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

PROFILE
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History of SAA

The Society for AIDS in Africa was founded in 1989 at the fourth International Symposium on AIDS and Associated Cancers in Africa (now ICASA) held in Marseille France by a group of African scientists, activists, and advocates in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The establishment of the Society was the effect of the agitations of some African scientists for the conference to be organized on the African soil. These agitations had begun the previous year (1988) at the third meeting in Arusha, Tanzania. The conference had until then been organized outside the African continent. The cause of these scientists was supported by the then Director of WHO, Peter Piot.

At the 1990 conference held in DR Congo, an executive committee was established to oversee the establishment of the society and to coordinate subsequent ICASA meetings. The society was then officially registered in Nairobi, Kenya.

Founding members of the SAA were: Prof. Mboup from Senegal, Prof. Kaptue from Cameroon, Dr. Sam Okware from Uganda, Prof. Soyinka from Nigeria, Prof. Kadio and Prof. Gershey-Damet from Cote d'Ivoire, Dr. Patrick Kenya and Dr. Owili from Kenya, Dr. M Pelle from Congo Brazzaville, Dr. Kalenganyi and Dr Kapita from DR Congo, Prof. Mhalu from Tanzania, Prof. Luo from Zambia, Prof. Latif from Zimbabwe, Dr. Abdulrahman Sow from Mauritania, Dr. Kanki P from USA, Prof. Abdellah Benslimane from Morocco, Dr. Fatia Mohamoud from Sudan and Prof. Ahmed Zribi from Tunisia.

The first election of regional delegates was held in October 1990 in Kinshasa, DR Congo. The selection was done according to the WHO regional classification of sub-Saharan Africa namely, Region 1, Region 2, Region 3 and Emco.

- The first elected representatives of Region 1 were: Prof Soulemane Mboup from Senegal, Prof Femi Soyinka from Nigeria, Prof A. Kadio and Dr. Gershy-Damet from Cote d'Ivoire.
- The elected representatives of Region 2 were: Prof L. Kaptue from Cameroon, Dr. Dundu Malaki Owili from Kenya, Dr. Pierre Mpelle from Congo Brazzaville and Dr. Karengenyi of the former Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo)
- In Region Three, the representatives were: Prof. Fred S. Mhalu from Tanzania, Prof Nkandu Luo from Zambia and Prof. L. Latif from Zimbabwe.
- In Region 3 (EMCO), the elected representatives were: Prof. Abdellah Benslimane of Morocco who later became the first president of SAA, Dr. Fatia Mohamoud from Sudan and Prof Ahmed Zribi from Tunisia.

Also involved in the formative process of the society were Prof. K. Kallings from Sweden, Prof. Peter Piot and Dr. Abdulrahman Sow from Geneva, Dr. Patrick Kenya and Dr. N. Angata from Kenya who later became the first Secretary General of SAA.

During the SAA inaugural meeting in Kinshasa, Nairobi was selected as the SAA secretariat headquarters and the society was officially registered there.

At the Morocco meeting in 1993, a unanimous decision of biennially organized ICASA was adopted by the SAA council. ICASAs were held biannually before the Morocco meeting. The first biennial ICASA was thus held in Kampala in 1994 and thereafter in Cote d’Ivoire in 1997, Zambia in 1999, Burkina Faso in 2001, Kenya in 2003, Nigeria in 2005 and Senegal in 2008, Ethiopia in 2011, South Africa in 2013, Zimbabwe in 2015 and Cote d’Ivoire in 2017.
Before relocating to Ghana as the permanent secretariat the SAA moved from Nairobi to Abuja, Nigeria as a functional secretariat. Then on the recommendation the board, on 28th May, 2009, the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) relocated the permanent headquarter/secretariat. Operations then commenced in Accra, Ghana. The Society is registered under the company Act (2019; 992) with registration number CG05032016 and Tax Identification Number (TIN) C0007043759. With the status of an International NGO, SAA is registered under the Department of Social Welfare (DSW/4466).

**SAA GOVERNANCE SYSTEM (1989-2021)**

Prof. **BENSILMAN**
(1990 - 1995)

Dr. **Pierre Kibou MPELE**
DR Congo (1995 - 2005)

Prof. **Femi SOYINKA**
Nigeria (2005 - 2009)

Prof. **Robert Soudre**
Burkina Faso (2010 - 2013)

Dr. **Ihab AHMED**
Egypt (2014 - 2017)

Prof. **John Idoko**
Nigeria (2017 - 2021)

Hon. Dr. **David Parirenyatwa**
SAA President (2022-2025)

**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.

**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.
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.

SAA Board Executives

Executive board members are elected to serve a four year term, To be eligible, the candidate must:

- Be a registered and active member of SAA for three (3) consecutive years
- Have attended at least three past ICASA’s.
- The candidate must have a minimum of 5 years work experience in the field of HIV/AIDS, STIs, Sexual & Reproductive Health or other related issues
- Elections are 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.
- Seven (7) presidents elected.

There has been seven (7) consecutive batches of board members and the current board constitute the 7th batch of SAA Board Executives.
SAA GOVERNING COUNCIL, (2022 - 2025)

President: Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa
Vice President: Prof. Mohamed Chakroun
Secretary-General: Dr. Aliou Sylla
Deputy Secretary-General: Dr. Nonhlanhla Ignatia Ndlovu
Treasurer: Prof. Morenike Ukpong
Member: Dr. Emmy J. Chesire
Member: Dr. Eléonore Ilunga Ina Mutombo
Dignitaries and Speakers of past International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA)

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

Abdoulaye Wade,
President of Senegal, ICASA 2008, Senegal

H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi,
Late Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, ICASA 2011, Ethiopia

George W. Bush Jr.,
Former President of USA, ICASA 2011, Ethiopia

Kgalema Motlanthe,
Deputy President of South Africa, ICASA 2013, South Africa

Cde. Emmerson D. Mnangagwa,
Vice President of Zimbabwe, ICASA 2015, Zimbabwe

Alassane Ouattara,
President of Ivory Coast (Côte d’Ivoire), ICASA 2017, Côte d’Ivoire

Filipe Nyusi,
President of Mozambique, ICASA 2019, Rwanda

Paul Kagame,
President of Rwanda, ICASA 2019, Rwanda
ICASA Best Abstract Award Recipients (2015-2021)
ICASA Best Abstract Award Recipients (2015-2021)

Karen Webb,
RESEARCH GRANT OF $2000.
TRACK E – HEALTH SYSTEMS,
ECONOMICS & IMPLEMENTATION
SCIENCE, ICASA 2019

Ms. Carmélita Sidoine Acakpo,
RESEARCH GRANT OF $2500.
TRACK D - LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS,
SOCIAL SCIENCE & POLITICAL
SCIENCE, ICASA 2017

Dr. Abdou Padane,
RESEARCH GRANT OF $2500.
TRACK A: BASIC SCIENCE
(BIOLOGY & PATHOGENESIS),
ICASA 2017

Mr. Kennedy GATHU,
RESEARCH GRANT OF $2500.
TRACK E – HEALTH SYSTEMS,
ECONOMICS & IMPLEMENTATION
SCIENCE, ICASA 2017

Nodjikouambaye Zita Aleyo,
RESEARCH GRANT OF $2500.
TRACK B: CLINICAL SCIENCE,
TREATMENT AND CARE, ICASA 2017

Mr. Yao Hyacinthe Koffi,
TRACK D - LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS,
SOCIAL SCIENCE & POLITICAL
SCIENCE, ICASA 2015

Ms. Idah MOKHELE,
RESEARCH GRANT OF $2500.
TRACK C – EPIDEMIOLOGY & PRE-
VENTION SCIENCE, ICASA 2017

Dr. Tajudeen OYEWALE,
MB;BS, MPH, PhD,
TRACK C – EPIDEMIOLOGY & PRE-
VENTION SCIENCE, ICASA 2015

Dr. Almustapha I. MAIGA,
TRACK A: BASIC SCIENCE
(BIOLOGY & PATHOGENESIS),
ICASA 2015

Dr. Tichaona Nyamundaya,
TRACK E – HEALTH SYSTEMS,
ECONOMICS & IMPLEMENTATION
SCIENCE, ICASA 2015

Dr. Tadesse T. Mekonen,
TRACK B: CLINICAL SCIENCE,
TREATMENT AND CARE, ICASA 2015

Nodjikouambaye Zita Aleyo,
RESEARCH GRANT OF $2500.
TRACK A: BASIC SCIENCE
(BIOLOGY & PATHOGENESIS),
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TRACK E – HEALTH SYSTEMS,
ECONOMICS & IMPLEMENTATION
SCIENCE, ICASA 2015

Dr. Tadesse T. Mekonen,
TRACK B: CLINICAL SCIENCE,
TREATMENT AND CARE, ICASA 2015
Other Activities

Apart from its major activity ICASA, the Society partners with other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to organize scientific symposia and fora with the aim of mitigating against the impact of HIV/AIDS and ending the pandemic by 2030, and other emerging diseases as well as strengthening the health system in Africa.

Mulungushi Conference Center, Zambia, 2014
Under the Auspices of SAA and SWAA
Theme: ADOLESCENTS, SRHR AND HIV IN AFRICA: TIME TO ACT

3rd SAA Scientific Symposium In 2016, La Palm Beach Hotel, Accra, Ghana
Theme: AFRICA’S PREPAREDNESS FOR EMERGING VIRAL INFECTIONS: LESSONS FROM HIV/EBOLA AND THE OUTLOOK FOR ZIKA & LASSA"
Collaboration between SAA and Ghana AIDS Commission, NHARCON at the Accra International Conference Centre (AICC) Theme: “HIV Testing Uptake Behaviour and Associated Context among Female Sex Workers in Ghana”


OUTREACH FOR ADOLESCENT ORPHANS HIV+ FOR RESILIENCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC The Society for AIDS in Africa, in partnership with the government of Ghana, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA Ghana), the Canadian High Commission organized a donation exercise at the Adentan Municipal Assembly -Accra, Ghana
2020 World AIDS Day – SAA Activity In commemoration of World AIDS Day 2020, the Society for AIDS in Africa, the custodian, and organizer of the largest HIV/AIDS Conference in Africa; the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) embarked on a Blood donation exercise with 37 Military Hospital, Accra - Ghana


This will bridge the gap of 20 percent global funding for HIV, and help the continent to meet the UNAIDS 2020 and 2030 targets of fighting HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa.
Institutional Memory

21 conferences in 30 years - International Conference on AIDS & STIs in Africa (ICASA)

- ICASA is rotated amongst the Anglophone and Francophone countries in Africa.
- Host countries usually bid for the right to host the conference and during this time members across the five regions: Northern Region, Southern Region, Eastern Region, Western Region and Central Region, cast their votes and the emerging country signs an MoU with the SAA secretariat to host the conference.
Strong Structure Framework (SSF)

ICASA Director with President Mokgweetsi, BOTSWANA

With President Kagame, RWANDA

ICASA 2021 Signing of the MOU by Prof. John Idoko (former SAA President) Dr. Sandile Buthelezi (DG-NDoH) and Dr. Sandile Tshabalala (KZN HoD Health, representing DG OTP)
Can we implement the Strong Structure Framework without Passion and Knowledge from the leadership?

SAA Ultramodern Headquarters Project

To sustain SAA’s activities both in country and Africa at large, plans are far advanced with the establishment of the SAA Ultramodern headquarters project. Be on the look out for the launch of the project and call for support towards the realization of the project.

**Projections of the Ultramodern Headquarters**

- We envisage owning an International TV and Radio Station Programme which will aid broadcast activities of SAA, advocate, and host programs exclusively to strengthen the health system in Africa.
- An ultramodern conference facility with 500 room capacity.
- A dialysis and Fitness Centre to support people with nephrological conditions.
- Office spaces for rent and guests’ house.
Financial Status of SAA

SAA budgets and Accounts are all managed in Accra, Ghana. SAA’s total Asset as at 31st December, 2020 amounted to $2,842,585.52

Impact On Both Local And International Communities

- Impact on health Systems
- Social Cultural Impact
- Academic Impact
- Economic Impact
- Visibility of the Host country of ICASA

One of the largest HIV and health conference in Africa from 8000-15000 delegates biennially
Key Staff of SAA & Consultants

Luc Armand H. Bodea
SAA Coordinator/ ICASA Director

Mad. Clemence Assogba
Head of Admin / Finance

Fidelis Elikplim Dei-Tutu
Accountant

Chris Kwesi Nuatro
Marketing / Partnership Officer

Gordon Tambro
Programme Officer

Marie – Noëlle Atta
Senior Asst. Marketing / Partnership

Leslie Sodjinu
Operations / Procurement Officer

Emmanuel T. Kuadzi
Web/Digital Media Officer

Felix Okley Apana
IT Officer

Lillian Yeboaa Oteng
Admin/Finance Assistant

Julius Kofi Mortsi
Virtual & Social Media Assistant

Ziberu Abdul Manaf
Technical Support

Augustine Nyarko Vasco
Transport Officer

Derick Ayitey
Transport Officer

Samuel Agbesi
Consultant
The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) is privileged to announce its new membership portal.

Kindly follow the link to register as a SAA member or renew your membership:


Membership Benefits

- Access SAA database
- Access a personal page in the member's area where other members can be contacted
- Be part of various ICASA committee
- Access latest information on upcoming SAA conferences
- Participate in the pre-selection of ICASA host countries
- Receive Frequent electronic membership update with the latest news
- Get an Opportunity to decide the membership of the SAA governing council election
- Get 5% discount on forthcoming ICASA for SAA paid registered members
- Access all past ICASA Abstracts

For more information, please visit www.saafrica.org
REGISTRATION OPENS ON

1ST MARCH 2023

Visit http://icasa2023.saafrica.org
or WhatsApp: +233 303 936 814