



**African Population and  
Health Research Center**

Transforming lives in Africa through research.

# Board Bulletin

December, 2025

Get to Know Our  
**APHRC Board Members!**





Welcome to this exclusive APHRC Board Bulletin—a spotlight on the dynamic individuals guiding our mission and vision as we push boundaries in population health, research, and development across Africa and beyond. Our Board members' expertise spans academia, law, finance, ICT, public health, education, and innovation. Their strategic oversight ensures that APHRC remains mission-aligned, impact-driven, and future-focused.

## Diverse Expertise Driving APHRC's Vision



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## Bunmi Makinwa

Board Chair, Board Member: 2019 To Date

Bunmi Makinwa is the Chief Executive Officer and founder of AUNIQUEI, a social enterprise focused on communication for leadership that engages all facets of the population. Makinwa has over 35 years of experience in issues of socio-economic development, global health, international development, political leadership, and governance.

He was a senior official of the United Nations, international organizations, and national institutions worldwide, representing over 50 countries, including many in Africa. Makinwa has served in different organizations in different capacities, including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNAIDS New York Office, UNAIDS to the African Union Commission, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, UNAIDS Regional Office for East and Southern Africa, Family Health International (FHI), Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), and World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa.

Bunmi has degrees from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and Harvard University, USA, and diplomas from the United Nations System Staff College and academic institutions in Germany and South Africa, and is a researcher at the University of South Africa. (UNISA). He is a writer, analyst, and commentator on politics and public affairs. Bunmi writes regular columns and opinion pieces for various publications, media outlets, and online platforms. Makinwa serves on the Boards of several businesses and not-for-profit organizations.



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## Daniel Laster

Deputy Board Chair, Board Member: 2020 - 2025

Daniel Laster has been involved in global health, technology, and academia for decades. He previously served as an Associate General Counsel at Microsoft, overseeing trademark, copyright, trade secret, and open source practices. Daniel worked for over ten years at PATH, where he served as Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Chief Legal Officer.

Most recently, he consulted on the merger of a prominent cancer research institute. In 2021, he served as the Director of the Washington State Department of Health's Vaccine Action Command and Coordination System Center, a public-private partnership aimed at achieving mass COVID-19 vaccination in Washington State. Over the years, he has graced numerous platforms as a speaker, offering thought-provoking insights on a wide range of subjects, most notably on intellectual property law.



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## Angela Wamola

### Board Member, 2024 To Date

Angela has over 20 years of leadership experience in the Telecommunications sector. She is an accomplished and resourceful professional in managing public affairs, developing and strengthening stakeholder partnerships, and advocating for policy reform in diverse issue areas. Angela is currently the Head of Sub-Saharan Africa at the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA).

She is recognized as a digital and technology expert with a solid Information and Communications Technology (ICT) background, specializing in managing all aspects of strategic engagement related to digital transformation and advocating for public policies. Angela is a well-trained leader in high-performance teams and has a proven track record of success in planning and implementing advocacy plans, positively representing organizations, and maintaining professional contacts. Angela holds an Executive Master's in Business Administration from the University of Cape Town and a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Nairobi.



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## Martin Mbaya

### Board Member, 2021 To Date

Martin is a Doctoral Fellow at Strathmore University Business School's Institute of Public Policy and Governance and a PhD candidate at the Graduate School of Technology Management in the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and IT.

His research focuses on systemic barriers to digital learning innovation in African universities. He holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School and a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from MIT.



## Bright Simons

Board Member, 2019 - 2025

Bright Simons served for more than a decade as the President of mPedigree. He is a George Mallinckrodt Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School and an Adrian Cheng Fellow at SICI-Harvard. In 2016, Fortune magazine named him to its 50 World's Greatest Leaders list. Bright's current research and innovation focus at the Harvard Innovation Lab explores the power of new technologies that combine data analytics and thermosensitive polymers for temperature control and accountability management in sensitive health cold chains for vaccines and biotech products.

Simons writes regularly for, among others, the Africa Report, New Africa, Harvard Business Review, Quartz magazine, the BBC's Business Daily show, and the Huffington Post. He serves on the Advisory Board of IC Publications. In addition, he has served on the inaugural Microsoft Africa Advisory Council, the Africa Strategy Group at the World Economic Forum, the Lancet Commission on the Future of Health in Africa, the Center for Global Development's Study Group on Technology & Development Prospects, and the inaugural Ashoka Globalizer initiative. As an early Director, he contributed considerably to IMANI's continuous recognition as one of the world's most innovative think tanks and among Africa's top 5 institutions of its kind.

Simons also contributes to the building of global networks as a member of multiple World Economic Forum Global Agenda and Future Councils, the TED Fellowship, the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Fellowship, and the Aspen Global Leadership Network Fellowship.



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## Delivette Castor

### Board Member, 2023 To Date

Delivette Castor is an Assistant Professor (in Medicine and Epidemiology) in the Department of Medicine at the Columbia University Medical Center. She is also the Director of the section on Health Equity in Dissemination and Implementation Sciences in the Division of Infectious Diseases. Her research focuses on advancing theories and methods to measure and address infectious disease outcomes among marginalized women in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) settings and in the United States.

For 10 years, Delivette was part of the technical leadership at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), conducting implementation science within the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Program and utilizing epidemiologic and economic evidence to inform plans for delivering novel HIV prevention interventions. Her work has centered on the development and evaluation of interventions to mitigate the risk of Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV), human papillomavirus (HPV), and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).



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## Ousmane Faye

### Board Member, 2021 To Date

Ousmane FAYE has 27 years of experience and specializes in Project and Grants Audit & Assessment (Statutory Audit, Risk Management, and other advisory services). He has extensive experience working in developing countries in conducting pre-grant evaluations and grant expenditure evaluations, coaching staff in performing audits of projects/programs granted by Financial & Technical Partners with various procedures: World Bank, ADB, EU, USAID, AFD; DGID, SIDA, DANIDA, US Foundations as Bill & Melinda GATES, Hewlett Foundation, Ford Foundation, The Global Fund, UN Agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNOPS, UNFPA, among others) with many engagement teams in Senegal as well as in the Africa Sub-Region. Ousmane is also a member of the KPMG Paris Office Forensic Audit Team.

He has diverse leadership experience in Board Governance, having participated in numerous Board of Directors and General Assembly Meetings of various companies and NGOs/Associations. Ousmane holds a Bachelor of Economics and Finance in France (Marseille, 1985) and a Diploma of Finance and Logistics (Paris, 1984).



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## Brenda Bernice Ntombela

Board Member, 2023 To Date

Brenda Bernice Ntombela has held numerous senior management and executive-level positions, gaining extensive experience in these roles. She is currently the CEO of BTN Training Pty Ltd, a company specializing in Early Childhood Development training, and the Vice-Chairperson of the Council of the Durban University of Technology, where she also chairs the Human Capital Committee.

She has served as a senior official representing the Government of South Africa at international forums in various parts of the world. Brenda served as the Head of Secretariat of the Human Resource Development Council of South Africa (HRDCSA) and as Vice Chairperson of the Public Sector Trainers' Forum. Other roles include Councilor (Commissioner) for the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), Chairperson of the Southern Africa Postal Regulators Forum for SADC, member of the South African Nursing Council, Deputy Chairperson of the Avalon Home for People with Disabilities, among others.

Brenda argues that conducting research is a way of displaying curiosity and creativity, especially in Africa, based on our uniqueness as Africans. She advocates for policies that address this uniqueness. Brenda also calls for strengthening coordination among African researchers and sharing research findings so that we can learn from one another. She highlights the need to document findings to see what works and does not work. Brenda holds a Master's degree in nursing. She also has qualifications in management and leadership, as well as sector-specific certificates in Telecommunications, Education, and Training.



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## Ole Petter Ottersen

Board Member, 2019 - 2025

Professor Ole Petter Ottersen was the University of Oslo's elected President 2009 – 2017 and served as the President of Karolinska Institutet in Sweden 2017 -2023. Ole Petter Ottersen was Director of one of Norway's Centres of Excellence (Centre for Molecular Biology and Neuroscience) 2002-2009 and chaired The Lancet-University of Oslo Commission on Global Governance for Health (2011-2014). He was Founding Chair (2016-2017) and Acting General Secretary (2023-2024) of the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities – a European university network that is headquartered in Brussels and that aims to contribute to the EU research, health, and innovation agenda. Ottersen is cofounder of One Europe for Global Health (OEGH). He is currently Professor and Chair of the Sustainable Health Unit at the University of Oslo, Visiting Professor at Charité (Berlin), Vice President of Virchow Foundation, and co-chair of a new Lancet commission on Global Governance for Health.



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## **Fatai Adegboye**

### **Board Member, 2025 To Date**

Fatai is a highly seasoned professional with over thirty years of experience in risk management, accounting, finance, auditing, and administration. He is a Senior Regional Risk Advisor with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). Previously, he held posts as deputy country director, head of finance and administration, and was a partner with a private-sector audit firm.

He has successfully managed the implementation of global, regional, national, and sectoral humanitarian initiatives in many countries. Fatai served as an Audit Partner at FOC Group, a chartered accountancy firm, and as Head of Money Market Operations at Bacad Finance & Investments, based in Nigeria. With over thirty years of experience, He is highly proficient in risk management, accounting, finance, and auditing. Fatai has substantial expertise in strategic thinking, policy implementation, and negotiation on sensitive and security matters impacting countries and vulnerable populations.

Fatai is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants in the United Kingdom, and the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria, and an associate of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners in the United States. He holds a Master's degree in Information Sciences from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.



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## **Pam Fredman**

### **Board Member, 2021 To Date**

Pam Fredman has an academic background as a Professor of Neurochemistry at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and has been active in many scientific and scholarly contexts. She has been a board member of national and international scientific organizations and academies, serving on review committees for research projects and institutional scientific journals, and has extensive experience in academic leadership. Pam has also served as the acting rector at the University of Gothenburg, chair of the Swedish Rector Conference, member of the European University Association Council, and the EUA Research Policy Working Group.

She has participated in political initiatives and policy development in Sweden. For more than ten years, Pam has been the chair of the national leadership programs for incoming rectors and deans and acts as chair for research centers with interdisciplinary and global approaches. On behalf of the Swedish government, she recently led an investigation into governmental steering and resource allocation for Swedish higher education institutions. Since 2016, Pam is the President of the International Association of Universities (IAU).



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## Wilfred Nderitu

### Board Member, 2021 To Date

Wilfred Nderitu is a lawyer and currently the Managing Partner of Nderitu & Partners Advocates, a law firm based in Nairobi, Kenya. He is also a senior counsel of the Law Society of Kenya, and a member of the List of Counsel in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, in the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

Alongside representing several high-profile clients, Wilfred has also been an adjunct lecturer at the Strathmore University School of Law, a consultant at the Kenya Human Rights Commission, chairman of the Kenya Section of the International Commission of Jurist, a duty counsel at the International Criminal Court – Cour Pénale Internationale in Uganda, and a protection officer at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Wilfred holds a Master's degree in International Relations from The Fletcher School at Tufts University, a Bachelor of Laws, Honors LL.B., from the University of Nairobi, a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Kenya School of Law, and has done an Advanced Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Course from the University of Lund/Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Humanitarian and Human Rights Law.



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## Thomas Finkbeiner

### Board Member, 2021 To Date

Dr. Thomas Finkbeiner is a practicing clinician with strong analytical skills combined with an entrepreneurial approach to challenges. He believes that patients play a critical role in managing their own health and that this can be best achieved through a respectful partnership between doctors and well-informed clients. Thomas runs his own medical consultancy firm, Capsele Medical Consulting, which focuses on telemedicine and currently provides an online platform for pediatric medical advice; it is rapidly expanding its services through a network of specialists.

He earned his MD from Eberhard-Karl University, Tuebingen, Germany, and is board-certified in pediatrics and emergency medicine. Thomas worked with Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in multiple missions for almost 10 years before he completed his postgraduate training in Public Health at Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, USA, with a focus on international health and health care financing. He then joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through its epidemiological fellowship program. Thomas also served as the Chief for HIV care and treatment, funded by CDC through PEPFAR. During his tenure, the number of patients on lifesaving ART grew from less than 100,000 to over 300,000.



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