

# Jessica Claire

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I have successfully written proposals during my doctoral and masters training Laboratory management: I have managed an Immunology lab, and assisted in the management, maintenance of 2 other laboratories Project management: I have successfully helped managed one project to completion during my master's studies. I am currently actively involved in managing the immunology arm of one study for my doctoral studies Research ethics: I am experienced in dealing with human subjects, recruiting subjects and obtaining informed consent Review of scientific literature: I have conducted traditional and systematic reviews of scientific literature Laboratory Skills Biobanking: I am proficient in processing biological samples for short/long-term storage. I have managed 2 biobanks and designed and implemented a biobank system Cell culture: I am proficient in culturing of human Cord and Peripheral Mononuclear Cells. I have experience in maintaining cells in culture and manipulation of cultured cells Collection & processing of biological samples: I am proficient in collecting and processing biological samples for laboratory analysis Flow cytometry: I have received basic training in the maintenance, assay development, and operation of a FACs system Histology and IHC: I am proficient in processing biological tissues for analysis and preservation/storage. I have prepared and fixed placental biopsies Immunoassays: I have used ELISA and bead immunoassays in the MAGPIX Luminex Platform to detect and quantify serum, plasma and cell culture supernatant biomarkers in single and multiplex formats Molecular techniques: I can perform DNA/RNA isolation and quantification; Gel electrophoresis, Conventional and Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction and Sanger sequencing Interpersonal Skills Communication, writing & presentation: I have presented my research work to colleagues and at peer-reviewed conferences. I have published one original article, submitted two, and I am currently writing three original articles Coordination, planning, time management, organization & multitasking: I completed my master's studies, and successfully designed and implemented a biobank system during my doctoral work within time Computing: I am proficient in word processing, creating presentations, internet, email, publishing and managing bibliographies Team player: I successfully integrated into the research community at both USAMRD-K and Case Western Reserve University and worked well in these research groups.

## CERTIFICATIONS

Basic introduction to Biosafety and Biosecurity: Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative. January 2018

## SKILLS

- Guest services
- Inventory control procedures
- Merchandising expertise
- Loss prevention
- Cash register operations
- Product promotions

## WORK HISTORY

**RESEARCH ASSOCIATE** 01/2017 to CURRENT

Danaher | Las Vegas, NV

- I have successfully adapted to a different culture and environment when I moved to the United States of America.
- I switched from HIV-Malaria research to Maternal and Child Health research.
- Working under own initiative: I have been solely responsible for managing biobank and data from all the experiments during my master's study and now for my doctoral work.
- 5.

**RESEARCH OFFICER/LAB MANAGER** 09/2014 to 11/2016

Children's National Medical Center

- Technical oversight and day-to-day management of experiments for the OPP1066865: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Healthy Growth Award: Enhancing Infant Immunity: Effect of Early Maternal Treatment for Parasitic Infections study Oversaw day-to-day administrative aspects of the study including preparation of work plans, budgets and financial reports, training students, senior staff, and visitors; coordinating shipping and various other management needs with national and international collaborators Developed the study documents and tools for the immunology lab in collaboration with the site manager, to ensure timely and robust execution of the study Provided oversight in the recruitment of study participants, adherence to study standard operating procedures, collection and labeling of study samples and entry of data in the study database Identified and characterized Plasmodium species, using 18S rRNA deep amplicon sequencing Isolated peripheral and cord blood mononuclear cells, activated and maintained these cells in culture Employed magnetic cell sorting and fluorescence activated cell sorting to isolate and characterize peripheral and cord blood mononuclear cell populations Used Elisa's and multiplexed bead immunoassays to generate the cytokine profiles and characterize changes in Pneumococcal, Haemophilus Influenza, Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoid vaccine response in newborns after exposure to parasites in Utero Generated and disseminated the study monthly and quarterly progress reports to the study team, the principal investigator and co-investigators Generated results to form logical conclusions analysed and modeled experimental data using STATA and GraphPrism software for writing scientific manuscripts for publication.
- Reviewed the development and implementation of lab safety and QA/QC procedures.

**GRADUATE TRAINEE/RESEARCH ASSISTANT** 08/2012 to 08/2014

United States Army

- Medical Research Directorate-Kenya (USAMRD-K) - Kisumu, Kenya Responsibilities Designed and ran experiments for the "Discontinuation of trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole prophylaxis in adults on antiretroviral therapy in Kenya: a randomized trial" study.
- Clinical Trials Registration NCT01425073 Conducted various laboratory procedures such as DNA/RNA isolation and quantification; Gel electrophoresis; Conventional and Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction Identified and characterized Plasmodium species, using 18S rRNA deep amplicon sequencing Sequenced Plasmodium genome by Capillary Electrophoresis on the 3130-genetic analyzer platform Developed SOPs, reviewed and updated assay protocols Assisted in day to day laboratory management, maintenance of equipment & ordering of supplies Contributed to on-the-job training of new students & staff members Managed the study data base, analysed the generated data using STATA, wrote and published a manuscript Oversaw safety and quality compliance in various laboratory sections Member of the quality management committee team mandated with steering the lab to attain ISO:15189.

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT** 09/2011 to 12/2011

Kenya Agricultural Research Institute | Kenya

- Extracted DNA from the Kenyan wheat (Triticum Aestivum) Performed conventional PCR using sequence-tagged sites (STS) and microsatellite markers.
- Assisted in identification of genes of interest in wheat (insect resistance to the Russian wheat aphid, resistance to the Ug99 strain of stem rust).
- Assisted in identification of high molecular weight gluten in Kenyan wheat (Triticum Aestivum) genotypes using PCR-generated markers.
- Assisted in day to day laboratory management, maintenance of equipment & ordering of supplies.

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D | Biomedical Science and Technology** PRESENT

Maseno University

Biomedical Science and Technology Thesis proposal: The effects of malaria in pregnancy on infant immunity to malaria and responses to standard childhood vaccines. Advisor: Dr. Malhotra Indu

**Master of Science | Medical Immunology** 2016

Maseno University

Medical Immunology Title of the thesis: Effects of Cotrimoxazole withdrawal on Plasmodium Falciparum parasitemia prevalence, parasite density and multiplicity of infection in HIV-infected individuals with immune recovery following antiretroviral treatment in Homabay County. Advisor: Dr. John Waitumbi

**Bachelor of Science | Biochemistry and Molecular Biology** 2011

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology All degrees have been evaluated and deemed equivalent to degrees from United States accredited institutions by the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACE)

**Biomedical Research Support Personnel Course: Collaborative Institutional Training JANUARY 2018 Initiative.**

**\*Introduction to Quality Management Systems I and II: Clinical and Laboratory Standard MAY 2011 Institute/ United States Army Medical Research Directorate-Kenya. January 2014, April 2014 \*Safety Training modules (General Lab Safety, Hazard Communications, Blood-Borne Pathogens and Sharps Safety, Fire Safety): United States Army Medical Research Directorate- Kenya. September 2014, April 2014 \*Intern: African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF)**

## AFFILIATIONS

Since the early 2012, I have devoted my efforts to better understand the risk factors and long-term health consequences of endemic parasitic infections and their interplay with HIV disease. Currently, my doctoral work focuses in advancing fundamental knowledge of the how parasitic infections of pregnant mothers affect the developing fetal immune system, interfering with response to parasite related and unrelated antigens in early life. I have a diverse research background that includes Immunology and host cell response to parasitic infections, molecular biology, and Quality Management Systems

## PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles Claire, R., Polyak, C., Guyah, B., Singa, B., Nyataya, J., Yuhas, K., John-Stewart, G., Waitumbi, J.: Malaria Parasitemia and Parasite Density in Antiretroviral-Treated HIV-Infected Adults Following Discontinuation of Cotrimoxazole Prophylaxis. The Journal of Infectious Disease (2016) 215 (1): 88-94 Juma, D., Muiruri, P., Yuhas, K., John-Stewart, G., Claire, R., Waitumbi, J., Singa, B., Polyak, C., Kamau, E.: The Prevalence and Antifolate Drug Resistance Profiles of Plasmodium species in Subjects Randomized to Discontinue or Continue Cotrimoxazole Prophylaxis (2018). Manuscript submitted to International Journal for Parasitology Claire, R., Nyakundi, R., Mukoko, D., Mutuku, F., LaBeaud, D., King, C, Malhotra, I.: Malaria in pregnancy: Impact of microscopic and, sub-microscopic infections on newborn children's cord blood immune responses (2018). Manuscript submitted to Journal of Infectious Diseases Claire, R., Nyakundi, R., Mukoko, D., Mutuku, F., LaBeaud, D., King, C, Malhotra, I.: Effect of antenatal malarial infections, on infant T-cell responses to parasite-specific and vaccine antigens at birth and later in childhood. manuscript in preparation Nyakundi, R., Claire, R., Mukoko, D., Mutuku, F., LaBeaud, D., King, C, Malhotra, I.: Altered immune responses by prenatal exposure to maternal co-infection. manuscript in preparation Peer-reviewed platform presentations Claire, R., Nyakundi, R., Mukoko, D., Mutuku, F., LaBeaud, D., King, C, Malhotra, I.: Fetal Immunity to malaria: Subject to timing of in utero exposure and treatment? The Global Health & Infectious Disease (GHID) Research Conference, Center for Global Health & Diseases, Case Western Reserve University. 2017 Claire, R., Nyakundi, R., Mukoko, D., Mutuku, F., LaBeaud, D., King, C, Malhotra, I.: Breaking the walls of fetal immune priming. Falling Walls Lab Nairobi. 2016 Claire, R., Polyak, C., Guyah, B., Singa, B., Nyataya, J., Yuhas, K., John-Stewart, G., Waitumbi, J.: Malaria Parasitemia, and Parasite Density in Antiretroviral-Treated HIV Infected Adults Following Discontinuation of Cotrimoxazole Prophylaxis. 6th Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) Annual Scientific and Health Conference (KASH). 2016 Claire, R., Nyakundi, R., Mukoko, D., Mutuku, F., LaBeaud, D., Malhotra, I., King, C.: Effects of antenatal parasitic infections, on infant T- cell responses to parasite-specific and vaccine antigens at birth and later in childhood. 2nd Kwaile County Scientific conference, Mombasa, Kenya. 2015 Peer-reviewed poster presentations Claire, R., Nyakundi, R., Mukoko, D., Mutuku, F., LaBeaud, D., King, C, Malhotra, I.: Influences of microscopic, sub-microscopic infection on cord blood immune responses. 66th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, the Baltimore Convention Centre, Baltimore, Maryland. 2017 Claire, R., Nyakundi, R., Mukoko, D., Mutuku, F., LaBeaud, D., King, C, Malhotra, I.: Is timing of in utero exposure key to preventing fetal priming? 65th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Atlanta Marriott Marquis and Hilton, Atlanta, Georgia. 2016 Claire, R., Polyak, C., Guyah, B., Singa, B., Nyataya, J., Yuhas, K., John-Stewart, G., Waitumbi, J.: Malaria Parasitemia, and Parasite Density in Antiretroviral-Treated HIV Infected Adults Following Discontinuation of Cotrimoxazole Prophylaxis. 64th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Philadelphia, PA, 2015

## LANGUAGES

English, Swahili

## SKILLS

Data management & analysis: I have acquired, handled and managed large sets of data during my doctoral and masters studies. I can proficiently use excel, STATA, and Graph-prism for data entry, manipulation, management, and analysis

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- PERSONAL INFORMATION Name: Jessica Kwendo Claire Nationality: Kenyan, Permanent Resident of the United States of America Date of Birth: 31st August 1989