**Prof Grace Irimu**

*Paediatrician | Kidney Specialist | Professor of Health Systems & Quality Improvement*

Prof Grace Irimu is a paediatrician, kidney specialist, and Professor of Health Systems and Quality Improvement at the University of Nairobi. She is a passionate health systems researcher, an implementation scientist, and a former Chair of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University. Prof. Irimu holds a PhD in Public Health and has dedicated her career to developing and scaling up clinical care guidelines and improving health systems to deliver quality care.

For over 20 years, Prof Irimu has worked in collaboration with the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme, contributing to the development and spread of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines that have strengthened healthcare systems at scale.

Her impact has been recognized globally: in 2021, *The Lancet* named her **among the most influential doctors in health and medicine during its Black History Month tribute**.

Prof Irimu has led key initiatives that have transformed care in Kenya:

* The **Ministry of Health’s Basic Paediatric Protocols** and scaling up of **ETAT+ (Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment PLUS admission care)** in pre-service and in-service training.
* The creation of the **Clinical Information Network (CIN)**, linking 24 county hospitals in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Kenya Paediatric Association, and KEMRI-Wellcome Trust.
* The development of **Comprehensive Newborn Care Protocols** and support for scaling the **NEST360 programme**, integrating modern technologies with clinical care for newborns.

Prof Irimu is also the founder and Clinical Director of **Mwangaza Wellness and Medical Centre (MWMC)**. MWMC serves as a centre of excellence in the prevention and control of diabetes and hypertension within primary healthcare settings. She has designed clinical guidelines and corresponding practical job aides and training tools to support primary care teams in managing these conditions effectively. MWMC had a modern laboratory to support best practice prevention and control of diabetes and hypertension within primary healthcare settings.

Beyond health systems, Prof Irimu is deeply committed to interventions that prevent childhood deaths. She actively **promotes best practices in breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding**. As part of this effort, she leads a WhatsApp group of over 1,000 mothers, offering support and guidance through chats and webinars, together with other experts in breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

She has published over **80 scientific articles in respected international journals** and continues to inspire health professionals and communities through her work in evidence-based, high-quality care.