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EDITORIAL

WHO WILL SAVE OUR PROFESSION?

Do our nation's laboratory professionals have a bright future in patient care? At AKMLSO, we believe there will be countless and diverse job opportunities in the future provided that the field of pathology and laboratory medicine continues to evolve and is duly recognized for its vital contributions to patient care. How can we ensure that our professionals are prepared to function in a healthcare system that is undergoing a major transition?

Remember, we are "Stronger Together" and unifying our voices will provide the necessary vehicle to influence the policy makers to consider our critical professionals when determining staffing to meet needs of 21st century medicine. The healthcare system in the Kenya is undergoing a major transformation and there is no longer a status quo. Leaders within health systems have been tasked with maximizing efficiency in a fiscally prudent environment. Budgets are being critically analyzed in every major hospital and laboratory system across the country and expenditure for our services is being scrutinized as patient populations increase as part of the right to healthcare enshrined in the new constitutional order.

There is no single solution to these problems; therefore, AKMLSO must approach the impending shortage of laboratory professionals from a multi-disciplinary perspective that includes, expansion and modernization of traditional curriculums, and the development of new educational products to ensure that future students and current professionals have access to advanced analytics and are viewed with respect and recognition. However the regulatory framework must also change drastically from the current confused and directionless systems. For the profession and the professionals to be recognized and respected we must strictly adhere to our ethics and professional code of conduct. It must be said loud and clear that professional regulation is not synonymous to policing!

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."
— [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

Moses C O Lorre
EDITOR, AKMLSO

AKMLSO HEADED FOR MAJOR TRANSFORMATION

The National Executive Committee (NEC) of Association of Kenya Medical Laboratory Scientific Officers (AKMLSO) led by able National Executive Chairman Mr. Michael Abala Wanga converged at Jarika County Lodge Nakuru for a two day serious AKMLSO transformation and business meeting from 10th to 12th February 2016. Mr. Wanga with his ability to make things move, mobilized a team of experts and consultants who joined members of the Executive Committee at the strategic planning meeting drawn from the following fields.

- Litigation
- Marketing and public relations
- Promotion and social communication
- Finance and planning (Projections and budgeting)
- Information technology
- Branding

The consultation made brilliant presentations very relevant to AKMLSO operations and its transformational agenda. The members are going to witness a lot of changes some of which take effect immediately while a raft of major changes to be presented to the annual delegates meeting (ADM) to be held later this year for approval or ratification or otherwise. The immediate ones include:

- Marketing and public relations (enhanced recruitment of members)
- Promotion and social communication for publicity
- Finance and planning (Resource mobilization)
- Digitalization of AKMLSO membership database



Moses C. O Lorre— Editor



Nancy Thuku— Vice Editor



Anne Mbuthia—Member of editorial Committee



Susan Kiambi— Member of Editorial Committee

OUT-COME OF AKMLSO ELECTIONS

The following are candidates eligible for voting

Name	Post
1. Raphael G. Gikera	: National Executive Chairman
2. Michael A. Wanga	: National Executive Chairman
3. Safari K. Kithi	: 1 st Vice National Executive Chairman
4. Aglean Chelimo	: 2 nd Vice National Executive Chairman
5. Harun Anunda	: Secretary General
6. Alex O. Osore	: Vice Secretary General
7. Robert Katsutsu	: National Treasurer
8. Haron K. Cheberek	: Vice Treasurer
9. Musa Ramadhan	: Vice Treasurer
10. Henry Muchoge	: NEC Member
11. Jane K. Lugaga	: NEC Member
12. Lawrence Wamiti	: NEC Member
13. Alice June Akoth	: NEC Member
14. Boniface J. Malingu	: NEC Member
15. Davies M. Mwangi	: NEC Member
16. Margaret M. Mwangi	: NEC Member
17. Julius K. Sarich	: NEC Member
18. Patrick M. Njuguna	: NEC Member
19. Phillip Kipketer	: NEC Member
20. Moses C. O Lorre	: Editor
21. Nancy Thuku	: Vice Editor
22. Ann Njeri	: Editorial member
23. Susan Kiambi	: Editorial Member

Mr. Agata introduced Mr. Mobegi J. Nyachiro as the presiding officer. The elections went on smoothly and below was the results

Un-opposed posts

Safari K. Kithi	: 1 st vice NEC Chairman
Aglean Chelimo	: 2 nd vice NEC Chairman
Harun A. Anunda	: Secretary General
Alex O. Osore	: Vice Secretary General
Robert Katsutsu	: National Treasurer
Moses C. O Lorre	: Editor
Nancy Thuku	: Vice Editor
Ann Njeri	: Member of editorial committee
Susan Kiambi	: Member of editorial committee

Post of the National Executive Chairman

i. Abala M. Wanga 78 votes ii) Raphael Gikera 45 votes Spoilt votes 2

Vice treasurer

i. Haron Kibowen 63 ii) Ramadhan Musa 59 votes Spoilt votes 2

National Executive Committee Members – Votes Case Against Each Contestant

1. Henry Muchoge	: 35
2. Jane K. Lugaga	: 32
3. Lawrence Wamiti	: 23
4. Alice June Akoth	: 24
5. Boniface J. Malingu	: 46
6. Davies M. Mwangi	: 44
7. Margaret M. Mwangi	: 23
8. Julius K. Sarich	: 52
9. Patrick M. Njuguna	: 37
10. Phillip K. Boiyon	: 41
Spoilt votes 6	

AKMLSO NATIONAL OFFICIALS



Mr Abala M Wanga MLT, LLB, MBA—NEC Chairman



**Safari K. Kithi
1st vice National Executive Chairman**



Aglean Chelimo - 2nd Vice National Executive Chairperson



Harun A. Anunda—Secretary General



**Alex O. Osore
Vice Secretary General**



**Robert Katsutsu
National Treasurer**



Haron Kibowen— Vice Treasurer



June Alice—NEC Member



Margaret Mwangi—NEC Member



Phillip Boiyon—NEC Member



Jane Lugaga—NEC Member



Henry Ogaro—NEC Member



Lawrence Wamiti— NEC Member



Patrick Njuguna—Nec Member



Participants at a Labnet meeting in Nairobi



Section of participants during the 22nd AKMLSO Conference



The Association shall form branches all over the Republic of Kenya with the approval of Executive committee and the Registrar of societies.

The headquarters of the association shall be in Nairobi.

Branches shall be formed according to their respective application. Branches shall consist of members who shall be twenty (20) or more in number.

The Executive may grant a branch status to members who are less than twenty (20) but more than ten (10) depending on geographical/administrative and other logistical considerations.

All Branches shall be registered by the AKMLSO headquarters and be issued with a certificate of registration.

Each branch shall apply to the AKMLSO headquarters for registration using an official form indicating:
Office bearers, Names of all Members in the branch, Members' national ID Card Numbers, Members qualifications and AKMLSO membership number

The quorum for Branch Committee meeting shall be half of its members.

The major changes for delegates' consideration include:-

Overhauled AKMLSO constitution (draft)

Formation of medical laboratory sacco

Re-branding of AKMLSO as an association to provide a new look

Formation of county chapter branches for efficient leadership

The details of what was deliberated at two day workshop cannot be divulged now but will be unveiled in piecemeal as time progresses, otherwise the anticipated new look AKMLSO is expected to provide members with value for their membership and give them a sense of belonging.

Once more we shall be circulating the current AKMSLO constitution for members to give input on areas that need attention during amendment.

As the secretary General of AKMLSO, I wish to appeal to entire membership of the Association to support this visionary leadership under able stewardship of Mr. Wanga, the future now looks really bright with lots of hope, clear timelines have been provided for implementation of the proposed activities.

Harun A. Anunda, Secretary General

The 23rd AKMLSO CONFERENCE IS GOING TO KISUMU CITY IN OCTOBER 2016.

The AKMLSO Conference is a great scientific platform for scientists, scholars, doctors and students to exchange new research results and theories face to face. We are devoted to provide the most up-to-date scientific program in the conference. You will not only gain insights to clinical application but also get the opportunity to discuss your research with expertise. PLAN TO ATTEND

DATES: 11TH- 14TH OCTOBER 2016, MARK THE DATES

Kisumu is a port city in Kisumu County, Kenya 1,131 m, with a population of 409,928. It is the third largest city in Kenya, the principal city of western Kenya, the immediate former capital of Nyanza Province and the headquarters of Kisumu County. [Elevation: 3,711'](#) [Population: 259,258 \(2009\)](#)



THE IFBLS 32ND WORLD CONGRESS OF BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE



The 32nd World Congress of
Biomedical Laboratory Science
International Innovation of Laboratory Medicine
— Basic and Advanced —



Open: November 2, 2015

IFBLS and the Japanese Association of Medical Technologist look forward to welcoming you to the 32nd World Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science **31 August to 4 September 2016**.

Plans are well underway for this extensive multidisciplinary scientific lecture program, trade show, workshops, poster session and an Awards Program. We invite you to check the IFBLS website at www.ifbls.org or the official Congress website at www.ifbls2016.org where you can find more information.

IFBLS WORLD BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE DAY

International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IAMLT) established BLS Day in 1996 at the World Congress in Oslo, Norway to promote and celebrate the key role of biomedical laboratory personnel in diagnostic and preventive health care systems.

Promote and celebrate

The purpose with the Biomedical Laboratory Science Day is to increase the awareness of the role that Biomedical Laboratory Scientists have in providing health care. Biomedical scientists play an important role in diagnosis, quality development and assurance, treatment, research, development, and public health care.

International Biomedical Laboratory Science Day gives our profession a day to promote and celebrate ourselves as a profession. Biomedical Laboratory Science Day is the day for laboratory personnel to promote awareness of our profession and the key role played by biomedical laboratory scientists in the diagnosis and treatment of patients and research in the modern medical sciences.

The theme for 2016 is: Patient Safety First

Importance of Biomedical Laboratory Science Day

Biomedical laboratory scientists are one of the largest groups of health care professionals yet our role in medicine is poorly understood by the patients and their families and even our colleagues within health care administration.

A biomedical laboratory scientist finds out the causes of the disease which ensures better treatment and cure. We understand the work we do and its significance to the patients. We are the experts in our field and the very best people to carry our message.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BIOSAFETY ASSOCIATIONS

The International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA) is not-for-profit non-governmental organization of regional and national Biosafety Associations from all areas of the world. We are a global community of scientists, biosafety professionals, laboratory personnel, architects, engineers, academics and policy makers who have common interest in advancing biosafety and biosecurity. The IFBA (originally called the International Biosafety Working Group) was founded in 2001, a time of unparalleled change and challenge for the biosafety profession. The recent bioterrorism anthrax letter incidents had dramatically altered the public health security environment and needs of the laboratory community. Few national and regional biosafety associations existed at that time and the IFBA was seen as a unique opportunity to establish professional biosafety acquaintances from around the world to share biosafety knowledge, ideas and innovations.

Laboratory diagnostic and surveillance capacity are central to the fight against infectious diseases, however many laboratories around the world lack capacity to safely and securely handle dangerous biological pathogens. Addressing this issue requires a global commitment and the leveraging of multiple stakeholders at the international, regional and local levels. The key to progress also includes the integration of biosafety programs within the greater framework of strengthening laboratory capacity and health systems. To this end, the IFBA collaborates with national animal and health authorities, with international agencies (e.g. WHO, OIE, BWC, UN1540, Interpol, Stop TB Partnership) and with like-minded professional associations (e.g. International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science, African Society for Laboratory Medicine). We promote sustainable cost-effective biosafety and biocontainment solutions for laboratories in resource limited areas and assist our Members with strategic planning and resource mobilization strategies to strengthen sustainable biosafety capacity at the local level.



IFBA AND BIORISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF KENYA TO PARTNER WITH AKMLSO TO CONDUCT BIOSAFETY TRAINING FOR THE EAST AFRICAN REGION

KENYA MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS AND TECHNOLOGISTS BOARD (KMLTTB)

As you some of you may be aware, there has been a lot complaints from Medical Laboratory professionals and other stake holders over operations and activities of the Board where some of you have had difficulties and frustrations while seeking services at the Board.

The Cabinet Secretary Hon Dr Cleopa Mailu invited us for a meeting on 14th March. A team of eight professionals both from within and outside the National Executive Committee of the Association met him together with Director of Medical Services Dr Jackson Kioko, Head of Regulation and Standards Dr Pacifica Onyancha and Chief Medical Laboratory Technologist also Registrar of KMLTTB Abdi Latif Ali. We presented our issues together with evidence where possible to the Cabinet Secretary who gave us strong listening ear and promised to look at the issues and revert in a week's time.

I therefore wish to take this opportunity to thank all and more importantly the young professionals and students for your patience and in particular for supporting this worthy cause. We have a duty together to protect this profession for posterity. I hereby promise and declare that no amount of intimidation or threats will deter us from our quest of restoring order and sanity at the Board.

Finally we will keep you posted on the events as they unfold and where we will require your support please turn up en mass as we endeavour to clean this rotten Board since united we stand divided we fall. God bless

Long live AKMLSO

*AKMLSO MEETS Cs ministry
of Health*

CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

The Association of Kenya Medical Laboratory Scientific Officers (AKMLSO) wish to announce to all its members that the International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA) whose Headquarters are based in Canada will be in the Country to administer an examination on Bio-Risk management in **July 2016 at a fee of USD 100**. This examination once passed, will give you recognition as International Bio-Risk management consultant meaning you can operate anywhere in the world as Bio-Risk expert. I therefore urge members of the Association especially those who have undergone Biosafety training to take advantage of this rare opportunity to become one among the few experts globally. Registration for the said examination can be done through AKMLSO Secretariat for purpose of coordination.

Harun A. Anunda

Secretary General

AKMLSO

Procedure of membership application - Laboratory technicians/technologists /Bmls qualification

One must have done the mandatory 6 subjects and trained for two years as technician and 3 years technologist and 4 years degree in medical lab. science -

- Download and fill the application form found in our website
- attach copies of academic and professional certificates, copy of id card, 2 pass port size photos and payment of application fee 100/- and membership fee ksh. 500/- deliver to AKMLSO office at Kenyatta market golf course commercial centre 1st floor during working hours 8 am- 5 pm Monday Friday.

Your application will be reviewed by the membership committee and communicate to you.

If you meet the qualifications then payment of subscription is initiated which is ksh. 500 per month either through check-off system, cheque or using playbill no. 247247 A/c 01709771441

Chairperson membership and IT
Aglean Chelimo