

SNOSSA 2026

Speaker Biographies

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania | July 13–15, 2026

Day 1 — July 13

Keynote #1: Patient Experience and Advocacy Development

P. Mwachaka | *Speaker*



Dr Philip Maseghe Mwachaka is a consultant neurosurgeon and lecturer at the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta National Hospital in Kenya. His clinical and research work focuses on pediatric neuro-oncology, with particular interest in childhood central nervous system tumors, care pathways, survival outcomes, and strengthening neuro-oncology services in Kenya. He is also Vice President of the Brain Tumor Association of Kenya, where he contributes to patient advocacy, caregiver support, public awareness, and improved referral pathways for patients with brain tumors. His work aims to bridge gaps in pediatric CNS tumor care through clinical service development, research, and multidisciplinary collaboration.

E. Chungu | *Speaker & Moderator*



NAME: Emma Chungu

Brain Tumour Survivor, Founding Member of the Brain Tumour Association of Zambia and Current Vice President.

A Teacher by Profession

Passionate about Baking and Counseling

Panel Topic #1: Suprasellar Tumors

K. Jacquier | *Speaker*



Dr. Kamga Nkouli Steve Jacquier is a final-year (6TH and chief) neurosurgery resident at the University of Nairobi and Chief Resident at Kenyatta National Hospital, East Africa's largest referral center. A native of Cameroon, he earned his M.D. from the University of Buea and initially trained in sexual and reproductive health research at the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research, motivated by the urgent gaps he witnessed in his community. He later pursued neurosurgery, where his residency has provided extensive exposure to pediatric neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, craniosynostosis, epilepsy, and complex spine surgery, with a strong focus on pediatric brain tumors and neurotrauma.

Dr. Kamga's career has been shaped by service in resource-limited settings. As a medical officer in Mogode District Hospital in Cameroon's Far North Region, he managed a 32-bed facility serving over 350,000 people under the threat of Boko Haram insurgency. With minimal resources, he established an operating room, performed the community's first cesarean section, and expanded surgical services to reduce maternal and pediatric mortality. Inspired by these challenges, he founded the Salaam Doctors' Foundation, which established DZA KWELIN, La Clinique de Gouria, a 42-bed children's hospital that has provided over 480 free pediatric neurosurgical procedures, including shunt insertions, myelomeningocele and encephalocele repairs, and craniotomies.

Internationally, Dr. Kamga has been recognized with fellowships from FIENS, the AANS/CNS Joint Pediatric Section, the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery, and the CNS Foundation. His academic work includes publications on hydrocephalus, craniopharyngioma outcomes, neurotrauma, and surgical quality improvement. His long-term vision is to establish sustainable pediatric neurosurgery and neuro-oncology services in underserved African regions.

Y. Kizza | *Speaker*



A first year paediatric haematology-oncology fellow in the Makerere University College of Health Sciences-Global HOPE fellowship program. She obtained her MBChB and Master of medicine in Paediatrics and childhealth from Makerere University College of Health Sciences. She worked as a medical officer in church based private not-for profit organization in prior to enrolling for her masters program. Research interest is in developing drugs, protocols for haematology & oncology disorders tailored for African genetics. She strives to actively participate in quality improvement of service delivery in haematology and oncology in Uganda.

E. Osei (Presented by Mildred Gifty Marfo) | *Speaker*



Mildred has a growing interest in pediatric neurosurgery and hopes to pursue formal training in the field. Her clinical and research interests are broadly centered on neurosurgery, with a focus on improving care for children. She has been involved in research exploring neurosurgical care and outcomes in Ghana. Mildred is interested in advancing access to safe and timely neurosurgical care in Ghana. Through her work, she aims to contribute to strengthening neurosurgical systems and expanding care for children in underserved communities.

K. Simfukwe | *Speaker*



Dr. Keith Simfukwe is a Consultant Neurosurgeon and Head of the Neurosurgery Unit at Maina Soko Medical Centre in Lusaka, Zambia. He holds an MBBS, MHA, MMed (Neurosurgery), and a PhD in Neurosurgery. Dr. Simfukwe is an accomplished researcher with clinical and academic interests in neuro-oncology, skull base surgery, vascular, spine and epilepsy surgery. He also serves as Co-Chair of the Education Committee of Young CAANS, where he contributes to advancing neurosurgical education and professional development across Africa.

Keynote #2: Beyond The Machine — What Is Important For Ped Neuro RadOnc Service

Jeannette Parkes | *Speaker*

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Professor Jeannette Parkes is the Head of Radiation Oncology at Groote Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town, with clinical expertise in CNS tumors, pediatric radiotherapy, and global radiotherapy access. She is President of the College of Radiation Oncology of South Africa and serves on the executive committees of both SNOSSA and SIOP Africa. She has contributed to WHO working groups associated with the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer and to international adapted treatment guidelines for pediatric cancer.

Panel Topic #2: Pediatric Oncology

Murali Chintagumpala | *Expert Speaker*

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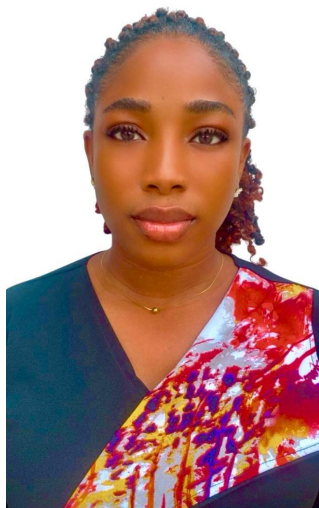
Dr. Murali Chintagumpala is a Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Neuro-Oncology Clinical Program at Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He received his medical degree from Madras Medical College and completed his fellowship in pediatric hematology-oncology at Baylor. He has been a leading contributor to national and international pediatric neuro-oncology research, including co-authorship of widely used response assessment guidelines for pediatric brain tumors.

A. Cardot | *Speaker*

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T. Oluleye | *Speaker*



Tolulope Sikemi Oluleye is a childhood cancer advocate and Program Officer at The Dorcas Cancer Foundation (TDCF), Nigeria, with a background in Human Anatomy. Her journey in childhood cancer advocacy began during her undergraduate internship at a childhood cancer foundation, an experience that inspired her commitment to improving outcomes for children with cancer and their families. At TDCF, Sikemi leads the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of programs that improve access to quality childhood cancer care. Her work spans workforce capacity building, treatment access, patient and caregiver support, strategic partnerships, and resource mobilization, with a focus on developing sustainable, evidence-informed solutions for resource-limited settings. She has contributed to regional educational initiatives, including the Pediatric Radiation Oncology (PedROC), a virtual capacity-building program that equips healthcare professionals across SubSaharan Africa with specialized knowledge in pediatric oncology. She has also presented programmatic and implementation-focused work at regional and international scientific meetings, highlighting innovative approaches to improving childhood cancer care. Sikemi is an active member of international oncology and global health communities, including the Society of Neuro-Oncology Sub-Saharan Africa (SNOSSA), the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP) and an alumna of the ALSAC Global Scholars Program at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, where she strengthened her expertise in leadership, implementation science, research, and multidisciplinary collaboration to advance childhood cancer care in resource-limited settings. She is passionate about designing and scaling sustainable childhood cancer programs that strengthen health systems, expand access to care, and improve outcomes for children with cancer across Africa.

I. Bako | *Speaker*

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Dr. Itchizoun Frédéric Bako is a neurosurgeon at the Souro Sanou University Hospital Center in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. His work focuses on neurosurgical management in resource-limited settings, including complex meningioma cases. He has contributed to the growing literature on neuro-oncology practice in West Africa.

Day 2 — July 14

Panel Topic #3: Meningioma

Thierry Muanza | *Expert Speaker (Virtual)*



Dr. Thierry Muanza is an Associate Professor at McGill University with appointments in Oncology and Neurology & Neurosurgery, and a radiation oncologist at the Jewish General Hospital and McGill University Health Centre. He completed his MD at the Université de Sherbrooke and a Translational Research Fellowship at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda. He is a co-founder and Treasurer of SNOSSA and a member of the Board of Directors of the Brain Tumor Foundation of Canada.

F. Campbell | *Speaker*



Campbell Francis Chukwuebuka MBBS, FWACS, MRCS(Eng) is a Young Neurosurgeon at Delta State University Teaching Hospital, Nigeria. My major interests are neuro-oncology, skull base surgery, and pediatric neurosurgery. I am currently the chair of the research committee of the Young Nigerian Neurosurgeons Forum, and I am deeply committed to advancing neurosurgical care through research and active collaboration with fellow neurosurgeons within and outside the continent to improve patient outcomes.

S. Karidioula | *Speaker*



I am Dr. Sie Jacques Karidioula, an internal medicine physician in hospitals in Ivory Coast, currently training in neurosurgery. Passionate about neuroscience and nervous system surgery, I aspire to become a leading neurosurgeon in Africa and contribute to the development of this specialty on the continent.

My career has been guided by a constant interest in clinical excellence, scientific research, and medical innovation. I am actively involved in research on relevant neurosurgical issues, with the aim of improving patient care and generating data useful for clinical practice.

At this conference, I am presenting a study on identifying factors associated with the recurrence of intracranial meningiomas. This topic reflects my interest in neuro-oncology and the diagnostic, therapeutic, and prognostic challenges encountered in neurosurgery. I consider research and scientific exchange to be essential drivers for progress and contributing to the evolution of the discipline.

G. Musa | *Speaker*

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Panel Discussion #1: Multidisciplinary Management of Skull Base Tumors

Beverly Cheserem | *Panel Lead*

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Dr. Beverly Cheserem is a Consultant Neurosurgeon and Assistant Professor at Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya, specializing in skull base surgery and pituitary conditions. She trained at the University of Southampton and completed fellowships in the UK, Italy, France, and the United States, before serving as a Weill Cornell Global Health Fellow in Tanzania. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and Co-Chair of the Education Committee of the Young African Neurosurgeons Forum.

Panel Topic #4: Spinal Tumor / Metastatic

K. Alare | *Speaker*



Kehinde Alare, MBBS is an early-career physician, clinical researcher, and aspiring cerebrovascular neurosurgeon from Nigeria with a strong interest in neurosurgical outcomes research, cerebrovascular disease, spine surgery, neuro-oncology, and global neurosurgery. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations, with expertise in systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and evidence synthesis. His research focuses on translating high-quality evidence into improved neurosurgical practice, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Kehinde is passionate about fostering international research collaborations and advancing neurosurgical education across Africa.

Y. Fofana | *Speaker*



Dr. Yakhoubou FOFANA, I am a Guinean medical doctor and a third-year Neurosurgery resident at the Department of Neurosurgery, Hôpital des Spécialités, CHU Ibn Sina, Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco. My clinical and academic interests include neuro-oncology, spine surgery, pediatric neurosurgery, and clinical research. I have presented my work at several national and international scientific meetings, including the 2025 Society for Neuro-Oncology Sub-Saharan Africa (SNOSSA) Annual Meeting. I am particularly committed to advancing neurosurgical care in Sub-Saharan Africa through capacity building, improving access to specialized neurosurgical services, fostering international research collaborations, promoting innovation, and supporting evidence-based neurosurgical practice in resource-limited settings.

J. Kavulu | *Speaker*



Dr Kavulu Joshua David
University of Cape Town
3rd Year Neurosurgery Resident

M. Joyalemi | *Speaker*



Mubarak Jolayemi Mustapha is a neurosurgeon-scientist in training and a Penultimate medical student at the University of Ilorin, Nigeria. Driven by a commitment to advancing neurological care in resource-limited settings, his research spans neuro-oncology, neurotrauma, and the integration of data science into global health systems. An exceptionally prolific young investigator, Mubarak has authored over 50 peer-reviewed publications, with about 400 citations, focusing on clinical outcomes and health equity.

He is the pioneering founder of Nigeria's first *mission: BRAIN* foundation chapter, an initiative that has garnered six international accolades for academic leadership, innovation, and compassionate service—including the notable CranioGuard mission. Recognized consistently for unparalleled academic distinction, he maintains a perfect preclinical record and straight distinctions throughout his clinical medical training.

Keynote #3: Use of AI in Neuropathology

Areeba Patel | *Speaker*



Dr. Areeba Patel is a research scientist at the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) affiliated to the departments of Neuropathology, AI in Oncology and Paediatric Neurooncology. She steers tech R&D programs that translate emerging molecular and AI methods into accessible cancer diagnostics at Heidelberg Epignostix as the Head of New Technologies. Areeba earned her masters in Cancer Biology at Imperial College London and subsequently completed her PhD in computational neuropathology in the lab of Prof Felix Sahm at the University Hospital Heidelberg and DKFZ. Her expertise lies in molecular pathology, AI and bioinformatics. Areeba's work focuses on molecular diagnostics solutions using cutting-edge sequencing and computational histopathology techniques. Areeba has authored 15+ research articles in distinguished journals like Nature

Medicine and is credited with the development and validation of platforms for methylation classification and molecular characterisation of tumours.

Best of SNOSSA Presentations #1

P. Mbaka | *Speaker*

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S. Bayissa | *Speaker*



Dr. Sebboona Baisa Abelti

Neurosurgeon

Eka Kotebe Hospital Neuroscience Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

I am neurosurgeon at the Eka Kotebe Hospital Neuroscience Institute in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – the nation's first dedicated neurological center. My clinical expertise includes pediatric neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, and spinal disorders.

A. Uwizeyimana | *Speaker*



Anastase UWIZEYIMANA is a medical doctor specialising in pediatric hematology and oncology, holding a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (2019) and a Master of Medicine (MMed) degree (Pediatrics and child health) from the University of Rwanda (2025). He is currently pursuing a fellowship in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at the University of Rwanda, where he is gaining

advanced expertise in the diagnosis and management of childhood blood disorders and cancers. His professional interests are in pediatric neuro-oncology. He is committed to advancing clinical care, research, and education to enhance outcomes for children with cancer and hematologic diseases, particularly in resource-limited settings.

H. Joas (Kiraha) | *Speaker*



Dr. Emmanuel Mose Kiraha is a medical officer working in pediatric hematology and oncology unit at Bugando Medical Center, Mwanza, Tanzania.

Emmanuel is a Tanzanian, he earned his Bachelor Degree in Doctor of Medicine at Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS-Bugando) in 2023. He holds strong interests in pediatric hematology and oncology and is dedicated to advancing pediatric oncology care through clinical expertise, research and leadership. He also holds a special interest in the integration of psychosocial support, recognizing its vital role in providing care for children with cancer and their families.

Panel Discussion #2: Low Grade Glioma

Arnold Etame | *Panel Lead*

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Dr. Arnold Etame is a Neurological Surgeon and Scientist specializing in neuro-oncology at Moffitt Cancer Center and an Associate Professor of Oncology at the University of South Florida. He completed his MD at the University of Iowa and his neurosurgery residency at the University of Michigan, and holds NIH funding to develop therapies for glioblastoma. His research focuses on overcoming therapeutic resistance and enhancing drug delivery across the blood-brain barrier using nanotechnology and focused ultrasound.

Ekokobe Fonkem | *Panel Lead*

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Dr. Ekokobe Fonkem is a board-certified neurologist and neuro-oncologist serving as Vice Chair and Professor of Neurology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix. He completed his medical degree at Ohio University and a neuro-oncology fellowship at Harvard's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and previously served as Chair of Neurology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is the co-founder and Treasurer of SNOSSA and co-founder of the Brain Tumor Consortium of Africa.

Day 3 — July 15

Tumor Board

Vicent Mvugiliye | *Panel Lead*

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Best of SNOSSA Presentations #2

L. Agbemavi-Kudufia | *Speaker*



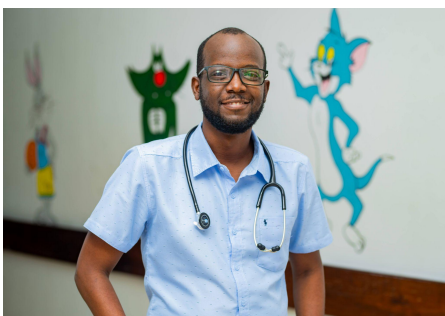
Lois Afia Agbemavi-Kudufia is a medical student at the University of Ghana with research interests in neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, and global surgery outcomes research. She is involved in clinical and outcomes-based research focused on brain tumors, neurosurgical care, and patient-centered outcomes in resource-limited settings, with particular interest in improving neuro-oncologic care delivery and evidence generation across Ghana, sub-Saharan Africa, and beyond.

K. Atolagbe | *Speaker*

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C. Chambega | *Speaker*



Dr Chambega M Chambega is a paediatrician based at MUHAS with clinical and research interests in paediatric oncology. Dr Chambega is committed to addressing the unique challenges of treating childhood cancers in the region. His work highlights the outcomes for childhood brain tumours, and he is pleased to share these insights with the sub-Saharan neuro-oncology community.

G. Nchasi | *Speaker*

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Keynote #4: Supportive Care Guidelines

Evangeline Razis | *Speaker*

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Dr. Evangeline Razis is a medical oncologist and Head of the Third Department of Medical Oncology at Hygeia Hospital in Athens, holding board certifications in internal medicine and medical oncology from both the United States and Greece. Her clinical and research interests include CNS tumors and neoplastic meningitis, and she serves as Chairperson of the Hellenic Cooperative Oncology Group working party on CNS tumors. She has volunteered extensively across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, providing oncology education and clinical support in countries including Sudan, Zimbabwe, and Rwanda.

Panel Topic #5: CNS Tumor Diagnostics

Jacqueline Mavuti | *Expert Speaker*



Dr. J. Mavuti is a Consultant Radiologist with an interest in Neuroradiology and Head & Neck Imaging. She is on the Radiology Faculty at the Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi, and is passionate about advancing expertise at all levels of Head & Neck Imaging on the African Continent. She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree (MBChB) from University of Nairobi, Kenya; Master of Medicine (MMed) in Radiology from Aga Khan University; and completed her Fellowship training in Head & Neck Radiology at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham and Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust East Grinstead, both in the United Kingdom.

R. Richter | *Speaker*



Reginald Adja Richter is an aspiring neurosurgeon-scientist currently studying medicine at the University of Ghana Medical School. He serves as a student researcher affiliated with the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, where he leads and collaborates on clinical outcome studies and literature

reviews. His academic interests lie at the intersection of global neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, and neurosurgical care, with a dedicated focus on improving surgical healthcare delivery in resource-limited settings.

G. Uzoechina | *Speaker*



Reginald Adja Richter is an aspiring neurosurgeon-scientist currently studying medicine at the University of Ghana Medical School. He serves as a student researcher affiliated with the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, where he leads and collaborates on clinical outcome studies and literature reviews. His academic interests lie at the intersection of global neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, and neurosurgical care, with a dedicated focus on improving surgical healthcare delivery in resource-limited settings.

J. Van Gompel | *Speaker*



Jamie J. Van Gompel M.D.(Honors), BS(Honors) is a Professor in Neurosurgery and Otolaryngology specializing in endoscopic/open skull base focusing on Pituitary tumors/skull base as well as Epilepsy at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, USA. He completed his undergraduate and medical school training at the University of Wisconsin at Madison graduating with dual majors in Medical Microbiology/Immunology and Biochemistry. He has worked at the NIH as well as completed a Howard Hughes Fellowship in research. His neurosurgical training was undertaken at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester mentored by Drs. Meyer, Atkinson, Marsh, Link, Lee, and Piepgras. He completed the clinical research training program certification during his time as a resident. He went on to complete a complex cranial fellowship under the tutelage of Drs. Harry van Loveren, Agazzi, and Youssef at the University of South Florida. He was the prior Program Director for the Mayo Clinic Rochester Neurosurgery program, currently, he is the Residency Advising Director for the Mayo Medical School, Program Director of the International Neurosurgery Program and Associate Program Director of the Skull Base Oncology Program. Pituitary Surgery and Outcomes are his primary focus leading the MAPER (Mayo Adenoma of the Pituitary Enterprise Registry) and leading our efforts for national RAPID pituitary registry including tracking outcomes on Pituitary Neuroendocrine Neoplasms, Rathke's Cleft Cysts, and Craniopharyngiomas. He further has collaboratively spun off partially Mayo owned companies Neuro One and Cadence Neuroscience

focusing on brain machine interface tying into his clinical research in Epilepsy with his lifelong research mentor Dr. Greg Worrell. Nationally, he participates in the CNS/AANS guidelines committee since 2015, is on the Board of Directors for the North American Skull Base Society, and currently Editor for Both JNS and JNS focus video. He has authored over 500 peer reviewed publications, written 18 book chapters, participated in more than 10 national clinical trials, and edited 2 books. He is luckily married to a phenomenal partner, Michelle, and two amazing children, Dane and Reese, they currently reside in Rochester MN.

Panel Discussion #3: Fundraising For CNS Tumors

Trish Scanlan | *Key Speaker*

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Dr. Trish Scanlan is an Irish pediatric oncologist who has been based in Tanzania since 2007, where she founded Tumaini la Maisha, an NGO that provides all chemotherapy free of charge to children with cancer across a national network of over ten treatment sites. Under her leadership, survival rates for children in the network have risen from under 10% in 2006 to over 50%. She has received an honorary doctorate from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and serves on the SNOSSA executive committee.

M. Hassan | *Speaker*



Maryam Hassan is the Medical Fund Manager at Faraja Cancer Support Trust a role she has held since May 2023. She holds a bachelor degree in Counselling Psychology and is a Palliative Care Fellow, with a strong commitment to supporting Cancer patients and improving access to quality healthcare. She is also an Early Childhood Development Champion and is currently participating in the Aspire Leaders Program while undertaking training in National Cancer Control Planning for Programme Managers which focuses on strengthening cancer control systems through evidencebased planning, resource allocation, policy development and the integration of cancer services across the continuum of care. With several years of experience working directly with cancer patients and their families, Maryam has developed a deep understanding of the financial, emotional, and systemic challenges that affect access to timely and comprehensive cancer care. Maryam is particularly passionate about health equity, health financing, and addressing the financial toxicity associated with cancer treatment. Through her work, she has witnessed firsthand the barriers that many patients face in accessing life-saving care, inspiring her continued interest in strengthening cancer control systems and patient-centred support programmes. Her experience in patient support, fund management, counselling and palliative care provides her with a unique perspective on the intersection of healthcare access, financial protection and patient wellbeing.

Panel Topic #6: High Grade Glioma

Christina Malichewe | *Expert Speaker*



Dr. Christina Vallen Malichewe is a clinical oncologist, palliative care specialist, and an advocate for supportive care in Tanzania. She currently serves as the Acting Executive Director of the Tanzania Palliative Care Association (TPCA), where she drives national initiatives to improve quality of life for patients facing life-limiting illnesses.

Deeply committed to medical education and capacity building, Dr. Malichewe is a faculty member at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS). In this role, she coordinates the specialized Short Course in Palliative Care and serves as a Master Trainer in both Adult and Children in Palliative Care, shaping the next generation of healthcare providers. Her leadership extends across the region as the Chairperson of the Palliative Care Trainers and Researchers Network, fostering collaboration and evidence-based practice among specialists. Advancing the academic and scientific understanding of the field, Dr. Malichewe is currently pursuing a PhD in Palliative Care at Lancaster University. Her work bridges the gap between oncology clinical practice, specialized training, and strategic policy development to establish robust, compassionate healthcare systems.

R. Diaby | *Speaker*



Faculty neurosurgeon, Teaching Hospital of Yopougon, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Clinical Instructor in Anatomy, University Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

WINGS–Mission Brain Foundation 2026 Scholar

Clinical focus: neuro-oncology, neurovascular, and skull base surgery

Research focus: neuroanatomy, neurosurgical education, and global neurosurgery systems development

Fellowships in cerebrovascular and skull base surgery, Arkansas Neuroscience Institute (2025), and neuro-oncology, Mayo Clinic (2026)

Active contributor to regional and international neurosurgical scientific meetings

Head of Research Department, SAFNA (Sub-Saharan Africa Futures Neurosurgeons Association) 2025-2026

Recipient of multiple distinctions, including the CAANS Special Prize – AANS/NREF Training Course and national excellence awards

J. Adjoglo | *Speaker*



Dr. Joris Uriel Mahussi ADJOGLO is a Neurosurgery Resident at Mohammed V University and Ibn Sina University Hospital in Rabat, Morocco. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Parakou, Benin, and has a strong interest in neuro-oncology, spine surgery, neuroendoscopy, and global neurosurgery. His research focuses on systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and rare neurosurgical conditions, with several presentations at international scientific meetings. Dr.

ADJOGLO is committed to advancing neurosurgical education and collaborative research across Sub-Saharan Africa, with the goal of improving patient care and promoting evidence-based neurosurgical practice.

G. Kitange | *Speaker*



Dr. Gasper J. Kitange is a Tanzanian-born medical doctor and neuro-oncology researcher based in the United States. He has over 20 years of specialized experience in brain tumor research, focusing heavily on glioblastoma (GBM), the most aggressive and deadly form of primary brain cancer. Dr. Kitange's academic journey spans three continents, beginning with his foundational medical training in Tanzania and a PhD in Japan. After earning his doctorate, he relocated to the United States to join the world-renowned Mayo Clinic for postdoctoral research. Demonstrating immense promise in neuro-oncology research, he quickly rose through the academic and clinical research ranks at Mayo Clinic, eventually serving as an Associate Consultant and Associate Professor within the Department of Radiation Oncology. Currently, Dr. Kitange is an Associate Professor at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, where he leads the Cancer Therapy Resistance and Drug Targets Discovery Program. His primary research objective is to elucidate the mechanisms behind glioblastoma resistance to find a cure for an otherwise terminal disease. His work focuses on several cutting-edge areas of molecular neuro-oncology, including epigenetic regulation and high-throughput, genome-wide screening for molecular targets. By utilizing advanced in vitro (cellular) and in vivo (patient-derived orthotopic models) techniques to validate novel drug targets, Dr. Kitange employs a translational approach that bridges the gap between laboratory discovery and human clinical trials. Through his prolific publication history and leadership roles, he continues to influence preclinical experimental design and the discovery of novel biomolecular targets aimed at extending the lives of brain tumor patients.

Panel Discussion #4: The Great Debate — Is Neuro-Oncology Subspecialization A Necessity Or A Luxury?

Bev Cheserem | *Expert Speaker*

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Thandeka Ngcana | *Expert Speaker*

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Dr. Thandeka Ngcana is South Africa's first dedicated pediatric neuro-oncologist, practicing at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital and holding an academic appointment at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her clinical interests include brain tumors, solid tumors, and palliative care for children. She has been instrumental in building specialized pediatric neuro-oncology capacity in South Africa and has contributed to international fellowship programs for low- and middle-income countries through St. Jude Global.
