CONCEPT SHOULD IMPLEMENTED IN A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN,
- COMMUNITY MUST BE FULLY INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS,
- TO PUSH OUR NATIONAL GOVERNEMENT TO BE COMMITTED FOR THIS STRATTEGY.

## **CONCLUSION**

The SAA 3<sup>rd</sup> Symposium on Ebola, Lassa Fever and Zika “Africa’s Preparedness for Emerging Viral Infections: Lessons from HIV and AIDS and the Outlook for Zika & Lassa” was held in Accra (Ghana) from 4 -5 August 2016 at La Palm Beach Hotel. This symposium was an intensive opportunity to share experiences, best practices, and challenges in addressing EID as well as identification of regional and international opportunities for collaboration towards the management and prevention of Emerging Infectious diseases. Ethical questions in research on animals remain a challenge that requires our joint efforts. In order to achieve the continent’s goals, communities should be fully engaged and involved to secure their commitment for better prevention and management of Emerging Infectious Diseases.





ANNEXES

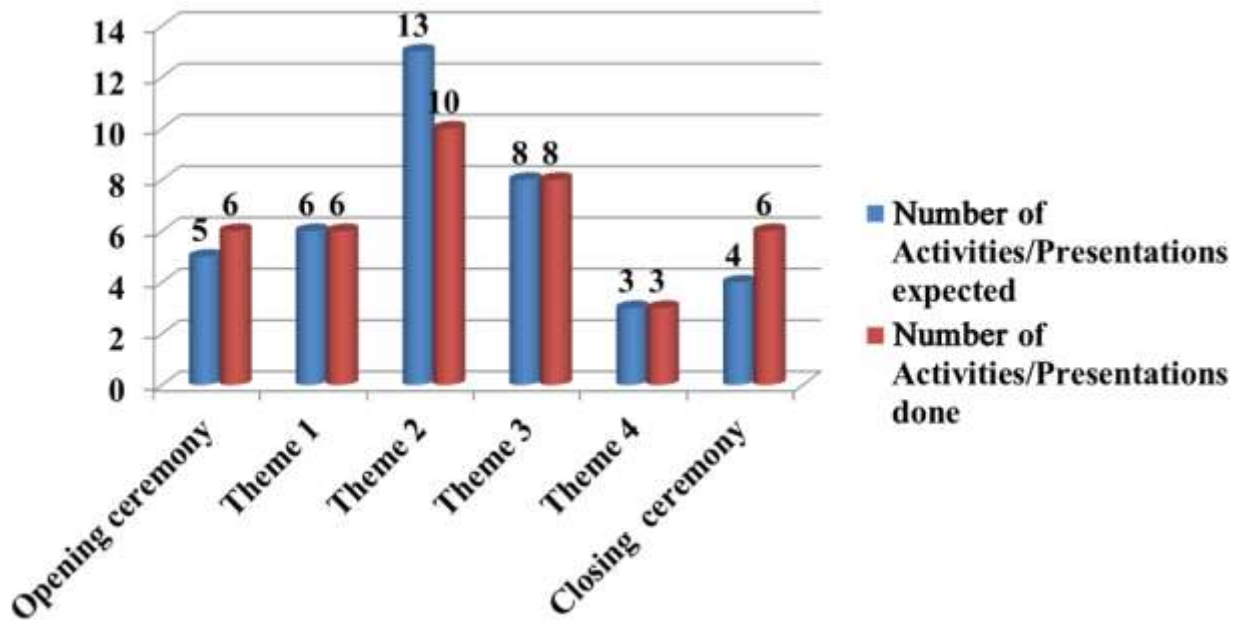
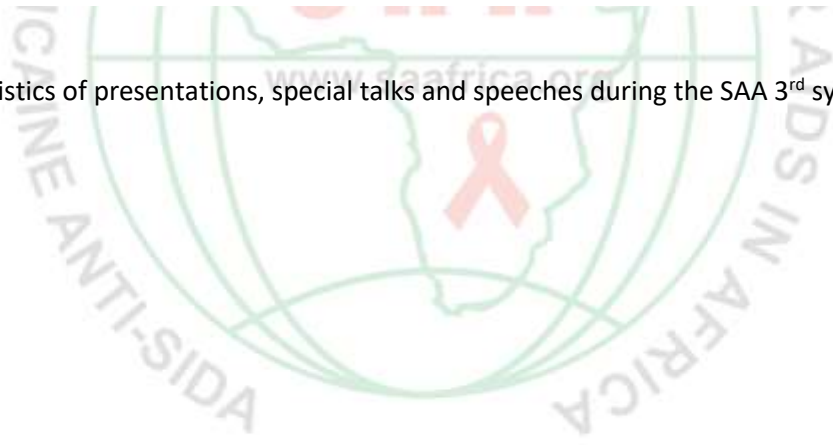


Fig1: Basics statistics of presentations, special talks and speeches during the SAA 3<sup>rd</sup> symposium, Accra 4-5 August 2016.



## PROGRAM

Time	Activity	Responsible/Speaker/Chairperson
<b>Day 0: 3rd August, 2016</b>		
3:00PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival and registration</li> <li>• Open Ceremony</li> </ul> <p>MOH Ghana: Welcome Address (10min) SAA President: Key Note Address (10min) MOH Cote D'Ivoire: In Country Approach (10min)</p> <p>Crespo the Poet : Zika Lassa &amp; Ebola Drama Group: JB ART Alliance (20min) MOH Zimbabwe : Guest Speaker</p> <p>WHO Rep: Keynote Address (30 min) SAA 2016 Award Ceremony Welcome Cocktail</p>	Prof. William Ampofo & Prof. Seni Kouanda
<b>Day 1: 4th August, 2016</b>		
	<b>Broadening the scientific and epidemiological evidence in humans, animals and the environment (one health concept)</b>	<b>Session Chair:</b> MOH Zimbabwe & Dr. Enoch Omonge
8:30-9:00	<b>Positioning Africa for effective preparedness and response to emerging Viral Diseases</b>	Dr. Olushayo Olu
9:20-9:40	Zika Epidemic In Cape Verde, 2015-2016	Dr. Maria de Lourdes Monteiro (Cape Verde)
10:00-10:20	One Health Concept- Enhancing community of practice in One Health for Infectious Diseases	Prof. Phyllis Addo ( Ghana)
10:20-10:40	One Health – A New Paradigm In Fighting Infectious Diseases	Prof. Bashiru Koroma (Sierra Leone)
10:40-11:00	The Impact Of Animal Health Clubs	Dr. Roland Suluku (Sierra Leone)
11:00-11:20	Contact Tracing during an Outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease in the Western Area Districts Of Sierra Leone: Lessons For Future Ebola Outbreak Response	Dr.Olushayo Olu (WHO)
11:20-12:00	Round Table Discussion	<b>Session Chair:</b> Dr. Chastity L. Walker (CDC) & Prof. John Idoko (NACA)
<b>12:00-12:20 Coffee/Tea Break</b>		
12:20-12:40	<b>Resource mobilization and systems strengthening (WHO, AU, WAHO response to prevent and control infection diseases. Lessons learnt from Ebola)</b>	<b>Session Chair:</b> Dr. Namwinga Chintu & Dr. Owen Laws Kaluwa

13:00-13:20	Sustaining preventive measures in order to control emergent viral infection in healthcare facilities, are we so alert pre-empt future outbreaks? Lessons learnt from Lassa/Ebola Outbreak in Benin	Mr. Tanguy Bognon (Abstract)
13:20-13:40	Laboratory systems strengthening in West Africa	Prof William Ampofo
<b>13:40-14:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
14:00-14:20	Enhancing laboratory capacity during Ebola Virus Disease heightened surveillance in Liberia: Lessons learnt and Recommendations	Ms. Victoria Katawera (Abstract)
14:20-14:40	Strategic Partnership Portal: Building Stronger Health Systems for Sustainable Health Security	Dr. John Ojo (Abstract)
14:40-15:00	Strengthening International Health Regulations through Joint External Evaluation	Dr. Ali Ahmed Yahaya WHO
15:00-15:20	Special Session: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development update on drugs and vaccine trials.	Dr. Ali Ahmed Yahaya WHO
15:20-16:20	Special Session: Zoonoses, emerging and re-emerging infectious & vector borne diseases	IRSS Prof. Zekiba Tarnagda KCCR –Dr. Augustina Sylverken FSS- Prof. Guy Apollinaire Mensah
16:20-16:40	Poster: Comprehensive Knowledge and preventive practice if HIV/AIDS among Female Sex Workers in Bahir Dar, North West Ethiopia, 2015 Poster: Honeymoon effect in preventing emerging infectious diseases: how it's experienced in the community for Lassa fever case of in Benin Poster: Study of Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Six Communities of south Benin Republic about Lassa Fever Hemorrhagic Disease: The Cases of Toffo, Allada, zèin the Atlantic Department, and Adjarra, Avrankou, Akpro-Misserete in the Department of Ouémé.	Mr. Dessie Kassa (Abstract) Mr. Tanguy Bognon (Abstract) Mr. Patrick Charles
17:00-17:15	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>	
17:15-17:35	End of HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Africa: Myth or Reality?	Dr. Pierre Mpele
17:35-17:55	HIV & Selenium	Mr. Howard Armistead

	<b>Day 2: 5th August, 2016</b>	
	<b>Africa's preparedness for emerging viral infections: Lessons from HIV/AIDS and EBOLA and outlook for ZIKA, LASSA &amp; YELLOW FEVER</b>	<b>Session Chair:</b> Rep of MOH Cote D'Ivoire & Prof. Seni Kouanda

8:30-9:00	Response to the Yellow Fever outbreak in WHO Afro Region: What has been done?	Dr. Charles Okot Lukoya – WHO Ghana
9:00-9:20	Response to Emerging diseases in Benin:-Lassa fever	Dr. Kohossi Leon WHO Benin
9:20-10:00	Epidemic response & prevention, socio cultural communication, control & impact mitigation: Post Ebola Syndrome	Ms. Wede Himiede Wilson (Abstract) Mr. Bernard Seytre
10:00-10:20	Strategies and applicable mechanisms for prevention of outbreaks: Health Worker Preparedness for Ebola Virus Diseases (EVD's)	Dr. Augustina Sylverken Mr. Nicholas N. C. Blidi
10:20-10:40	Treatment, Gaps & Options	Prof. Ellis Owusu-Dabo
10:40-11:00	Ghana's Response to Ebola in preparedness for Emerging Infections	Dr. Yaw Badu Sarkodie
11:00-11:20	The Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak In West Africa: a wakeup call to revitalize implementation of the International Health Regulations	Dr. Olushayo Olu (WHO)
<b>11:00-11:30: Coffee/Tea Break</b>		
	Session 4: Research & Monitoring and Evaluation	<b>Session Chair:</b> Prof Yaw Adu – Sarkodie
11:30-11:45	Experience of NMIMR - JICA	Prof. William Ampofo
11:45-12:00	Research on Arboviruses as emerging health threats	Dr. Kofi Bonney
12:00-12:20	Key Challenges for Research during Outbreaks A case of Ebola in Guinea	Dr. Abdoul Habib Beavogui
12:40-13:00	Entomological Surveillance of Arboviruses in Ghana	NMIMR SATREPS Dr. Samuel Dadzie
13:00-13:15	Poster: Strategy to assess county Ebola response capacity and future outbreaks prevention in Liberia  Poster: Uganda Military Data Management challenges for HIV care & treatment (C&T) interventions  Poster: Strategies that work at reaching the most 'at risk' adolescents girls and young women in Nairobi Kenya	Dr. April Baller (Abstract)  Mr. Benjamin Lutimba Mutebi(Abstract)  Ms. Betty Adera (Abstract)
<b>13:15-14:15 - Lunch Break</b>		
14:15-15:15	Symposium Discussions & Recommendations	Rapporteurs
15:15-16:15	<b>Closing Ceremony</b>	MOH Ghana MOH Zimbabwe, SAA President, WHO & Symposium Chairs