

UNESCO- Merck Africa Research Summit
UNESCO-MARS
Empowering Women and Youth in Research
From Africa For Africa



Merck Africa Research Summit – MARS 2020 will be held in Zambia with the aim to empower Women and Youth in Research.

UNESCO-Merck Africa Research Summit- MARS 2020 MARS 2020 will have scientific support from UNESCO (United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization, African Union Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (AU-STRC), Infectious Diseases Institute, College of Health Sciences, Makerere University, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) Graduate School, Tata Memorial Centre, India and Merck Foundation.

The annual summit aims to contribute to building research capacity in the African research community, with special focus on **“The Role of Scientific Research in responding to Cancer and Vaccines Development – Two emerging challenges in Africa”**.

On other note the organizing committee will present the **“Best Young African Researcher Award”** and

the “**Best African Woman Researcher Award**” to recognize the outstanding contribution of African Female Scientists with the aim to promote women in research and advance their contribution to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

The annual Summit – **UNESCO-MARS** will open a discussion with Ministries of Health, Education, Information, Science and Technology and Gender from across Africa to define policies with the aim to empower women and youth in STEM and to address the vital role of research in the improvement and sustainable development of population's health with specific emphasis on how to translate knowledge into action - the

'know-do gap' - to improve health and make an impact on society.

The summit will be a unique opportunity for the winners of **MARS research awards** to share their research output and findings. It is also an opportunity for networking and career development. The Summit will provide a platform where they will be able to discuss and enable a conducive environment for better research during the ministerial panel that will be conducted on the 13th of October 2020.

UNESCO Merck Africa Research Summit – MARS 2020 will be held in Zambia with the aim to empower Women and Youth in Research.

UNESCO-Merck Africa Research Summit- MARS 2020 MARS 2020 will have scientific support from UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, African Union Scientific, Technical and Research Commission (AU-STRC), Infectious Diseases Institute, College of Health Sciences, Makerere University, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) Graduate School, Tata Memorial Centre, India and Merck Foundation.

The annual summit aims to contribute to building research capacity in the African research community, with special focus on “The Role of Scientific Research in responding to Cancer and Vaccines Development – Two emerging challenges in Africa”.

On other note the organizing committee will present the “Best Young African Researcher Award” and the “Best African Woman Researcher Award” to recognize the outstanding contribution of African Female Scientists with the aim to promote women in research and advance their contribution to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

The annual Summit – UNESCO-MARS will open a discussion with Ministries of Health, Education, Information, Science and Technology and Gender from across Africa to define policies with the aim to empower women and youth in STEM and to address the vital role of research in the improvement and sustainable development of population's health with specific emphasis on how to translate knowledge into action - the 'know-do gap' - to improve health and make an impact on society.

The summit will be a unique opportunity for the winners of MARS research awards to share their research output and findings. It is also an opportunity for networking and career development. The Summit will provide a platform where they will be able to discuss and enable a conducive environment for better research during the ministerial panel that will be conducted on the 13th of October 2020.

Abstract Submission Details

Abstracts are invited from final year African PhD students and young investigators involved in research related to either of the following topics:

- Cancer (specially in women)
- Vaccines Development

All should be primarily based at African research institutes and Universities, although collaboration within Africa as well as outside is encouraged.

Deadline: 30th August, 2020

Send your abstracts to:

mars@merck-foundation.com

along with your CV (including Name, Gender, Country, University/Hospital Name, Email address, Mobile Number) and the abstract document as an attachment.

OR

Apply Now

MARS 2020 Awards

All abstracts will be peer reviewed and 15 winners will be eligible for Sponsorship to attend UNESCO MARS Summit.

Best three Abstracts will be eligible for Research Awards.

Further, Research Awards will be also dedicated for Best African Women Researchers

