



CV Claire Julie Akwongo (MSc, BVM)

A) Personal and contact details

Surname: Akwongo
First name: Claire
Middle Name: Julie
Date and place of Birth: Gulu, Uganda, January 12th, 1993
Researcher ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9367-3479>
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Date of the CV: May 10th, 2022

B) Education/Degrees

Masters degree

Date of awarding of the degree certificate: January 20th, 2022
Research discipline: Animal health Epidemiology
Degree title: Master of Science in Tropical Animal Health
Name of the educational institution and faculty/department: Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Department of Biomedical Sciences.
Country where the degree was completed: Belgium
Major subjects of study/degree programme: Basic, Advanced and Applied Epidemiology, Surveillance and survey methodology, Animal health management: High impact and emerging diseases, One health, Research methodology, Laboratory diagnostics.
Score: 88%
Supervisor/tutor name and contact details: Dr Charles Byaruhanga (cbyaruhanga27@yahoo.com) and Professor Melvyn Quan (Melvyn.quan@up.ac.za)

Undergraduate degree

Date of awarding of the degree certificate: February 22nd, 2017
Research discipline: Veterinary medicine, Immunology, vaccinology
Degree title: Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVM)



Educational institution: Makerere University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity.

Country where the degree was completed: Uganda

Major subjects of study/degree programme: Anatomy, Histology, Pathology, Microbiology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology and therapeutics, Animal health management, Surgery, Wildlife health management, Epidemiology, One health, Biostatistics, Public health, Toxicology, Immunology, Genetics and breeding.

Score: CGPA 3.69/5 ~ 73.8%

Supervisor/tutor name and contact details: Dr Samuel George Okech (blessedsgo@gmail.com)

C) Other Education, qualifications and/or supplementary training

“A” level certificate

Dates of completion: November, 2010

Name of the certificate/diploma: Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education

Name of the provider of the education or training: Katikamu Secondary School, Luweero-Uganda

Main subjects or modules of study: Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Foods and Nutrition, General Paper

Score: 4 Principal passes out of 4, with a distinction in General Paper

“O” level certificate

Dates of completion: October, 2008

Name of the certificate/diploma: Uganda Certificate of Education

Name of the provider of the education or training: Mulusa Academy Wobulenzi, Luweero-Uganda

Main subjects or modules of study: Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, English, Geography, History, Commerce, Christian Religious Education

Score: Aggregate 20 (First grade)

D) Current employment

Start date of employment: November 1st, 2019

Job title: Veterinary Epidemiologist

Employer name, contact details and place of work: Veterinaires Sans Frontieres Germany, Kampala-Uganda <https://www.vsf.org/>



Role and main responsibilities:

As the Epidemiologist on the research for development program “Boosting Uganda’s investments in livestock development”, led by the International livestock research institute, I majorly play a supportive role in surveillance of trans-boundary and zoonotic diseases and Anti-microbial resistance, and support student projects across all four components of the projects including Veterinary public health, Control of antimicrobial resistance, Control of Rift valley fever and control of Peste des petits ruminants. More specifically, I;

- Support the review of National disease control strategies and define alternative models for control and surveillance activities for PPR, Rabies, Rift valley fever (RVF) and Antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- Support assessment of disease surveillance capacities in target districts and develop, update and harmonize the strategies and plans with the National action plans, and provide technical support for their implementation in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF), Ministry of Health (MOH) and other key stakeholders.
- Contribute to the technical design and implementation of PPR, Rabies, RVF, AMR and Veterinary risk assessment in the context of farming systems, risk modelling, value chain studies, disease ecology and the wildlife-human interface and other related activities.
- Support early warning activities and provide relevant trainings to frontline veterinary service providers on development of animal disease outbreaks preparedness and response plans for the target districts and regions.
- Train livestock value chain actors including farmers, veterinary drug shop operators, traders, butchers and consumers of animal products on food safety, disease control and judicious use of veterinary drugs.
- Lead planning and directly support disease outbreak investigations and response, including in sentinel sites like abattoirs and animal slaughter houses.
- Support field sample collection and coordinate with national laboratories for analysis.
- Prepare regular epidemiological updates and situation reports on PPR, Rabies, RVF and other trans-boundary and zoonotic diseases in the target districts and regions of Uganda

E) Previous work experience

Start date of employment:	July 1 st , 2018
Job title:	Livestock Officer, Apolou program
Employer name, contact details and place of work:	Mercy Corps, Karamoja Region-Uganda https://www.mercycorps.org/

Role and main responsibilities

- Supported development of Community animal health workers (CAHW) training curriculum and minimum standards for their operation in Karamoja, in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF), College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity and other development partners.
- Developed herd health and nutrition-sensitive agriculture training manuals and rolled out trainings for Livestock enterprise groups and Community animal health workers.



- Worked with butchers and abattoir workers to promote good hygiene practices that ensure food safety for the final consumers.
- Developed herd health intervention strategies for incorporation in programming at organizational level and by local governments.
- Developed animal health research and intervention plans to improve livestock health management, Food safety, value addition and market linkages.
- Supervised livestock assistants and contributed to their professional development as well as ensured they performed to the expectation of the organization.
- Supervised and mentored final year veterinary students attached to Mercy Corps for community practice, providing hands-on skills and field experience in diagnostics, therapeutics, client relations, research and project management.

Career /study breaks (if any):

Dates (from-to)	Reason
2017-2020	Study break. I could not immediately start my masters studies after qualifying as a Veterinarian because there was a delay in issuance of my academic transcript and degree certificate from the university until late 2018. I used this time to build professional experience through volunteerism and eventually employment, and when the certificates arrived, I immediately applied for the Master of Science in Tropical Animal Health in 2019 and commenced studying in January 2020, which I successfully completed in January 2022, and now looking to further my research capabilities and interests through a PhD.

G) Language skills

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
Mother tongue (Acholi)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Other language(English)	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

H) Any scientific publications or published book?

Akwongo, C. J., Quan, M., & Byaruhanga, C. (2022). Prevalence, Risk Factors for Exposure, and Socio-Economic Impact of Peste Des Petits Ruminants in Karenga District, Karamoja Region, Uganda. *Pathogens*, 11(1), 54.



Cunha, Rodrigo Casquero, Margaret Saimo-Kahwa, Marcos Valério Garcia, Francisco Denis Souza Santos, Emukule Samuel, Nanteza Ann, Kokas Ikwap, **Claire Julie Akwongo**, Fábio Pereira Leivas Leite, and Renato Andreotti. "RA92A recombinant protein as immunogen to protect cattle against tick challenge in Brazil and Uganda." Bioscience Journal 37 (2021): e37068-e37068.

I) Communication skills

I am good at both spoken and written communication, using a diverse choice of channels including social media, print media and spoken word. I am also a good public speaker and presenter, and I have mastered the art of scientific presentation using PowerPoint, and posters.

J) Organisational/managerial/Team leadership skills

I have strong leadership and managerial skills that I have acquired through work and other engagements including;

- Supervised 4 Livestock assistants based in 4 different districts of the Karamoja Region and was team lead for herd health program while at Mercy Corps.
- Representing my class in Institutional academic fora and meetings as the course leader for my Masters class, and providing relevant feedback.
- Being a member of the International Leadership Association (ILA)
- Engaging in alumni activities of several leadership programs that I participated in including; Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, The YALI Regional Leadership Center, East Africa , and the Emerging Leaders' Project of the LeO Africa Institute

K) Any international experience, including presentations at international conferences, or any other mobility period

International experience	Year / duration	Purpose
Tanzania	2022 / 1 week	Participate in a workshop to develop an Epizone approach to disease surveillance and control
Belgium	2021 / 1 month	Attend Applied epidemiology module as part of my masters requirement
South Africa (Online)	2021/ 1 day	Present my research (Full presentation) at the Veterinary science faculty day
South Africa	2020 / 2 weeks	Attend the induction workshop for my masters program
Kenya	2017/ 1 month	Participate in the Young African Leaders Initiative program
Ethiopia	2017 / 2 weeks	Participate in the Trainer of trainers course for Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards

L) Prizes/awards or other societal merits and honours (if any)

Year	Award/Honour	Institution
January 2020	DGD scholarship	Belgian Directorate General for Development Cooperation
March 2020	Course leader	Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp
June 2021	Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders	United States Department of State