



Thank you for coming to PACA 2019 in Nairobi Kenya!!

On behalf of the Pan African Congress on Autism visionaries and organizers, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who believed in our vision and showed up to our first ever Inaugural event. To the parents and families of children with ASD and other Neurodevelopmental Disabilities that came, thank you. It is because of you that Pan African Congress on Autism was started. To those who brought their children on the Spectrum, thank you! I hope you felt welcome, loved and accepted. A big “thank you” to our self-advocating adults on the spectrum who came. Sarah Bosibori, Abby Brooke, Karen Muriuki & Junior Bassey, we truly appreciate you.

Second, our Sponsors; Ferrer Pharmaceutical, Excella Developmental Services, Autism Speaks, Step up 4 Autism, Autism Lights, Kenya Autism Alliance, Alexis Miranda Foundation and Fairmile School. We could not have done it without you.

Third, our invited Speakers; Prof. Charles Newton (Kenya Medical Research Institute -KEMRI), Prof. Amina Abubakar (Kenya Medical research Institute -KEMRI), Dr. Kristin Sohl , M.D., F.A.A.P (University Of Missouri/ECHO Autism), Dr. Kwang-Sun Cho Blair (University of South Florida), Dr. Liliana Mayo (Centro Ann Sullivan del Peru (CASP), Dr. Alliya Mohamed, M.D., F.A.A.P (Muthaiga Pediatrics consultant), Dr. Pamela Dixon (Autism Speaks), Dr. Ramon Novell (Ferrer Pharmaceutical), Dr. Megan Miller, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Ryan O'Donnell, M.S., BCBA, Evisha Ford-Sills, Ph.D., LCSW (iCan Dream Center), Ms. Abby Brooke (Walking African for Autism-Autistic Adult), Molly Ola Pinney (Global Autism Project).

Fourth, all those who submitted papers that were accepted for presentation; Joyce Achieng Ogogo, Nicolette Ripepi, Tolu Olaniyan, Dahlia Soliman, Meryem Ouahmane, Hanrietta Bassey, Regina Hausman, Douglene Jackson, Ph.D., OTR/L, LMT, ATP, Elizabeth Morgan, Melanie Boudreau, Isaiah Khang'ati, Eziafakaku Nwokolo, Christine P. Atieno, Tateana Foster, Rachelle Sheely, Ph.D., Trixie Pooja, Dr. Bissouma, Anna-Corinne, Zoe Migel, Gifty Ayoka, Dr. Danashri Pawar, Ashley Knochel, Rachel Sofarelli, Reinette Lombard, Eric Moor, Henry Mwanza, Winston Bailey, Denise Hetherrington, Eva Nyoike, Jaki Mathaga, Dr. Jane Muiruri & Natalie Downs.

Fifth, the many countries that sent representatives; Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, United States of America, Egypt, Spain, Peru, United Kingdom, Mexico, India, Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Mauritius, Reunion Island, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, S. Africa, Swaziland, Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda, Cameroon, Seychelles, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Senegal & Liberia. Our goal is to have every country in Africa represented at our next PACA Conference.



With our theme, **Autism in Africa: Debunking Myths & Stigma through Diagnosis, Education and Evidence Based Interventions**, our work has just started in the African Region. There is so much to be done. Between now and the next conference in 2020, our goal is to come up with solutions of problems raised and develop locally sustainable changes that will truly change the narrative of Autism in Africa. PACA2019 was truly a dream come true. Together we can. Together we will. Thank you all for being part of the change.

Sincerely,
Jane Weru Paul, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA
PACA 2019 Conference Chair
Pan African Congress on Autism